

DEREHAM TOWN COUNCIL

22nd August 2023

At a meeting of the **Social & Welfare Committee** held at Dereham Memorial Hall on **Tuesday 22nd August 2023** upon the rising of the Markets & Buildings Committee meeting.

Present: Councillors H King (Chairman), H Clarke, C Coleman, S Green, L Monument and Ray O'Callaghan.

Also present: Councillor P Duigan, Town Clerk Tony Needham and Town Council Officer Gina Snow.

1. **To receive apologies for absence.**
There were no apologies for absence.

2. **Declaration of Interest.**
There were no declarations of interest.

3. **To elect a Chairman.**

Councillor L Monument proposed Councillor H King, seconded by Councillor S Green. There were no other nominations. It was agreed that Councillor H King be Chairman of the Social & Welfare Committee 2023/24.

4. **To elect a Vice Chairman.**

Councillor H King proposed Councillor L Monument, seconded by Councillor S Green. There were no other nominations. It was agreed that Councillor L Monument be Vice Chairman of the Social & Welfare Committee 2023/24.

5. **To consider installing lights for FEPoW Memorial.**

The Committee recommend using the £2,500 in the earmarked reserve for the FEPoW memorial to install floodlights. Councillors also suggested arranging an unveiling ceremony with publicity once works are complete.

When the Memorial was initially installed, there was a proposal to add floodlights to illuminate the monument at night. The lighting never proceeded mainly due to technical problems, which can now be overcome with modern LED lights.

If the Council left the funds in the earmarked reserve for some future eventuality, the value of the funds would decrease due to inflation. Using the funds to provide lighting would 'finish off' the original project.

6. **To consider managing parts of the Old Cemetery for wildlife.**

The Committee recommended to manage Plots 4, 6 and 11 in the Old Cemetery for wildlife, these being areas which are the oldest and with most graves no longer visited. The Committee stipulated that any war graves or recent graves within these areas would not be affected and would be maintained to the usual standard. Information notices would be supplied to make people aware of why the management in these areas has changed.

The proposal is not to 'rewild' the plots , only to 'tilt' the management more towards biodiversity. As an initial step it is suggested that the areas around some of the headstones are no longer sprayed and are allowed to naturalise. The mowing might be adjusted to account for flowering plants, these being allowed to flower rather than being mowed. The management would be reviewed and adjusted over time.

7. **To consider reducing tree canopy on plots 14 and 15 of the Old Cemetery.**

The Committee recommended to reduce the canopy and crown lift a number of trees in Plot 15 and to pollard the lime trees on the western boundary of Plot 14, at the Old Cemetery, at a cost of around £2,000, depending on how much work is involved. Councillors also recommend taking advice on thinning the lime trees on Plot 14.

Plots 14 and 15 have a number of trees which shade the area to the extent that they are beginning to impact on the ability of the grass to grow beneath them.

Councillor H Clarke left the meeting

8. **To consider creating a new ashes area in Plot 16 of the Old Cemetery.**

The Committee recommended that the Council cease arranging burials in Plot 16 of the Old Cemetery and to instead use the area for the interment of ashes. The Committee also recommended that the access paths to Plot 16 are given consideration.

The reason for the recommendation is that the soil conditions was increasing the risks during grave digging. Ending burials in this area would remove the risk and allowing ashes interment would ensure the area is fully utilised.

9. **Cemetery Lodge.**

a) To consider revised roof design for Cemetery Lodge.

The Committee recommended the revised roof design for Cemetery Lodge.



b) To consider extending the project to include sheds near the lodge.

The Committee recommended repairing the brick shed. The Committee also recommended retaining and repairing the tin shed, so long as the cost to repair it is less than the cost to remove it.

While the two current sheds are not within the curtilage of the Cemetery Lodge, they both need repairing or removing and it would make sense to include them within the Lodge contract. The tin shed could probably be removed, however, if it can be repaired economically then it could serve as a useful shed.

c) To confirm heating system for Cemetery Lodge.

The committee recommended an air source heat pump as the main heat source, on the condition that the design engineers provide written assurances that the system will work to a recognised standard.

d) To consider including Photo voltaic panels (PVs) as part of the refurbishment of Cemetery Lodge.

The Committee recommended including Photo voltaic panels (PVs) including a battery for storage as part of the tender for the refurbishment of Cemetery Lodge, and to then consider whether to go ahead with these once the costs involved in installing them are known. The Committee also recommend that the Council request a report along with the tender detailing how effective the PVs would be, being located within the garden with surrounding trees.

e) To confirm taking the Lodge refurbishment through tender.

The Committee recommended taking the Lodge refurbishment through tender.

The Architects have nearly completed the detailed design work. An outline cost plan has been provided by the Quantity Surveyor (QS). The next stage is to instruct the QS to prepare a bill of quantities for the project, then go out to tender; with a view to start on site late spring 2024.

Chairman