

# DEREHAM TOWN COUNCIL

27<sup>th</sup> February 2024

At a meeting of the **Heritage & Open Spaces Committee** held at the Memorial Hall on **Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 7pm.**

**Present:** Councillors P Duigan (Chairman), K Cogman, A Greenwood and P Morton.

Also in attendance: Councillors H Clarke and Z Flint, Town Clerk Tony Needham, Deputy Town Clerk Jillian Barron, and K Hawkins Community Access Warden.

1. **To receive apologies for absence.**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Brooks, H King and L Monument.

2. **Declaration of Interest**

Councillors K Cogman and H Clarke declared that they are both District Councillors.

3. **To receive a report from the Community Access Warden.**

The Community Access Warden Mr Ken Hawkins presented his report to the committee. Cllr Duigan would pursue the matter of getting a cost for the trod at Norwich Road. The Clerk would look into land ownership between the A47 and Hall Lane.

4. **Update on Countryside Park.**

The Town Clerk gave a verbal update stating the following:

- A mile of hedging has been planted.
- Additional Nesting boxes installed.
- Applications have been made to the Forestry Commission for grants for tree planting over the next 2 winters, schemes are enclosed with these notes (EWCO applications).
- Applications for grants for trees along the central path will shortly be submitted.

The next steps would be:

- To meet with NWT advisors with a view assessing the feasibility of creating a wetland habitat which could be funded through Biodiversity Net Gains credits.
- There will need to be some reseeding of the bird seed plots.

5. **To consider Biodiversity policy.**

The committee recommended the Biodiversity policy subject to the inclusion of the following:

- The tree planting budget to be increase by 50%
- Herbicide only being used when necessary
- The rear of new cemetery included noting that it is managed under Higher Level Stewardship

**Chairman**