

DEREHAM TOWN COUNCIL

8th October 2024

At a meeting of the **Full Council** held on **Tuesday 8th October 2024** in the Memorial Hall at **7.30pm**.

Present: Councillors L Monument (Chairman), K Cogman, H Clarke, P Duigan, Z Flint, S Green, A Greenwood, H King and P Morton.

Also in attendance: County & District Councillor W Richmond, District Councillor A Webb, Town Clerk A Needham, Deputy Town Clerk J Barron and Town Council Officer T Thompson.

65. **To receive apologies for absence.**
Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Brooks, C Coleman and R O'Callaghan.
66. **Declaration of Interest.**
There were no declarations of interest.

The meeting was adjourned

County Councillor W Richmond confirmed he would allocate funds to the Cherry Lane in lieu of Parish Partnership improvements. Norfolk County Council planned to resurface Sandy Lane in 2025 and would include installing dropped kerbs in Girling Road. Councillor Richmond had also requested an extension to the current road closure in Swanton Road to prevent vehicles cutting through Northall Green.

District Councillor A Webb encouraged applications to the Series 2 Grant Scheme and that the Akash court hearing had been rescheduled to 15th October.

Councillor H Clarke requested an update on the Middlemarch/Moorgate underpass. Councillor P Duigan confirmed this was now a National Highways matter and no update was currently available.

The meeting resumed

67. **To receive announcements.**
The Mayor, Councillor L Monument announced she had attended the following events:
- 13th September 2024 – Norfolk County Council's Battle of Britain event
 - 15th September 2024 – Dereham Battle of Britain event
 - 1st October 2024 – Norfolk Market Town Conference at Swaffham
 - 2nd October 2024 – Meeting Point
 - 5th October 2024 – Dereham Aid Centre

68. To receive from the Chairman, confirm as correct and sign the minutes of the **Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 10th September 2024.**

Proposed by Councillor L Monument, the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 10th September 2024 were agreed and signed.

69. **Heritage & Open Spaces.**

- a) To receive from the Chairman, confirm as correct and sign the minutes of the **Heritage & Open Spaces Committee meeting held on Tuesday 24th September 2024.**

Proposed by Councillor P Duigan, the minutes of the Heritage & Open Spaces Committee meeting held on Tuesday 24th September 2024 were agreed and signed.

- b) To discuss any matters arising and vote on any recommendations listed below.

The following recommendations were agreed and approved by the council.

To consider granting vision splay to the new Meeting Hall at Etling Green.

That the splay for access to the new Meeting Hall at Etling Green is granted with the following conditions: that the Town Council is not obliged to actively maintain the vision splay and it is only for the use of the Meeting Hall (non-commercial). If the access is ever used for new residential or commercial purposes then a fee may be required.

To consider licencing traders at the Neatherd.

The current temporary licence to trade to be extended for another 4 months with a tightening of conditions regarding where units are sited to reduce obstruction and access issues. To make traders aware that if such activities are to continue to be licenced, the Council is likely to favour trading which is incidental to the use of the Common e.g. ice cream and coffee.

To discuss potential impact on the introduction of Breckland car parking charges on the Neatherd.

To discuss potential impact on the introduction of Breckland car parking charges on the Neatherd.

To discuss potential Parish Partnership Schemes for 2025.

Improvements to Cherry Lane be taken forward lieu of any Parish Partnership project for 2025/26. That funding and management for improvements to RB36 Cherry Lane are to be an agenda item at the Full Council meeting in October 2024.

To consider encroachment on Etling Green.

That, if required, the Town Clerk be given permission to commission a solicitors' letter to Breckland Council regarding their obligations to maintain free access to Etling Green common.

All encroachments onto the Common should be resolved and where properties installed services without consent that they be required to apply retrospectively for consent.

70. Recreation.

- a) To receive from the Chairman, confirm as correct and sign the minutes of the **Recreation Committee meeting** held on **24th September 2024**

Proposed by Councillor K Cogman, the minutes of the Recreation Committee meeting held on Tuesday 24th September 2024 were agreed and signed.

- b) To discuss any matters arising and vote on any recommendations listed below.

The following recommendations were agreed and approved by the council.

Update on play areas.

Once transferred, the scrub on the steep bank at Sandy Lane is cleared and chain link fencing is installed to deter fly tipping.

That play equipment should be ordered and installed, regardless of time of year, once the play area transfers from Breckland Council had taken place.

To consider Recreation Road play area (Toftwood).

The climbing frame be replaced at the Recreation Road play area in Toftwood at a cost of £28,000

To discuss paving at Recreation Ground (Dereham).

The Town Clerk confirmed that once funding could be secured, the choice of materials would be discussed at a future Recreation Committee meeting.

That the Finance and Governance Committee considers how the path renewal could be funded.

71. To receive and adopt the list of accounts paid, the Financial Statement and list of accounts to be paid.

The Town Clerk confirmed the S106 receipt (£160,992.01) was in relation to the Etling Green development. Allocation of this would be discussed at a future Finance Committee Meeting.

Proposed by Councillor L Monument, the list of accounts paid, the Financial Statement and list of accounts to be paid were agreed and signed.

72. **To receive any updates/reports from members of the Council who are County or District Councillors.**
There were no further updates.

73. **To consider funding improvements to Cherry Lane RB36.**
A written report setting out the cost of the scheme, confirmed funding from Breckland Council and how the shortfall could be funded by the Town Council, was provided by the Town Clerk. County Councillors W Richmond and P Duigan were asked to provide written confirmation of the funding amount they would be able to commit to the project. Requests for tenders could then be issued.

After discussion it was agreed that Town Council funding towards Cherry Lane (RB36) improvements should be as follows:

- £10,000 reallocated from the RB3 budget
- The remainder from the 'New Projects and Parish Partnership' 2025/26 financial year

74. **To confirm update to Financial Regulations.**
Changes in legislation later in 2024 would require an update to the current Town Council Financial Regulations. Revised wording, taken from the NALC model Financial Regulations and other professional bodies, was provided.

It was agreed that the Town Council Financial Regulations be updated subject to one minor change, to take into account changes in legislation

75. **To consider results from Car Park Survey.**
Results from the Town Council's online survey were presented. There had been 868 responses, 58% of which were from Dereham residents. 79.8% of respondents would prefer an increase in council tax rather than paying for parking. 42% of respondents would be in favour of Breckland Council funding a referendum at a cost of £140,000.

District Councillor A Webb urged the community to engage with Breckland Council during the consultation process.

It was agreed that the Town Clerk share the outcome of the online survey with Breckland Council.

Chairman