

DEREHAM TOWN COUNCIL

29th June 2021

A virtual extraordinary meeting of the **Recreation Committee** held on **Tuesday 29th June 2021** at 7.30pm.

Present: Councillors A Brooks (Chairman), C Bunting, K Cogman, P Duigan, L Monument and P Morton.

Also in attendance: Councillors S Green, H Clarke, H King, Thomas Monument, Town Clerk Tony Needham, Deputy Town Clerk Jillian Barron and Helen Baczkowska (Norfolk Wildlife Trust).

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

There were no apologies for absence.

2. **Declaration of Interest.**

There were no declarations of interest.

3. **To discuss merits of purchasing additional land around the Neatherd and creating a Country Park for Dereham.**

Helen Baczkowska a conservation officer at the Norfolk Wildlife Trust addressed the meeting and congratulated the Town Council for being ahead of the game when it comes to green infrastructure. She went onto say that that there would be big ecological opportunities should the two green spaces be joined by this new purchase. She continued by saying that they are increasing aware that things like great crested newts actually travel through the landscape and do not remain loyal to just one pond connectivity therefore was vital.

Turtle doves have really disappeared from the landscape at an alarming rate and it is known that this is due to a lack of nesting habitats, they require dense thorny scrub, this may be something that the Town Council could look at creating.

Helen said that the Norfolk Wildlife Trust will support Dereham Town Council and give any advice they can.

Councillors agreed there would be many merits for purchasing additional land around the Neatherd and asked the Mayor to call an extraordinary Full Council meeting. The Mayor, Councillor S Green agreed to call an extraordinary Full Council meeting for Tuesday 6th July 2021 to consider this matter.

Chairman