

DEREHAM TOWN COUNCIL

25th November 2025

At a meeting of the **Heritage & Open Spaces Committee** held at the Memorial Hall on **Tuesday 25th November 2025**.

Present: Councillors P Duigan (Chairman), A Greenwood, R Jamieson, and P Morton.

Also in attendance: Councillors L King and H King, Town Clerk T Needham, Deputy Town Clerk J Barron, Jane Heyburn (Dereham Heritage Trust), and Ken Hawkins (Community Access Warden).

1. **To receive apologies for absence.**
Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Z Flint.
2. **Declaration of Interest.**
Councillor P Morton declared an interest in item 5 as he lives on the Neatherd.
3. **To receive a report from Dereham Heritage Trust.**
Jane Heyburn presented a report from Dereham Heritage Trust in which it listed the numerous events held by the Heritage Trust which included, Digging for Dereham, Bonnie Takes Over and the VJ Day weekend. There was also the Heritage Open Days and a book sale, all of these events were extremely well attended.
Visitors to Bishop Bonners Cottages included several schools, The Ladies Circle, and a local Beavers group.
Next year the Heritage Trust will continue with children's activities and will attempt to contact those doing home schooling to invite them to visit Bishop Bonners Cottages. The display next year will be of local sports clubs and possibly the temperance movement.
Jane ended by saying that the Facebook page for Dereham Heritage Trust now has 500 followers.
4. **To receive a report from the Community Access Warden.**
The Community Access Warden Mr Ken Hawkins presented his report to the committee.
5. **To confirm funding for resurfacing the Neatherd Track.**

<p>The committee recommended committing a further £10,000 towards the resurfacing of the Neatherd Track. The Town Council's commitment would now be £20,000 for phase1 and £20,000 for phase 2. Councillors would like to see the detailed specifications for the work to be carried out. Also that the Town Clerk should enquire if there is a possibility of phase 1 resurfacing to be carried out to the westerly section first and request that, if possible, the whole track can be completed in one go rather than two phases.</p>
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6. **To consider Parish Partnership**

The committee discussed the concerns raised by residents of Eckling Grange regarding the difficulties some of them have trying the cross Norwich Road. The Committee acknowledged and understood their concerns; it was however felt that any kind of pedestrian crossing was unlikely to be prioritised for funding by Norfolk County Council. The Committee was sympathetic to the problem and would press for a crossing near this location on Norwich Road be delivered as part of the Local Plan.

The committee recommended that Councillor P Duigan speak to Norfolk County Council Highways about what low level traffic calming could be put in place on Norwich Road to help pedestrians cross.

The committee recommended that £4000 be put aside towards other measures once Norfolk County Council Highways have looked at options of a quick intervention, these funds are to be matched with Norfolk County Council funding.

Chairman