

# DEREHAM TOWN COUNCIL

13<sup>th</sup> August 2024

At a meeting of the **Full Council** held on **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2024** in the Memorial Hall at **7.30pm**.

**Present:** Councillors R O'Callaghan (Vice Chairman), K Cogman, H Clarke, C Coleman, P Duigan, Z Flint, A Greenwood, H King and P Morton.

Also in attendance: Town Clerk A Needham, Deputy Town Clerk J Barron and Town Council Officer G Snow.

40. **To receive apologies for absence.**  
Apologies for absence were received from Councillors L Monument and A Brooks.
41. **Declaration of Interest.**  
There were no declarations of interest.
42. **To receive announcements.**  
There were no announcements.
43. To receive from the Chairman, confirm as correct and sign the minutes of the **Full Council meeting** held on **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2024**.

Proposed by Councillor R O'Callaghan, the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2024 were agreed and signed.

44. To receive from the Chairman, confirm as correct and sign the minutes of the **Extraordinary Full Council meeting** held on **Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2024**.

Proposed by Councillor R O'Callaghan, the minutes of the Extraordinary Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2024 were agreed and signed.

*Councillor S Green Arrived.*

45. **Markets & Buildings**  
a) To receive from the Chairman, confirm as correct and sign the minutes of the **Markets & Buildings Committee meeting** held on **23<sup>rd</sup> July 2024**.

Proposed by Councillor S Green, the minutes of the Markets & Buildings Committee meeting held on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 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 a policy regarding offering live animals as prizes.**

A Policy be implemented to ban the giving of live animals as prizes on Council owned land.

**To consider incentivising additional traders on Tuesday Markets.**

To incentivise additional traders the Dereham Tuesday Market will offer new and current Tuesday Market traders the first 10ft of a pitch at £5 per Tuesday market for a 6 month period, with additional costs for larger stalls. It was also recommended that conditions be put in place to ensure traders attend on a regular basis. This would then be reviewed in 6 months' time.

**To discuss improving parking control at Memorial Hall, Old Cemetery and Recreation Ground.**

Parking control options for the Memorial Hall car park be looked into as a priority, such as a barrier with keypad access, as this location is the biggest concern with the easiest potential solution.

Also parking control options for the Recreation Ground car park be looked into, such as time restrictions.

Details of options for both the Memorial Hall and the Recreation Ground are to be brought back to a future Markets & Buildings Committee Meeting for consideration.

46. **Social & Welfare**

- a) To receive from the Chairman, confirm as correct and sign the minutes of the **Social & Welfare Committee meeting** held on **23<sup>rd</sup> July 2024**.

Proposed by Councillor H King, the minutes of the Social & Welfare Committee meeting held on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 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 new bench at old cemetery.**

A powder coated galvanized steel bench with three arm rests be purchased and installed in Plot 14 at the old cemetery.

**To consider further wilding measures in Old Cemetery.**

The Council expand on the wilding measures already taken within the old cemetery by purchasing sedum to cover two old kerbed graves which have a gravel infill, with a view to transplanting to other old & unvisited kerbed graves once established. This should prevent weeds from growing within these kerbed areas and therefore the need to spray off with weed killer. The cost of the sedum would be around £50.

**To review communications following a burial.**

To make the below amendments to the letter template that is currently sent out following a burial:

- To reword the first paragraph which introduces the rules & regulations booklet, to make it clear it is to ensure the good condition of the cemetery, rather than focussing on the word rules, which can seem negative.
- In the second paragraph, second sentence, remove 'Firstly' and start the sentence with 'Please note that in order to keep the cemetery looking pleasant, and for ease of mowing...'
- In the third paragraph, add 's' after 'occasion', and change 'excavate' to 'prepare a new'
- In the fourth paragraph, start with 'Please note that'. At the end of the second sentence, add 'and therefore advise that memorial stones are not installed until after this period.'

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

Proposed by Councillor R O'Callaghan, the list of accounts paid, the Financial Statement and list of accounts to be paid were agreed and signed.

**48. To receive any updates/reports from members of the Council who are County or District Councillors.**

There were no updates or reports.

**49. The following was proposed by Cllr K Cogman, seconded by Cllr Z Flint:**

***That the Council writes to Breckland Council expressing, with serious concern, the proposal to introduce car park charges at all 4 Dereham Car Parks. That it is disappointed that the consultation, on something which will impact the majority of people in some way and could impact some people's business and livelihoods in a catastrophic way, is only taking place AFTER the decision by Breckland Cabinet on 15th July to approve the introduction of charges. The Council is concerned that this lack of interest, on the part of Breckland Council, to try to understand the issues and concerns of local businesses is lamentable and is likely to lead to a lack of engagement when future consultation is carried out.***

Cllr H King then proposed the following addition to the proposal, seconded by Cllr R O'Callaghan:

***That within the letter to Breckland Council, it is noted that the Town Council felt it a disgrace that Breckland Council could not send a representative to the Full Council meeting, in order to provide an explanation and answer questions.***

After some discussion, the amended proposal was put to the vote and was agreed.

50. The following was proposed by Cllr O'Callaghan, seconded by Cllr C Coleman:

***That the Town Council request that Breckland Council put a system in place whereby the impact of introducing car parking charges can be measured and monitored and adjustments subsequently made if businesses are being negatively impacted. Such measure will give businesses the reassurance that Breckland Council are as concerned about the bottom line of the businesses within the town as they are with their own bottom line.***

Justification for the proposal: The decision to introduce car parking charges seems to be at odds and completely divorced from ongoing discussions about a Dereham Town Delivery plan, improving the vibrancy, economic viability and employment opportunities within the Town Centre. To ensure the Town centre does not decline as a result of the introduction of car parking charges.

The proposal was put to the vote and was agreed.

51. The following resolution was proposed by Cllr O'Callaghan, seconded by Cllr Z Flint:

***That the Town Council, either alone or with other like-minded Town Councils, carry out an online survey to ascertain whether people would prefer to keep car parks free at the point of use by paying an additional 18 pence per week per property on Council Tax. Then if the overwhelming answer to this question is yes, that Breckland be requested to consider holding a referendum and allow residents to decide whether they would be prepared to increase council tax or pay as they use car parks.***

Justification for the decision: The cost of maintaining car parks across Breckland has been stated as costing £450,000 per year, and the cost collecting this £450,000 when charges are introduced being an additional £400,000, which users will have to pay. This means that £400,000 will be taken out of the local economy with an unknown impact on small businesses. Currently, the cost of maintaining the car parks, as free at the point of use, is the equivalent of 18 pence per week for a band D property, or £9.50 per year. It is understood that Breckland Council would not be able to increase Council Tax by £9.50 a year without a referendum. The cost of holding such a referendum would be a one-off cost of £140,000.

The benefit of paying for car parks through council tax is that it is the most cost-effective way of paying for the car parks. It creates a unique selling point for the towns, would eliminate the risk of there being no investment in the towns until the impact of the introduction of charges is known, and would not lead to £400,000 being removed from the local economy.

The resolution was put to the vote and was agreed.

52. The following was proposed by Cllr Cogman, seconded by Cllr H Clarke:

***That the Clerk be asked to discuss the matter with the Clerks of other Councils to see if there are any options for collaborative working on this matter and then bring options back to the Council in September.***

The proposal was put to the vote and was agreed.

53. **Exclusion of Press and public.**

This item was not considered as the next agenda item had been resolved.

54. **To consider actions regarding blocked culvert.**

This item had already been resolved prior to the meeting.

**Chairman**