

***NOTE:** In the case of non-members, this agenda is for information only

DEREHAM TOWN COUNCIL

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17th September 2026

To All Members of the Social and Welfare Committee

Councillors S Green, A Keats, H King, L King and R O'Callaghan.

Dear Councillor

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the **Social & Welfare Committee** which will be held at the **Memorial Hall**, Dereham on **Tuesday 22nd September 2026 at 7pm** to consider the items on the agenda below. All councillors are welcome to attend the above meeting even if they are not a member of the particular committee.

Yours faithfully

A N Needham

Mr A N Needham

Town Clerk

Members requiring further information, or with specific questions, are asked to raise these with the appropriate officer at least two working days before the meeting. If the information requested is available, this will be provided and reported to Council.

A G E N D A

1. To receive apologies for absence.
2. **Declaration of Interest.**
In accordance with the Localism Act 2011, Members are asked at this stage to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests or Other Registerable Interests; as defined by the Code of Conduct adopted by the Council. Councillors shall declare such interest as soon as it becomes apparent, disclosing the nature and extent of those interests. Failure to disclose any Disclosable Pecuniary interests or to knowingly give false or misleading information is a criminal offence under section 34 of the Localism Act 2011.
3. To discuss and consider making recommendations with regards to the options for new ashes plots.
4. To discuss and consider making recommendations with regards to vigils and the like at the War Memorial.
5. To discuss and consider making recommendations with regards to new doors at Barwells Court Toilets.

Dereham Town Council

Social and Welfare Committee

22nd September 2026

Agenda Notes

3. To discuss and consider making recommendations with regards to the options for new ashes plots.

The original setting out of the ashes plots used a system copied from a commercially available system, but manufactured locally as this was much cheaper. Once used, it became apparent that the cost of installing the concrete rails was high and a more cost effective method was available. This involved creating a concrete foundation along the length of the ashes area with a 'lip' to allow the paving slab to locate. This hasn't been ideal as the slabs need to be levelled from time to time. While the current layout allows a central space for memorabilia and flowers, it is not clear who can use the space, so people seem reluctant to.

The Council had previously agreed to fabricate a rail system which could accommodate standard 600x900mm slabs rather than the current 600 x 600mm slab. While the cost of the steel is relatively cheap the cost of fabrication was high and worked out at more than the income from the interment fee.

Rather than the using steel rails, an alternative would be to mount the slabs on pressure treated timber boards. These would last 10 years or more, by the time the timber decays, the ground should be well stabilised.

There is now an option to offer either a 600x900mm slab or a 600x600mm slab and apply different charges as it will be possible to accommodate up to 4 interments beneath the 600x900mm and 2 beneath the 600x600mm slab.

The council currently charges £332 for two ashes interments Breckland Crematorium charges £3,221 but that includes memorial tablet so around £2,000 for 2 interments.

A sketch of the size of tablets is attached.

4. To discuss and consider making recommendations with regards to vigils and the like at the War Memorial.

This follows the request to hold a vigil to raise awareness of the conflict in Gaza at the War Memorial. At the time the Clerk refused consent pending consideration by the Council. Consent was also refused to hold the vigil on cobbled area opposite the Memorial.

The simplest policy would be not to permit any activity at the War Memorial other than those activities which commemorate UK armed conflicts or death of the Monarch, either arranged by Dereham Town Council or a Dereham based organisations. Once allowances start to be made for other conflicts in other nations, however tragic and awful they might be, it becomes very difficult decide which conflicts merit special treatment.

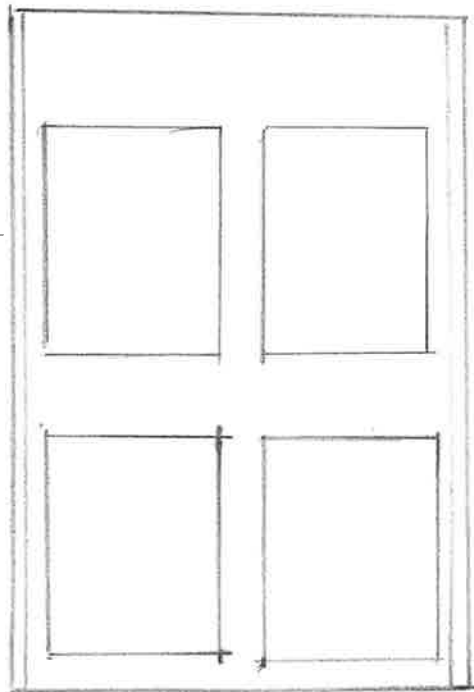
5. To discuss and consider making recommendations with regards to new doors at Barwells Court Toilets.

The timber doors at the toilets are at the point where they are likely to require replacing in the next year or so. The joints are becoming loose and door furniture has been replaced so many times, there is not much wood left to screw into.

Options for replacement are being looked into, but with the replacement there could be the option to include pay to enter. When the Council considered pay to enter previously, it was with a cash based system, which once the cost of collection counting and banking was factored in, was not really economic. With new electronic payment options, pay to enter could now be an economical option, depending on numbers of users.

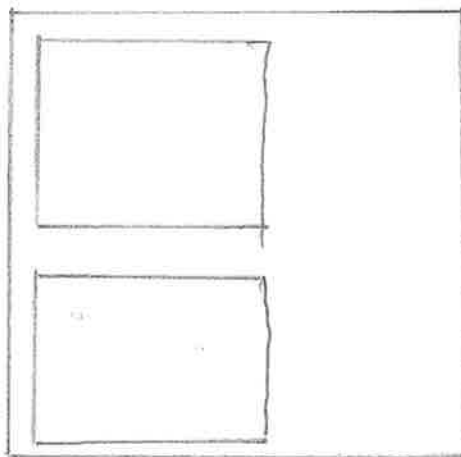
This item is not to consider whether to charge or not charge it is whether the Council would like to gather data to understand whether it may be economical when considering new door systems. Gathering data would involve employing somebody to watch the live stream at set times for particular periods and count numbers of users, so that total usage can be estimated.

900mm



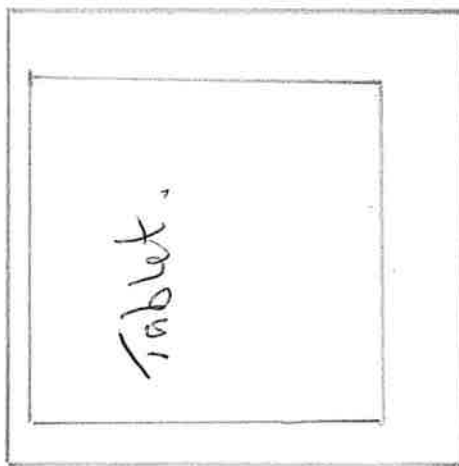
600mm

600mm



600mm

600mm



600mm