

DEREHAM TOWN COUNCIL

24th September 2024

At a meeting of the **Recreation Committee** held at the Memorial Hall on **Tuesday 24th September 2024** upon the rising of the Heritage & Open Spaces Committee.

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

Also in attendance: Councillor H Clarke, Councillor H King, Town Clerk Tony Needham, Deputy Town Clerk Jillian Barron, and Town Council Officer Tracey Thompson.

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A Brooks.

2. **Declaration of Interest**

Councillors K Cogman and H Clarke declared that they are both District Councillors

3. **To elect a Chairman**

Councillor L Monument proposed Councillor K Cogman, seconded by Councillor Z Flint. There were no other nominations. It was agreed that Councillor K Cogman be Chairman of the Recreation Committee 2024/25.

4. **To elect a Vice Chairman**

Councillor K Cogman proposed Councillor Z Flint, seconded by Councillor L Monument. There were no other nominations. It was agreed that Councillor Z Flint be Vice Chairman of the Recreation Committee 2024/25.

5. **Update on play areas**

The Town Clerk provided a verbal update. The transfer of Breckland Council play areas at Girling Road, Sandy Lane and Old Becclesgate was still to take place.

The committee recommended that, once transferred, the scrub on the steep bank at Sandy Lane is cleared and chain link fencing is installed to deter fly tipping.

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

6. **To consider Recreation Road play area (Toftwood)**

The Town Clerk provided a verbal update on the existing play equipment and how the play area seemed well used by the local community. The climbing frame had reached the end of its life and could be removed or replaced. The replacement cost was in the region of £28,000.

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

7. **To discuss paving at Recreation Ground (Dereham)**

Existing paving had been installed 19 years ago, comprising slabs on five concrete dabs. Broken slabs were being replaced when needed as they became dangerous to users. Areas traversed by heavy equipment were laid on a concrete bed to prevent damage as far as possible. Councillors were asked to consider like for like replacement (approx. £164,000) or relaying the paths with tarmac (approx. £70,000). The aesthetics of tarmac and ease of repair were discussed.

The Committee felt it would be prudent to identify funds to relay the path so that if/when the path needs complete renewal, there is a budget available. The decision of when to resurface will come back to the committee.

The committee recommended that the Finance and Governance Committee considers how the path renewal could be funded.

8. **Exclusion of press and public**

Proposed by Councillor K Cogman, it was agreed to pass a resolution to exclude the Press and Public from the meeting on the grounds that the Business to be transacted is confidential and publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest.

9. **Update on possible additional sports pitches**

The Town Clerk provided a verbal update. Uncertainty around the Local Plan was causing delays in trying to address the shortfall in sports pitch provision. Councillors agreed that the Town Clerk should continue discussions with the Local Plan Officers at Breckland Council to explore opportunities for bringing land forward for sports pitches at the earliest opportunity. The Committee were open to considering options which might involve borrowing money to set out the sports pitches then recovering the cost when developments take place.

Chairman