

DEREHAM TOWN COUNCIL

26th January 2021

At a virtual meeting of the **Heritage & Open Spaces Committee** held on **Tuesday 26th January 2021** at 7.00pm

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

Also in attendance: Councillors S Green and H Bushell, County Councillor W Richmond, Town Clerk Tony Needham, Deputy Town Clerk Jillian Barron, Ken Hawkins (Footpath Warden), Trevor Ogden and Peter Wade-Martin (Dereham Heritage Trust)

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

There were no apologies for absence.

2. **Declaration of Interest.**

Councillor A Brooks declared an interest in item 13.

3. **Receive report from Footpath warden.**

Ken Hawkins presented his report drawing attention to Restricted Byway 32/3 where recently a heavy vehicle has driven along the stretch near the back of the football ground, totally cutting up the path, making it tricky for walkers and impossible for cyclists. This has been reported to Norfolk County Council but was there any way that the Town Council could help to get this pushed forward and the area made good.

Councillor P Morton advised that a number of Councillors have written to Norfolk County Council passing on the name of the suspected farmer.

Concerns were also raised about the poor condition of Cherry Lane and that it was becoming increasing worse due to all the bad weather and being used by motor vehicles going to the allotments.

The Town Clerk responded that the problem was trying to find a cost effective solution to maintaining the lane.

Ken Hawkins also spoke of the maps they had previously produced containing 14 walks starting from Dereham, to produce these maps they had used the Town Councils OS maps and hoped that this permission would continue.

The Town Clerk advised that as long as it was shown to be in partnership with Dereham Town Council then they can continue to use it.

4. **Dereham Heritage Trust Report, Presentation and Discussion.**

Trevor Ogden presented the report outlining the work of Dereham Heritage Trust and their plans for 2021, he also advised that the Trust were in urgent need of storage space for two large items plus items that could be moved to free up shelf space in the room that they have at the Assembly Rooms.

The Committee recommended that the Town Clerk and Trevor Ogden prepare an options appraisal to be discussed at a future meeting.

Councillor H King said that he may be able to help in finding a solution and would contact the Town Clerk.

5. **Consider approach to restoring pargeting at Bishop Bonners cottages.**

The Committee confirmed that they are happy to follow the advice provided by the Historic Buildings Surveyor and Breckland Council's Historic Buildings Officer and that the Dereham Heritage Trust will be consulted and kept informed of any work.

6. **To receive verbal update on Neatherd Track and Management Plan.**

The Town Clerk gave a verbal update saying that the Town Council had been to carry out a survey on the public use of the track but due to the Corona Virus and lock down this had not been possible. He had however received a quote of £25,000 to have the track leveled and tarmac laid.

Councillor P Morton raised his concerns about the increase in speeding traffic on the Moor especially as there is a children's play area and lots of people walking, he requested that the speed humps be reinstalled.

7. **To consider requests from individuals to plant trees.**

The Committee recommended that it does not accept donations of trees as it is unable to sufficiently control the environment in which they may be located.

The meeting was adjourned at 8pm

The meeting resumed at 8.30

8. **Exclusion Press and public**

Proposed by Councillor P Duigan seconded by Councillor L Monument 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. **To consider Neatherd Scheme of Management 1910.**

The matter was discussed and the Clerk was given guidance on how to proceed.

10. **To consider possible encroachment at Etling Green.**

The Committee recommended that provided the occupiers first obtain consent (if needed) under section 38 of the Commons Act 2006, the Council would also give consent provided it is limited to the use of the paddock as ancillary to the main house, and not for any additional development within the paddock.

11. **To consider vicarage meadow.**

The committee asked that the Town Clerk come back to the committee with more information on costs when further discussions had been had.

12. **To discuss approach to maintaining the Council's historic buildings.**

The committee were happy to continue with the current arrangements.

13. **To consider recovering costs from a tenant.**

The Committee recommended the recovery of cost from the tenant is not pursued.

Chairman