

DEREHAM TOWN COUNCIL

21st May 2024

At the Annual Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday 21st May 2024 at the Memorial Hall, Dereham at 7.30pm.

Present: - Councillors L Monument (in the chair), C Coleman, H Clarke, P Duigan, Z Flint, A Greenwood, H King, P Morton and R O'Callaghan.

Also in attendance were Town Clerk Tony Needham and Deputy Town Clerk Jillian Barron.

1. **To appoint the Town Mayor for the year 2024-2025.**

Councillor R O'Callaghan proposed Councillor L Monument, seconded by Councillor P Duigan, there were no further nominations. It was put to the vote and agreed that Councillor L Monument serve as Town Mayor for the year 2024 – 2025.

Councillor L Monument took the chair.

2. **To receive the Town Mayor's Declaration of Acceptance of Office.**

Councillor L Monument read and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

3. **To appoint the Deputy Mayor for the year 2024-2025.**

Councillor H King proposed Councillor R O'Callaghan, seconded by Councillor A Greenwood, there were no further nominations. It was put to the vote and agreed that Councillor R O'Callaghan serve as Deputy Town Mayor for the year 2024 – 2025.

4. **To receive the Deputy Mayor's Declaration of Acceptance of Office.**

Councillor R O'Callaghan read and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

5. **Declaration of Interest.**

There were no declarations of interest.

6. **To receive apologies for absence.**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Brooks, K Cogman and S Green.

7. **Outgoing Town Mayor's address.**

Councillor H King said that he had thoroughly enjoyed his time being Mayor and had met so many people. He continued by saying that a Mayor is just a figurehead, it is councillors who go out and do all the work, working together as a

team and that he couldn't have done it without everyone's support. Councillor King said that many things happened during his time as Mayor, the death of Queen Elizabeth II, the Coronation of King Charles III and the Queen's Dragoon Guards being given the Freedom of the Town just to mention a few. Councillor King thanked all of the staff for their hard work and said how lucky the council were to have them also how much help and support they had given him especially when his wife died. Councillor King finished by wishing Councillor Monument all the best for her year as Mayor, saying 'Do it your way and we will be there to back you'

8. **To receive tributes to outgoing Mayor.**

Councillor P Duigan thanked Councillor H King for two years of hard work, he said that Councillor King was very good at speaking to people and he was always spot on with what he said.

Councillor A Greenwood said that during Councillor H Kings two years in office he had raised the profile of the Mayor by going to so many events. People recognised Councillor King as the Mayor.

Councillor H Clarke said that Councillor H King was always enthusiastic, giving words of encouragement to people and always mentioning those working behind the scenes.

Councillor P Morton thanked Councillor H King for all his hard work and enthusiasm during his time as Mayor.

Councillor Z Flint thanked Councillor H King for being so welcoming to her as a new councillor.

Councillor R O'Callaghan also thanked Councillor H King for being so welcoming and helpful to him as a new councillor.

Councillor L Monument said that Councillor King would be a very hard act to follow but she would do her best.

9. **To receive announcements.**

There were no announcements.

10. **To agree membership of Committees.**

Proposed by Councillor L Monument seconded by Councillor H King it was agreed that the committee members stated below remain the same.
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Plans

Responsible for considering and commenting on all building plans submitted for comment by Breckland Council

All Councillors

Committee Cycle A:

Heritage & Open Spaces

Responsible for; open spaces, Bishop Bonner's Cottage, Windmill, Street Furniture, Town Sign, Explosive Store, Closed Churchyard

Councillors A Brooks, A Greenwood, K Cogman, P Duigan, Z Flint and P Morton.

Recreation

Responsible for; allotments, Play Areas, grass cutting & ground maintenance

Councillors A Brooks, A Greenwood, K Cogman, P Duigan, Z Flint and P Morton.

Committee Cycle B:

Markets & Buildings

Responsible for; Assembly Rooms (inc office furniture) Memorial Hall, Fleece Meadow, Markets.

Councillors S Green, H King, L Monument, C Coleman, H Clarke and R O'Callaghan.

Social & Welfare

Responsible for; War Memorial, Dereham Community Car Scheme, Twinning, Cemetery (inc Lodge, Chapel, trees, paths & roads), Barwell Court toilets, Christmas Tree and Christmas lights.

Councillors S Green, H King, L Monument, C Coleman, H Clarke and R O'Callaghan

Other Committees/Working Parties

Finance & Governance

Responsible for; Grants, Audits, Accounts, Budgets

Councillors H Clarke, P Duigan, S Green, A Greenwood, L Monument and P Morton.

Personnel Committee

Responsible for; Wage Reviews, Appraisals, Interviewing for staff

Councillors K Cogman, Z Flint, S Green, H King and L Monument.

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor are ex-officio members of all Committees (subject to Standing Order 42).

11. **To confirm representatives for outside bodies (normally appointed for 4 years) and to receive a brief report.**

Proposed by Councillor L Monument, seconded by Councillor H King it was agreed that the committee members stated below remain the same,

(a) **Trustees of Charities:**

Aaron Williamson's Charity

Councillors P Morton and H Clarke.

Dereham Relief in Need Charities

Councillors P Morton and H Clarke.

East Dereham Educational Charity Trust.

Councillors P Morton and H Clarke.

(b) **Representation on other bodies:**

Citizens Advice Bureau.

Councillor A Brooks.

Civil Emergency Member (to liaise with Breckland Council Emergency Officer)

Councillor P Duigan

12. **To fix the dates and times of Council, Plans and Committee meetings**

The dates and times of Council, Plans and Committee meetings were agreed up to the Annual Town Council Meeting 20th May 2025.

13. **To make arrangements for Civic Sunday and Bowls Match.**

The Mayor, Councillor L Monument announced that her Civic Sunday will be held on the 8th September 2024 and annual bowls match would be confirmed at a later date.

14. **Councillor P Duigan to speak on the 50th Anniversary of Dereham Town Council.**

Councillor P Duigan explained that before becoming Dereham Town Council in 1974, the Council was known as the Urban District Council. The Urban District Council left a legacy of car parks, and Rashes Green Industrial Estate to Breckland District Council.

Councillor Duigan said that his father was the last Chairman on the Urban District Council and the first on Dereham Town Council and 1977 a Mayor was elected rather than a Chairman. Councillor Duigan said that there has been a Duigan on the council for 54 years.

Councillor Duigan mentioned some of Dereham Town Councils achievements which included the refurbishment of the War Memorial Hall, a new Cemetery, Skatepark, Countryside Park and playgrounds.

Councillor Duigan ended by saying that Dereham Town Council should be proud of what they have done and that they have conducted themselves in the main very well. 'Well done Dereham Town Council, here's to the next 50 years'

Chairman