

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

## **DEREHAM TOWN COUNCIL**

Assembly Rooms, Quebec Street, Dereham, Norfolk NR19 2DJ

Telephone: Dereham (01362) 693821 Fax: (01362) 693405

E-mail: [generalenquiries@derehamtowncouncil.org](mailto:generalenquiries@derehamtowncouncil.org)

Web Site: [www.derehamtowncouncil.info](http://www.derehamtowncouncil.info)

8<sup>th</sup> August 2024

Dear Councillor

You are hereby summoned to attend the next meeting of **Dereham Town Council** which will be held at the Memorial Hall, Dereham on **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2024** at **7.30pm** to consider the items on the Agenda below.

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  
  
**Adjournment for Public Speaking - meeting to be adjourned for up to 15 minutes maximum to take questions from members of the public or to allow County and District Councillors who are not Town Council members to give a report and answer questions. An additional 15 minutes will be added to allow District Councillors who are not Town Council members to comment on Breckland Council's Car Parking Strategy.**
3. To receive announcements.
4. 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**.
5. 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**.

6. **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**.
- b) To discuss any matters arising and vote on any recommendations listed below.

**To consider a policy regarding offering live animals as prizes.**

The Committee recommended that 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.**

The Committee recommended to incentivise the Dereham Tuesday Market by offering 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.**

The Committee recommended that 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.

The Committee also recommended that 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.

7. **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**.
- b) To discuss any matters arising and vote on any recommendations listed below.

**To consider new bench at old cemetery.**

The Committee recommended that 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 Committee recommended that 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**

The Committee recommended making 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.'

8. To receive and adopt the list of accounts paid, the Financial Statement and list of accounts to be paid.
9. To receive any updates/reports from members of the Council who are County or District Councillors.
10. To propose the following. (Cllr Cogman)

***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 lead to a lack of engagement when future consultation is carried out.***

11. To propose the following. (Cllr O'Callaghan)

***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

12. To propose the following resolution. (Cllr O'Callaghan)

***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 proposal: 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.

13. To propose the following. (Cllr Cogman)

***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.***

14. **Exclusion of Press and public.**

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.

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