

DEREHAM TOWN COUNCIL

24th September 2024

At a meeting of the **Heritage & Open Spaces Committee** held at the Memorial Hall on **Tuesday 24th September 2024 at 7pm.**

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

Also in attendance: Councillors H Clarke and 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 K Cogman proposed Councillor P Duigan, seconded by Councillor A Greenwood. There were no other nominations. It was agreed that Councillor P Duigan be Chairman of the Heritage & Open Spaces Committee 2024/25.

4. **To elect a Vice Chairman**

Councillor P Morton proposed Councillor A Greenwood, seconded by Councillor P Duigan. There were no other nominations. It was agreed that Councillor A Greenwood be Vice Chairman of the Heritage & Open Spaces Committee 2024/25.

Councillor L Monument arrived

5. **To receive the Community Access Wardens report**

The Community Access Warden, Mr Ken Hawkins, had provided a written report. Councillor L Monument would contact Breckland Council requesting an update on the path from Hurn Road to meet RB39.

Councillor H King arrived

6. **To consider granting vision splay for access to new Meeting Hall at Etling Green**

The Town Clerk provided a verbal update.

The committee recommended that the splay for access to the new Meeting Hall at Etling Green is granted with the following conditions: that the Town Council is not obliged to actively maintain the vision splay and it is only for the use of the Meeting Hall (non-commercial). If the access is ever used for new residential or commercial purposes then a fee may be required.

7. **To consider licencing traders at the Neatherd**
Councillors considered access issues caused by traders, the types of traders, the bylaws and who was responsible for their enforcement.

The committee recommended that the current temporary licence to trade is extended for another 4 months with a tightening of conditions regarding where units are sited to reduce obstruction and access issues. To make traders aware that if such activities are to continue to be licenced, the Council is likely to favor trading which is incidental to the use of the Common e.g. ice cream and coffee.

8. **To discuss potential impact on the introduction of Breckland car parking charges on the Neatherd**

Councillors discussed the bylaws concerning parking on the Neatherd, the likelihood of vehicle owners seeking locations to avoid paying for parking at Breckland owned car parks and Breckland Council's responsibility as managers of the Neatherd.

The committee recommended that a letter be sent to Breckland Council to highlight the potential issue of vehicle owners using the Neatherd to avoid parking charges and to ask Breckland for their plans to mitigate this risk and how they will monitor and deal with the issue if it arises.

9. **To discuss potential Parish Partnership Schemes for 2025**

RB-36 Cherry Lane

The Town Clerk provided a verbal update. The timing of Breckland Council funding commitments would take RB-36 Cherry Lane improvements outside of the Parish Partnership Scheme. To expedite the works the Town Council could agree to manage the project.

The committee recommended improvements to Cherry Lane be taken forward lieu of any Parish Partnership project for 2025/26. That funding and management for improvements to RB36 Cherry Lane are to be an agenda item at the Full Council meeting in October 2024.

Girling Road

Councillor H Clarke would contact County Councillor W Richmond for an update on resurfacing at Girling Road and the installation of dropped kerbs.

10. **Exclusion of press and public**

Proposed by Councillor P Duigan 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.

11. **To consider encroachment on Etling Green**

The Town Clerk provided verbal updates on two sites where encroachment had take place. Councillors were concerned that Breckland Council, as managers of Etling Green common, was not being consistent in how they ensure free access to the Common.

The committee recommended that if required the Town Clerk be given permission to commission a solicitors' letter to Breckland Council regarding their obligations to maintain free access to Etling Green common.

All encroachments onto the Common should be resolved and where properties installed services without consent that they be required to apply retrospectively for consent.

Chairman