

DEREHAM TOWN COUNCIL

28th January 2025

At a meeting of the **Social & Welfare Committee** held at the Memorial Hall on **Tuesday 28th January 2025 at 7pm.**

Present: Councillors H King (Chairman), S Green, H Clarke and C Coleman.

Also present: Councillors P Duigan, P Morton and Z Flint, Town Clerk A Needham and Deputy Town Clerk J Barron.

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors L Monument and R O'Callaghan.

2. **Declaration of Interest.**

Councillor H Clarke declared that he is a member of the Royal British Legion and Councillor H King declared that he is a trustee at Dereham Windmill.

The meeting was adjourned.

Steve Drew, Trustee of Dereham Windmill presented a report explaining the maintenance work required at the windmill and the cost this would incur.

Steven Cross addressed the meeting expressing his displeasure at the untidiness of the town, he passed around pictures showing unkempt buildings in the centre of Dereham and asking the Councillors what they were doing to rectify this and make the Town Centre more attractive.

Councillors requested that the Clerk invite the relevant Breckland Council Cabinet member to the next Full Council meeting to explain what measures are available for addressing untidy buildings.

The meeting resumed.

3. **To consider funding for Battle of Britain Memorial Service.**

Dereham Town Council has funded and partly organized the arrangements for the memorial service and parade for some year. The direct cost of this in 2024 was £615. The committee discussed whether to continue with this arrangement.

The committee recommended that RAFA should now apply for a grant each year for funding for the Battle of Britain Memorial Service.
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4. **Update on arson at Barwell's Court Toilets and consider any further actions to reduce risks in the future.**

The Town Clerk gave a verbal update on the arson at Barwell's Court Toilets stating that this is the second fire at the toilets in the last 12 months. Both fires have been directly linked to either materials being removed from a bin and ignited or a whole bin being taken into the toilets and ignited. Given that this is the second fire linked to waste bins in the toilets and the third bin fire in the town centre in the last 12 months, the committee discussed what measures could be put in place to reduce the risk of fire linked to waste bins.

The Town Clerk advised that Breckland Council as the Waste Collection Authority has powers under Section 46 (4) Environmental Protection Act 1990 (the Act) which could be applied more widely to improve the amenity of the Town Centre. Under the Act Breckland Council could make provision with respect to –

- (a) The size, construction and maintenance of the receptacles.
- (b) The placing of the receptacles for the purpose of facilitating the emptying of them and accessing the receptacles for that purpose.
- (c) the placing of the receptacles for that purpose on highways.

The committee recommended that the relevant Portfolio holder be from Breckland Council be invited to attend a Full Council meeting to explain how their powers could be used to improve the visual amenity of the Town Centre and reduce the risk of arson.

The Town Clerk also talked about the ongoing problems with anti-social behavior around Barwell's Court and discussed the possibility of locking the toilet cubicles at night and maybe having a webcam.

The committee recommended installing a door control system so that some of the cubicles are locked after a certain time in the evening, with an estimated cost of £1,500.

The committee recommended that a live webcam be installed at Barwell's Court with an estimated cost of £2,500.

5. **To consider commissioning ground anchors to stabilise headstones.**

The committee recommended that the Town Clerk purchase 100 stainless steel anchors to fix headstones that clearly have had no visitors, and that fail the topple test. The cost of the anchors would be £10 each.

6. **To consider the style for replacement parish boundary sign on A47.**

The committee recommended the following style for the replacement boundary sign on the A47. The Clerk would obtain a cost estimate from National Highways for the preferred style.



DEREHAM

St Withburga's Town

The Heart of Norfolk

Chairman