

DEREHAM TOWN COUNCIL

27th November 2018

At a meeting of the Heritage & Open Spaces Committee held in the Assembly Rooms on **Tuesday 27th November 2018** upon the rising of the Plans Meeting.

Present: Councillors P Duigan (Chair), H Bushell, A Bowyer, L Monument and P Morton.

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

1. **To receive apologies for absence.**
Apologies for absence were received from Councillors K Millbank and T Monument.
2. **Declaration of Interest.**
There were no declarations of interest.
3. **To consider request from the Antiquarian Society regarding proposed heritage centre.**
Councillor P Duigan advised the committee that this item was being put on hold. The committee said that they would be open to an application in the future.

4. **To consider projects for parish partnership scheme.**

The committee recommended that funding from the parish partnership scheme should be applied for the following projects:

1. Children Crossing flashing sign(s) on Quebec Road for Northgate High School crossing point - £9000
2. Highway entry signs on NCC roads leading into Dereham - £6000
3. Improvements to the surface of the restricted byways around the Neatherd - £6000

Project 1 would be the priority.

5. **To consider moving bus shelter from Hillcrest Avenue.**

The committee recommended that the bus shelter in Hillcrest Avenue is relocated to outside Strikes on Station Road at a cost of £2000

6. **To confirm design of speed humps on Neatherd track.**

The committee recommended the Sinusoidal 100mm type speed hump which provided most comfort at low speed but discomfort rapidly increases as the speed increases. The 100mm speed hump would comply with the road traffic regulation 1999. It is hoped that these measures would keep vehicles to a safe 10 mph.

7. **To consider scheme for improvements to Neatherd pond.**

The committee recommended that the Town Council look at deepening the pond but have a smaller pond, i.e. the volume of water would remain the

same but it would be a smaller deep pond rather than a large shallow pond. This should ensure that water remains in the pond during drought periods. The concerns about safety with a deeper body of water would be addressed by making sure that the bed of the pond slopes gently and there is no underwater 'cliff edge'. This work would now go out to tender.

8. **To consider installing gate on Neatherd Track to Swanton Morley Road.**

The committee recommended that a gate be installed on the Neatherd Track to Swanton Morley Road subject to advice from the Planning Inspectorate.

9. **Exclusion press and public.**

Proposed by Councillor H Bushell seconded by Councillor A Bowyer 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

10. **To consider action regarding encroachment on the Neatherd common.**

The committee recommended that the Town Clerk contact Breckland Council who as the managers of Neatherd Common are responsible for taking action regarding encroachment.

The committee recommended that the Town Council initially write to the householder with regards to them creating a new access across the common from the track to the bungalow, then follow up with legal action if required.

11. **To consider action regarding Japanese knotweed on Etling Green.**

Breckland Council has been approached to request that they control the Japanese knotweed in the same way as they did on the Neatherd, where they are also managers.

Breckland Council's response is that 'they are not managers and don't have to do anything because they don't own it'.

The committee recommended that the Town Clerk contact Breckland Council stating that the Town Council recognise that there is a disagreement and in the interest of constructively resolving this and any other matters that we offer to share the cost of obtaining counsel opinion.

If Breckland Council does not wish to take up the offer then the committee recommended that the Town Council take Counsels opinion on the matter.

Chairman