

# DEREHAM TOWN COUNCIL

27<sup>th</sup> June 2017

A meeting of the **Recreation Committee** held in the Assembly Rooms on **Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2017** upon the rising of the Planning Committee meeting.

**Present:** Councillors H Bushell (Chairman), A Bowyer, P Duigan and L Goreham.

Also in attendance: Councillor L Monument and Town Clerk T Needham.

1. **To receive apologies for absence.**  
There were no apologies for absence.
2. **Declaration of Interest.**  
There were no declarations of interest.
3. **To elect a Chairman.**  
This was postponed to the next meeting ; Cllr Bushel remained in the Chair as Mayor.
4. **To elect a Vice Chairman.**  
This was deferred.
5. **To discuss the need for additional open space and sports pitches in Dereham.**  
The Committee discussed the shortage of open spaces and recreational facilities in Dereham with reference to the Breckland open spaces assessment. It also discussed other open spaces purchased by the Town Council in recent years. The Committee concluded that there was still a shortage of open space and that Dereham was a growing Town therefore the shortage would become more acute in the future if action was not taken.
6. **Exclusion of Press & Public**  
Proposed by Cllr Bushell and seconded by Cllr Duigan it was agreed to exclude the press and public on the grounds that the Business to be transacted is confidential and publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest
7. **To consider bidding for land for additional open space and sports pitches in Dereham.**  
The committee discussed the parcel of land in question and recognised that even though the land may not be accessible for sports in the short term, it could still be available as informal open space.  
The committee considered the risks of both purchasing and not purchasing the land and felt that in the long term purchase would be of benefit to the town.  
  
The committee considered the value of the land with reference to the District Valuers recent valuation of amenity open space.  
  
The Committee reviewed the 5 year projects and Capital budget with a view to purchasing the land and identified how the land could be purchased without borrowing.

Proposed by Cllr Duigan and seconded by Cllr Goreham it was agreed to recommend that the Council bids for the land on the basis of the district Valuers valuation for recreation space.

The Clerk would discuss what a reasonable level of 'overage' would be for such a transaction with the Council's solicitor and would bring that information back to full Council.

**Chairman**