

DEREHAM TOWN COUNCIL

23rd March 2021

At a virtual meeting of the **Heritage & Open Spaces Committee** held on **Tuesday 23rd March 2021** at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors P Duigan (Chairman), A Brooks, C Bunting, L Monument and P Morton.

Also in attendance: Councillors S Green, H Clarke, H King and K Cogman, Town Clerk Tony Needham, Deputy Town Clerk Jillian Barron, Ken Hawkins (Footpath Warden), Trevor Ogden and Peter Wade-Martin (Dereham Heritage Trust), District Councillor H Bushell.

1. **To receive apologies for absence.**
There were no apologies for absence

2. **Declaration of Interest.**
There were no declarations of interest.

3. **To receive report from the Footpaths Warden.**
Ken Hawkins presented his report and said that not surprisingly there had been no progress on the footpaths since his last report but he was disappointed that no action had been taken with regards to the issues on Restricted Byway 3.

He asked the Town Clerk if he had any updates on maintaining Cherry Lane, The Town Clerk said that he had found a contractor to carry out the work and also look at the Neatherd track but we would need to wait until the tracks had dried out.

Councillor P Morton said that he had been in touch with District Councillor A Webb regarding RB32/3 to ask if Norfolk County Council had contacted the landowner as it is now the right time of year to carry out the work on this footpath.

Ken Hawkins said that Walkers are Welcome were in the process of compiling a booklet of short walks and may apply to the Town Council for possible funding.

4. **To discuss the restoration of the pargetting on Bishop Bonners Cottages.**
Peter Wade-Martin from Dereham Heritage Trust presented a report explaining when Bishop Bonners Cottages were restored and showing that the original colouring of the pargetting on the cottages had probably been white although in later years it had been painted different colours.

The committee commended Sue Walker-White for the research she had carried out for the report.

The committee recommended that the pargetting be lime washed and left white as this was probably how it was originally created.

It was suggested that there should be a press release to explain to members of the public why the pargetting was no longer coloured.

Councillor C Bunting joined the meeting.

5. **To discuss littering at Safari Way.**

Councillor H Clarke explained that litter has been accumulating on this piece of land and that the matter had been raised with Breckland Council as it was the littering authority, however it has not clearly been established who owns the ditch and therefore who would be responsible for clearing it up.

Councillors agreed that finding out the ownership would be the first thing that should be done. The Town Clerk suggested that maybe the current owners could work backwards to see what parts of the land was sold and to whom.

The committee agreed if Cllr Clarke raised the matter with Breckland Council that he would have the support of the Town Council.

The committee recommended that the Town Council write to Breckland Council and ask them to use what powers they have to resolve the matter at Safari Way. It was also recommended that this be broadened out to include other areas of unsightly littering. Ken Hawkins had identified other areas and would make the Clerk aware of each area.

6. **To discuss blocked access to Public Open Space at George Eliot Way.**

Councillor H Clarke said that the walkway through from George Eliot Way to the Potter Fen was closed off some years ago, the Open Space and walkway are owned by Breckland Council. The issue of the blocking up was raised with Breckland Council several years ago and at the time it was said that a handrail needed to be installed but no funds were available. The walkway does form a natural link to adjacent public open spaces.

The committee agreed that this was a valuable link but not a priority at this point in time. It was agreed that this would be added to the priorities list to be discussed at a later date.

7. **To consider tenanted land being brought into public use as part of the Neatherd Management Plan.**

The committee recommended that the tenanted land around the Neatherd be brought into public use as part of the Neatherd Management Plan and that the tenants should be given adequate notice.

8. **Exclusion Press and public**

Proposed by Councillor P Duigan seconded by Councillor L Monument 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

9. **Verbal update on repairs to Bishop Bonners Cottages**

The Clerk gave a verbal update on the repairs to Bishop Bonners Cottages.

Chairman