

DOWNHAM MARKET TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD TUESDAY, 12TH FEBRUARY 2008 AT 7.30PM

Present:	The Mayor	Cllr J W Doyle
	The Deputy Mayor	Cllr R Leach
	Councillors	S W Blyth
		W A Clark
		M G Ford
		J K Fox
		S F Geary
		J Groom
		Mrs G S S Purslow
		J J Reed
		Mrs P A Roberts
		C T Sampson
		Mrs P B Sharp
		V F Starling
	County Councillor	Mrs S E L Hutson
	Borough Councillor	J R Legg
	Norfolk Constabulary	PC A Deadman
		PCSO S Ross
	Town Clerk	Mrs J M Markwell
	Deputy Clerk	Mrs S D Porter
	Press Correspondents	Ms S Hewitt
		Mr C Hill

1189. To receive members Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr P E Freeman (holiday), Cllr R J Keates (pregnancy), Cllr Mrs S M Nunn (illness), Cllr C Pyatt (prior engagement), Cllr A D Stacey (holiday), Cllr S C Teverson (illness), Borough Cllr A M Lovett and Borough Cllr Mrs K Mellish.

The apologies were accepted.

1190. Evacuation Procedures

The Mayor, Cllr Doyle, notified those present of the emergency evacuation procedure from the Town Council offices.

1191. To receive members Declarations of Interest

The Mayor, Cllr Doyle declared a prejudicial interest in Item 1197, to approve the Payment of Bills.

Adjourn meeting for public participation and reports

The Mayor, Cllr Doyle, adjourned the meeting.

Police Report

PC Deadman reported on crimes since 1st December 2007:

- 0 Burglaries to dwellings.
- 4 Burglaries to other buildings.
- 19 Criminal damage offences (6 detected).
- 6 Drug offences (all detected).
- 2 Fraud offences.
- 0 Sex offences.
- 1 Robbery.
- 5 Theft from motor vehicles.
- 2 Theft of motor vehicles.
- 21 Crimes of violence (includes domestic related).
- 26 Other thefts (shop lifting, etc).

Pub Watch is very well established in Downham Market and there have only been 5 incidents within the past 8 months, which is a large reduction in crime since it began. The White Hart has now joined Pub Watch and public houses in the surrounding villages will also be joining the scheme.

Mr L Welham, Chamber of Trade, will discuss Shop Watch at their next meeting and it is anticipated that traders will join.

Cllr Blyth advised that a man with a zimmer frame had been showing indecent photographs to people. PC Deadman was aware of this and would be making enquiries regarding this matter.

Cllr Ford enquired whether the removal of the bench outside the Priory Centre had impacted on the amount of youths that congregated around that area. PC Deadman confirmed that it had reduced the numbers.

PC Deadman and PCSO Ross left the meeting at 7.40pm.

Public Participation

There were no members of public present at the meeting.

County Councillor Report and Questions

Cllr Mrs Hutson reported that there had been little information regarding possible changes to Local Government. Proposals to the Boundary Committee would need to be submitted by December 2008, when they would then be heard by the Secretary of State.

The Eastern Daily Press (EDP) had begun a campaign, 'Shop Here'. Traders were encouraged to contact the Editor to register their business for the advertisement.

Christopher Fraser MP would be holding a 'Surgery' in the Conservative Club on Saturday, 1st March 2008 from 10.30am-11.30am.

There were no questions.

Cllr Mrs Roberts arrived at the meeting at 7.47pm.

Borough Councillor Reports and Questions

Cllr Legg reported that Barnardos in Bridge Street had recently closed bringing the total number of empty shops in Downham Market to 12. The main reason for the closures was due to high rents. Cllr Leach noted that the Chamber of Trade had already approached one landlord to encourage them to reduce their rates.

Cllr Legg added that the BCKL&WN were aiming to maintain a precept increase of 2.5% and advised that disabled badges may be chargeable in the future.

There were no questions.

The Mayor, Cllr Doyle, resumed the meeting.

1192. To approve the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday, 8th January 2008 (pages 2318-2327) were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

1193. To receive Correspondence

A list of correspondence had been circulated (Appendix 1).

The Clerk noted that the North Norfolk Karate Club had made a request for a donation in support of a charity marathon they would be holding in aid of the NSPCC, RNLI and the North Norfolk Karate Club.

Members were advised that EDF would be upgrading the existing cables on the Town Hall Car Park. The start date was not yet known.

1194. Councillor's Questions

Cllr Fox reported that an engineer from Smith of Derby had inspected and repaired the clock. Cllr Fox wished to note that he had met the engineer on site to discuss the condensation inside the clock which was bleeding into the zinger coating causing it to be ineffective in stopping any rust forming. Cllr Fox advised that the Finance and General Purposes Committee had agreed to purchase a heater for the inside of the clock during the winter months to alleviate the moisture.

Cllr Mrs Sharp noted that she and Cllr Leach would be attending a meeting on Wednesday, 26th March 2008 regarding Post Office closures in Norfolk.

1195. To Adopt the Standing Committee Minutes

Car Parks and Highways Committee

Cllr Fox advised that page 2333, item 586, third paragraph, was incorrect and should read Mr K Sadler, Somerfield manager (not Mr K Weeks).

Proposed – Cllr Mrs Roberts

Seconded – Cllr Fox

‘That the minutes of the Car Parks and Highways Committee meeting of Tuesday, 15th January 2008 (pages 2333-2338) be adopted, with the amendment to item 586.’

All in favour

Planning and Environmental Committee

Proposed – Cllr Fox

Seconded – Cllr Mrs Sharp

‘That the minutes of the Planning and Environmental Committee meetings of Wednesday, 28th November 2007 (pages 2295 -2299), Tuesday, 18th December 2007 (pages 2310-2317) and Wednesday, 9th January 2008 (pages 2328-2332) be adopted.’

All in favour

Development Committee

Proposed – Cllr Ford

Seconded – Cllr Starling

‘That the minutes of the Development Committee meetings of Wednesday, 24th October 2007 (pages 2269-2270) and Tuesday, 27th November 2007 (pages 2291-2294) be adopted.’

All in favour

Finance and General Purposes Committee

Proposed – Cllr Sampson

Seconded – Cllr Mrs Sharp

‘That the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meetings of Tuesday, 11th December 2007 (pages 2300-2304) and Monday, 17th December 2007 (pages 2307-2309) be adopted.’

All in favour

1196. To receive the Clerk’s Report

The Clerk had nothing to report to this meeting.

1197. To approve the Payment of Bills

A list of bills had been circulated (Appendix 2).

The Mayor, Cllr Doyle, had declared a prejudicial interest in this item.

Proposed – Cllr Mrs Roberts

Seconded – Cllr Sampson

‘That the bills be paid as per the attached list.’

For – 13

Against – 0

Abstention – 1 (Declared Interest)

1198. Update on the acquisition of the Town Hall – Report from Cllr Ford

Cllr Ford reminded Councillors that volunteers would be required to help host the events being held in the Town Hall on Thursday, 28th February 2008 from 6.30pm – 9.00pm and Friday, 29th February 2008 all day.

Cllr Fox would be showing Councillors round the Town Hall on Wednesday, 13th February 2008 at 2.00pm. Anyone interested in viewing it were invited to attend.

1199. Update on the construction of the Fire Station Car Park – Report from Cllr Fox

Cllr Fox reported that vandals had smashed the windows in the old building on the fire station site and these had been boarded up. An application had been made to Anglian Water to drain the foul water but permission had been refused. In view of this, other options were being investigated by Mr J Stephenson and Highways. Quotations had been received for the lighting.

It was noted that Cllr Sampson had resigned from the Working Party. Cllr Blyth agreed to take his place.

1200. Report on the purchase of the Howdale Community Centre – Report from Cllr Pyatt

The Clerk reported that the legal matters were being dealt with by the solicitors.

1201. To discuss CCTV

The Clerk reported that electrical inspections and planning permissions were being sought and costs could not be finalised until these had been agreed.

1202. To discuss the Foolhardy Circus request to visit Downham Market

A letter had been sent to the BCKL&WN requesting permission for the Foolhardy Circus to stand on The Howdale. Unfortunately the BCKL&WN had refused permission on the grounds that mechanically propelled vehicles, including caravans, were not legally entitled to stand on village greens.

Cllr Ford recommended that a letter of protest be sent to the BCKL&WN regarding their decision. The Mayor, Cllr Doyle, would deal with this.

Proposed – The Mayor Cllr Doyle

‘To invoke Standing Order 17, in order to vary the order of business and allow the Human Resources item to be discussed under confidentiality at the end of the meeting.’

All in favour

Cllr Mrs Roberts suggested that the Human Resources item be placed at the end of the agenda in future. This was noted.

1203. To discuss any urgent items as agreed by the Mayor

The Mayor, Cllr Doyle, congratulated the Youth Working Party for organising the youth drop in evening, which had been very successful.

1204. Mayor's Announcements

- Mayor's Awards for Young People (sponsored by the Lynn News) – Town Hall, Friday, 22nd February 2008 at 6.00pm.
- St Winnold's Breakfast – Procession Friday, 14th March 2008 at 9.00am.
- Mayor's At Home – Town Hall, Friday, 28th March 2008 at 7.30pm.
- Annual Town Meeting – Town Hall, Wednesday, 2nd April 2008 at 7.00pm.
- Civic Service – St Edmund's Church, Sunday, 13th April 2008 at 3.00pm.
- St George's Day events – Wednesday, 23rd April 2008, Friday, 25th April 2008 and Saturday, 26th April 2008:
 - Wednesday* – Town Square, 10.00am – Theatrical display by Marham Drama Group of St George slaying the dragon, to be witnessed by local school children. Town Hall, 7.30pm – Cy Payne orchestra and hog roast (tickets £10.00).
 - Friday* – 25th April 2008, lunchtime – RAF Battle of Britain Flight, Lancaster, Spitfire and Hurricane will hopefully make an appearance.
 - Saturday* – Town Square, 11.00am – Morris dancing, face painting for children, Punch and Judy shows, recitals of Shakespeare by DADS, a Shakespeare performance by Downham Market High School and music by the Woodside Swing Band. Town Hall, 7.30pm – Ian & Danny Eves & The Reformation playing a mixture of pop music and a fish and chip supper (tickets £10.00). Prizes will be awarded to those wearing 60's or 70's fancy dress.

Proposed – The Mayor Cllr Doyle

Seconded – Cllr Ford

'To invoke Standing Order 5a, that in the view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest, that the public and/or the press be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw.'

All in favour

The Press Correspondents, Ms Hewitt and Mr Hill, left the Council chambers at 8.20pm.

Cllr Mrs Hutson and Cllr Legg were reminded that they were bound by the Standing Orders of this Council.

1205. Human Resources report (confidential item)

See Confidential Report.

Proposed – Cllr Ford

Seconded – Cllr Mrs Roberts

'That Downham Market Town Council continues to negotiate a full transfer under TUPE arrangements for the post holder of caretaker for a minimum of 25 hours per week.'

All in favour

Proposed – Cllr Mrs Roberts

Seconded – Cllr Mrs Sharp

'That this Council allows the Human Resources Sub Committee to draw up a job description and place an advertisement in the newspaper for an additional administrator.'

All in favour

The Mayor, Cllr Doyle, closed confidentiality and resumed the meeting.

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.38pm.

Chairman

Date