

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL DOWNHAM MARKET TOWN MEETING
HELD MONDAY 20TH MAY 2019 AT 7.00PM IN THE TOWN HALL

Present:	The Mayor	Cllr R L Hayes
	Town Councillors	Cllr F E Daymond
		Cllr J W Doyle
		Cllr J Groom
		Cllr R A C Hepworth
		Cllr E Lightfoot
		Cllr B Molyneux-
		Cllr A A Pickering
		Cllr C Pyatt
		Cllr D J Sharman
		Cllr J Woodmin
	Borough Cllr	A Bullen
		J Radcliffe
	County Cllr	A White
Acting Town Clerk	Mrs N Westwood	
Deputy Town Clerk	Mr R A Davidson	
Administrator	Mrs T Griffin	
Members of Public	20	

The Mayor, Cllr Hayes opened the meeting at 7.00pm.

1. To receive the Mayor's Welcome

The Mayor welcomed everybody to the Annual Town Meeting.

The Mayor gave a brief outline of the meeting and what was to be expected.

The Deputy Clerk explained the reason why the original meeting date was cancelled.

2. To receive Members' Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllrs' Horne (work) and Lawson (work).

The apologies were accepted.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Last Town Meeting

The minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on Thursday, 4th May 2018, had been circulated.

Proposed – Cllr Sharman

Seconded – Cllr Daymond

'The Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on Thursday, 4th May 2018 be accepted'

All in Favour

The minutes were duly signed by the Mayor, Cllr Hayes, as a true and accurate record.

4. Matters arising from last meeting

There were no matters arising.

PC Beat Manager gave a report on crime figures from the past month. There has been 1 burglary, 4 anti-social behaviour incidents, 2 criminal damage and some thefts with the majority being plants. The police have received 249 calls for Downham Market with only 6 for anti-social behaviour and 1 being for the Whalebone.

Beat Manager asked for questions from the floor.

Q. Is the police station still open on Thursdays only?

A. Yes, from 11am – 1pm, however, there is a phone in operation 24/7 on the outside of the station.

Q. SNAP meetings are being replaced but there has been no new information?

A. We are currently looking for a new venue, we are wanting to provide more of an open-door surgery instead of a set meeting. There is a poster in the Town Council window for the current SNAP meeting dates.

5. To receive reports from the Standing Committee Chairmen

a) Community Development

Cllr Pickering gave a report. (Appendix 1).

Q. The town really needs some new play equipment.

A. The Town Youth Council have also mentioned this and it will be looked into.

Q. Can you please make sure you do not just use Facebook to advertise and inform.

A. The Town Council will continue to use Facebook and other means.

Q. The new estates do not have notice boards, this needs to be looked into.

A. This will be researched.

Q. Why do the Town Council not advertise in the Downham Advertiser?

A. This will be investigated.

b) Finance & General Purpose

The Mayor, Cllr Hayes gave a report. (Appendix 2).

Q. There were no public questions.

c) Planning & Environmental

The Deputy Clerk gave a report on behalf of the Committee. (Appendix 3).

Q. There were no public questions.

d) Property

Cllr Pyatt gave a report (Appendix 4).

Q. There were no public questions.

e) Town Hall

Cllr Sharman gave a report (Appendix 5).

Q. What are the next plans, if any, for the Town Hall?

A. The Town Hall Committee would like to see the kitchen renovated but do not have the finances. The flat roof of the Town Hall will need to be restored in the future and money is being budgeted for this each financial year.

Q. Could something be done to the upstairs kitchen to make it more useable?

A. This is something the Town Hall Committee have looked into doing but all available money must be saved for the Town Hall flat roof which is our priority.

f) Jubilee Community Centre

Cllr Sharman gave a report (Appendix 6).

Q. Why does the JCC not have a play area? The area is safe and enclosed, it would be the perfect location.

A. The Trustee and Management Committee are currently seeking funding for the JCC redevelopment. If a play area is placed in this area, current grants could be affected.

g) Car Park Management

The Mayor, Cllr Hayes advised that there is no update to give as yet. There is a meeting arranged for next week and the public will be well informed of any progress.

Q. If nothing had changed, why were there so many reports required?

A. Each report was a different study which were all relevant. The Town Council do not have in-house expertise, so the work needed to be outsourced. Car Parking continues to be a problem and it is not getting any better, other local establishments are now implementing car parking charges.

h) Neighbourhood Plan

The Deputy Clerk gave a report (Appendix 7).

Q: There were no public questions.

6. To discuss Town matters and receive questions from the floor

Q. I have come this evening to complain about the traffic movement in town. Traffic and pollution are something the Town Council needs to prioritise. The Town Council should be fighting for a better environment.

A. Norfolk County Council Highways are carrying out a study, investigating traffic strategies. The study is now in its second phase. This is currently only a scoping exercise and money will be allocated after the research is complete.

Q. Vehicles drive down Bexwell Road too fast. The speed monitors that the council own are not being used.

A. The SAMS (Speed Activation Monitors) are being used. They have to be moved to a different location every 28 days and cannot return to the same place within 8 weeks. This is to ensure that they do not lose their effect, if they are left for longer, drivers may disregard them. The council own two SAMS part funded by NCC. These monitors cannot be placed at a junction as they may encourage vehicle racing. The SAMS monitors only make drivers aware of their speed.

Q. Would speeding at a junction not be a matter for the police?

A. Beat Manager: Yes, if enough members of the public email in with the same location, the police will make a visit.

Q. Who do we contact regarding anti-social behaviour and licensing issues at the Whalebone?

A. The police should be notified of anti-social behaviour. The Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk deal with premise licenses

Beat Manager: You must get in contact with the police and make us aware if you have issues. There are additional PC's kept in the area since the Whalebone has been open.

Q. You have no Deputy Mayor, six Councillors short and no Town Clerk, what are you doing about this?

A. Nominations for Deputy Mayor will be on the Full Council Agenda but in the meantime the previous Deputy Mayor is happy to assist. Councillor Vacancies will be advertised shortly and interviews for a new Town Clerk will commence within the next couple of weeks.

The Mayor, Cllr Hayes, thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.10pm