

# DOWNHAM MARKET ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

## DRAFT MINUTES OF TOWN MEETING HELD

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 6pm in the Town Hall

	<p><b>Present</b> Chairman Cllr Pegg Cllrs Daymond, Doyle, Sharman, Leach, Jordan, Lewis, Lawson, Pyatt, Leivers, Incorvaia, S Moses and B Moses</p> <p>Graham Spark, Town Clerk Tina Griffin, Administrator</p> <p>Borough Cllrs Bullen and Ratcliffe County Cllr White</p>
Number	Item
1	<p><b>To receive the Chair's welcome</b> Cllr Pegg welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained how it would run. He confirmed it would be live streamed on YouTube and speakers would be asked to move to the lectern for their presentation.</p> <p>He explained that “this meeting is not a council meeting. It is a Town Meeting for the residents of Downham Market. Although there are one or two councillors on the agenda who will bring you up to date with their comments, councillors that are here are residents for this meeting.”</p> <p>Cllr Pegg continued, “The council is now looking forward and looking to the future and hopefully changing things for the better. It is easy for me to say, but we are trying to move away from the past and facing new challenges and with several new councillors we are looking towards new horizons. One area of progress has been to see the market returning to a thriving place where we can see happy faces and people chatting again. We will get things wrong, but hopefully we can realise mistakes and rectify them in good time. No organisation is perfect, but you the public put us here to do the job of looking after the town of Downham Market. We are custodians of the Town and the council finances, your money, and you expect us to do our work to the best of our abilities. Next year is the year for local elections and it will be up to you to have your say in who you want to be on the council. I, and the rest of the councillors are looking forward to the coming year with a new Mayor and to settling down to work for you.”</p>
2	<p><b>To receive apologies for absence</b> – no apologies had been received</p>
3	<p><b>To approve the minutes of the Town Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021</b> <b>Proposed:</b> Cllr Sharman      <b>Seconded:</b> Cllr Lawson      <b>All in favour</b> The minutes of the meeting held on 20.4.21 were therefore approved.</p>

4	<b>Matters arising from previous meeting</b> – there were no matters arising
5	<p><b>To receive a presentation from Norfolk Constabulary</b></p> <p>Sgt Emily Green and PC Joanna Higgins from the Local Policing Team provided an update describing an increased Police presence around town to tackle some of the specific issues raised by the public.</p> <p>Questions from the public included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Careless parking</b> on Nursery Rd during school drop off and pick up times.</li> <li>• <b>Groups of youngsters</b> causing trouble in town. PC Higgins outlined the measures that are currently being taken to tackle the problems some of the groups are causing.</li> </ul> <p>Sgt Green urged everyone to report any criminal or anti-social behaviour to the Police on 999 as it was important to track the scale of the problem.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Lack of CCTV cameras in town.</b> The Police said they would welcome the use of cameras and encouraged further discussion with the Council.</li> <li>• <b>Drivers disobeying the road closure</b> at the top of Bexwell Rd. Sgt Green confirmed that they had not had any reports of people moving the cones to drive through.</li> </ul>
6	<p><b>To receive a presentation from Belinda Leach</b></p> <p>Belinda introduced herself as one of the market traders, and said she wished to thank residents for their support during the troubles over the last few years. She added that it is all over now and traders are working positively together with Council staff to build the market so it can thrive once again.</p>
7	<p><b>To receive a presentation from Clackclose Rangers - Emma Smith</b></p> <p>Emma described how the aims of the Rangers is to build the skills and confidence of young people. She outlined the types of activities they take part in and welcomed interest from anyone wishing to get involved.</p>
8	<p><b>To receive a presentation from Swan Project – Anna Foster written report</b></p> <p>The Town Clerk read out the introduction to the report and confirmed that copies are available for anyone interested in the full report.</p>
9	<p><b>To receive a presentation from Downham Market Festival Committee – Denise Whiley</b></p> <p>Denise Whiley gave an outline of the work the Festival Committee – a small group that aims to provide a week of entertainment for residents of Downham Market and surrounding villages. She welcomed new people to get involved in the parade or fund raising.</p>
10	<p><b>To receive a presentation from Downham Community Fund – written report</b></p> <p>The Town Clerk read out the report and confirmed copies are available.</p>
11	<p><b>To receive a presentation from Discover Downham – written report</b></p> <p>The Town Clerk read out the report and confirmed copies are available.</p>
12	<p><b>To receive a presentation from Downham Twinning Club</b></p> <p>Chris Nunn and Caroline Cotterill gave a brief history of the Twinning Club sharing their personal experiences of taking part in the cultural exchanges. They highlighted the French Café to be held in the Town Centre on 29<sup>th</sup> May to which everyone is welcome. They invited anyone wishing to join the Twinning Club to get in touch.</p>

13	<p><b>To receive a presentation from Downham Market Football Club</b> Allan Boardman outlined the current team arrangements for practice and for matches. He highlighted that the Club is self-funded but the need for significant fund raising remains particularly if the Club is looking for promotion. There is a need to grow the committee and he extended an invitation to anyone wishing to get involved.</p>
14	<p><b>To receive a presentation from Downham Market Welcomes Ukrainians – Cllr Ratcliffe</b> Cllr Ratcliffe explained that the group is a support network hosting refugees from Ukraine. She added that the group are available to give advice and support if anyone is interested in hosting Ukrainian guests.</p>
15	<p><b>To receive a presentation from Downham Market Community Speed Watch Team – Cllr Bullen</b> Cllr Bullen said he needed 6 volunteers to come forward if this initiative is to go ahead. He confirmed that the Police provide the equipment and training. He invited interested people to let the Town Council have contact details.</p>
16	<p><b>To receive a presentation from Downham Amateur Dramatic Society</b> The group were unable to attend.</p>
17	<p><b>To receive a presentation from Helping urban wildlife in the town – Cllr Bullen</b> Cllr Bullen introduced a newly established group using local knowledge to work together to protect wildlife.</p>
18	<p><b>To receive a presentation from Frances Rayner – Park Run/Downham Games/Howdale Play Park</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Frances Rayner was pleased to announce that this year is the 10<sup>th</sup> year of the Downham Games and described how the games are run.</li> <li>• She outlined how the Park Run had been started and that it now takes place at 9am each Saturday morning on the fields at the Downham Market Academy.</li> <li>• She described how a small group of interested residents had started to fundraise for a new play park on the Howdale, but that KLWNBC has taken the project and funded it themselves. Work will be begin shortly.</li> </ul>
19	<p><b>To receive a report from County Councillor – Cllr Tony White</b> Cllr White described the projects he had been involved with during the year.</p>
20	<p><b>To receive the Chair’s report – Cllr Pegg</b> Cllr Pegg announced that Lady Rose Hare had sadly passed away and he sent his sincere condolences to her family. He introduced the newly appointed Clerk. He noted that the market is beginning to thrive again and said he hopes that things in the town will now change for the better.</p>
21	<p><b>To receive a report from the Chair of Finance and General Purposes Committee – Cllr Lawson</b> Cllr Lawson commented that the finances are in a good state, with good level of reserves. He noted areas of under and over spend and the reasons for these. He added that Cllrs are looking to restructure the budget to re-align it with the new committees.</p>
22	<p><b>To receive an update on Car Park Charges – Cllr Pyatt</b> Cllr Pyatt outlined the work done previously on this issue and the complexities in moving forward. He said the next meeting of the Car Parks Committee would take</p>

	place hopefully in June. After answering several questions, Cllr Pyatt admitted that this is one of those issues that will never be resolved to everyone's satisfaction.
23	<p><b>Local Government Electorate Participation</b></p> <p><b>Questions from the public included:</b></p> <p>CCTV in the town centre</p> <p>Grass cutting on pavements</p> <p>DMA Sixth Form site</p>
Close	The Chairman closed the meeting at 8pm thanking everyone who had contributed and all those attending.