

DOWNHAM MARKET TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD
Tuesday 25th January 2022 at 7.00pm at the
Jubilee Community Centre

APPENDIX TWO

130.21/2 The Mayor's Statement

I have always been very proud to serve on the Town Council which has been so supportive of Youth Work for the Community.

Indeed, when the County Council reduced it's budget for Youth Work, Downham Market purchased the Youth Centre, now known as the JCC, so that the Community User Groups in the Centre could continue to support our Community.

In recent negotiations which have been taking part between the Town Council and the Swan Youth Project I was very hopeful as were the majority of Councillors, that the old Youth and Community Centre would become, once more, a centre of excellence for Youth Work.

After several months of work to facilitate this, most of the work completed by our solicitor and Clerk, the Swan Youth Project has decided to withdraw from the negotiations.

All Councillors will have received a statement regarding this from the Projects Chair of Trustees; but the bottom line is that due to the petty point scoring and power games, the declaration of 'warfare' on Social Media Platforms, and the general bullying and rudeness by some towards others on the Town Council, the Swan Youth Project,

nationally recognised as a Youth Project of excellence does not want to be tainted by any connection to Downham Market Town Council.

Significant factors which resulted in this decision included an organised campaign by one Councillor.

This campaign breached our rules of confidentiality at times, breached our Standing Orders and posted significant misinformation through Social Media.

Today is a very sad day for Downham Market and this Council.