

DOWNHAM MARKET TOWN COUNCIL MARKETS STRATEGY GROUP
NOTES OF MEETING HELD MONDAY 15th JUNE 2020 AT 9:00AM

Due to the Covid-19 Coronavirus Pandemic this meeting was held remotely by way of zoom videotelephony system.

‘To research, develop and promote the Markets being mindful of their historic evolution’

	Present: The Mayor Cllr Hayes, The Deputy Mayor Cllr Groom, Cllrs Bulley, Horne, Lightfoot, McKee, Pickering, Woodmin and Westrop, Town Clerk E Oliver & Deputy Clerk R Davidson.	
1	<p><u>To receive Members’ apologies</u> Apologies – none. Cllr Daymond & Soehnle did not attend the meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Sharman in a telephone conversation with the Deputy Clerk at the commencement of the meeting verbally resigned from the strategy group.</p>	<u>Action</u>
2	<p><u>To receive any declarations of Interest</u> There were no such declarations</p>	
3	<p><u>Election of Chair</u> The Clerk explained that due to the written resignation of the former Chair Cllr Doyle from the strategy group there was a need to elect a new Chair.</p> <p>Cllr Woodmin was endorsed by Cllr Bulley and indicated her willingness to stand; the Clerk confirmed there were no other candidates.</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr Bulley Seconded: Cllr Lightfoot All in favour ‘That Cllr Woodmin be appointed Chair of the Markets Strategy Group’</p>	
4	<p><u>To agree the notes of Monday 17th February 2020 Strategy Group meeting</u> The notes were accepted as a true and accurate record.</p>	
5	<p><u>Co-option of Cllr A Pickering</u></p> <p>Proposed: Cllr Woodmin Seconded: Cllr Horne All in favour ‘That Cllr Pickering be appointed to the Markets Strategy Group’</p>	
6.	<p><u>Review of Market Operation 5/6/20 and 12/6/20, Review of operating procedures and Future of Market post Covid-19</u></p> <p>In discussion the following points were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some feedback suggested the measures undertaken were ‘overkill’ • Measures taken were in accordance with current HM Government requirements • Cost to Town Council for opening with only 2 stalls • Unaware there would only be 2 traders, were expecting 4/5 • Disappointment as to how Event Team were spoken to by an individual councillor • First week’s operation very unpleasant, but had been better in the second week 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to stop rumours and false information circulating • Acknowledgement there had been some positive feedback, but positive voices tend to be quieter • Determination the market will not be reopened in the 'usual' manner unlike what some traders seemingly want • Town Council following Government advice, insurance company requirements and acknowledging the high R rate locally and the town's age demographics • Need to review the future of Market • Cllr Pickering explained, having reviewed the documentation, the existing Traders Licence is no longer fit for purpose and the Licence and Bylaws often contradict each other • An appropriate opportunity to review licences/bylaws and schedules, the role of the Office and Markets Officer, investigate making more competitive for the market customer by ending sole commodity licencing and even consider additional market days • Licence should be a 'statement of purpose' and not archaic • Need to start collating potential traders • Need to have a discussion with existing traders as to some traders' unacceptable behaviour in recent weeks and possible consequences • Need to understand why some traders are boycotting the market • Discussion around changing government advice regarding which commodities are permitted to trade <p>Proposed – Cllr Lightfoot Seconded – Cllr Bulley 'That for Friday 19th June, the market operation should be between 07:30 and 14:00 for food commodities only with a view to re-introducing the Saturday market the following weekend (Saturday 27th June) All in favour</p> <p>The Mayor Cllr Hayes in concluding the meeting, reminded councillors the group need to be continually thinking of 2 weeks ahead observing that with the market shut the Town Council lose money, with only 2 stalls and the event team costs it is haemorrhaging money and with 5 stalls, the costs are just about covered.</p>	
	<p>Meeting closed: 11:10am</p> <p>Date of next meeting: 22nd June 2020 at 9:00am</p>	
	<p>SIGNED</p>	<p>DATE</p>