

DOWNHAM MARKET TOWN COUNCIL MARKETS STRATEGY GROUP
NOTES OF MEETING HELD MONDAY 22nd JUNE 2020 AT 4:00PM

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’

	<p>Present: The Mayor Cllr Hayes, Chair Cllr Woodmin, Cllrs Bulley, Horne, Lightfoot, McKee, Pickering and Westrop. Town Clerk E Oliver & Deputy Clerk R Davidson.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>The meeting reconvened from its temporary cessation at 10:30am.</p> <p><u>Plan for next two weeks</u></p> <p>Members were informed the police had advised they would attempt to have a policing presence should the market proceed but this could not be guaranteed and would be dependent on other policing demands. In respect of potential ‘lockdown breaches’ originating from the protest, these would be need to be considered at the discretion of the police and the government advice/interpretation can be difficult to quantify, for example ‘The Black Lives Matter’ right to protest currently overriding public gathering limits.</p> <p>Cllr Pickering gave an update on the meeting with the solicitor. He had advised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is an expectation to act in accordance with the overarching legislation, in this case in accordance with the terms of our licence • Para 3.1 allows the Town Council to terminate a trader’s licence in 28 days • Para 4.10 stipulates the licensee agrees not to cause a nuisance, disturbance et al • Town Council needs to act reasonably (and it is) • Recommends the market be closed for 2 weeks • Market Bylaw 25 allows the closure of the market due to decision of Market Supervisor • Police unable to guarantee a presence • Any decision to terminate a trader’s licence would need to go before Full Council • Termination process explained <p>Cllr Horne queried possible impartiality in the event of any appeal if Full Council advocated a licence termination. The Mayor gave this as an example of why the existing documentation is no longer fit for purpose and stated the Town Council had to abide by the existing bylaws and this was the course of action.</p> <p>In discussion it was asked what if traders decided to turn up and trade regardless of the market being cancelled? It was answered those traders would then be in breach of their own licence. It was countered that if some traders are currently feeling uncomfortable, they may in fact be pleased if the market is postponed for the heat to die down a little.</p> <p>Cllr Westrop observed that whilst she supported the 2-week closure on</p>	<p><u>Action</u></p>

	<p>public safety grounds it does not necessarily stop the demonstration from occurring.</p> <p>The Mayor Cllr Hayes highlighted that a risk assessment document should be prepared in the event of any closure decision.</p> <p>Proposed – Cllr Westrop Seconded – Cllr Pickering ‘Following legal advice, the market is to be closed for next 2 weeks’ All in favour</p> <p>Members then deliberated the meeting with traders scheduled for the next day. It was agreed it was not constructive for the meeting to go ahead but that the Clerk, Deputy Clerk and Chair should contact each market trader individually and update them of the situation.</p> <p>Members also debated the volume of negative social media comments. It was agreed that a firm, fair steady line should be maintained but members should take care not to knowingly inflame the situation.</p> <p>Lastly, members were clear that Full Council needed to be aware of the current difficulties surrounding the market operations.</p> <p>Proposed – Cllr Lightfoot Seconded – The Mayor Cllr Hayes ‘An Extraordinary Full Council meeting be convened to discuss market issues and agree actions’ All in favour</p>	<p>Deputy Clerk to prepare</p>
	<p>Meeting closed: 5.45pm</p> <p>Date of next meeting: 29th June 2020 at 9:00am</p>	
	<p>SIGNED</p>	<p>DATE</p>