

DOWNHAM MARKET ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

DRAFT MINUTES OF TOWN MEETING HELD

Wednesday 24th May 2023 at 6pm in the Town Hall

	<p>Present Cllr Doyle, Mayor and Members of the Town Council</p> <p>Claire Dornan, Town Clerk Tina Griffin, Deputy Clerk</p> <p>Borough Cllrs Bullen, Ratcliffe, Osborne</p> <p>52 members of the public</p>
Number	Item
1	<p>To receive the Chair’s welcome and confirmation of the nature of the meeting The Mayor, Cllr Doyle welcomed everyone present.</p> <p>“This meeting is not a town council meeting, it’s the annual meeting for all local government electors in the Town of Downham Market.</p> <p>Members of the public and the press are welcome tonight but the only persons entitled to speak or vote at this meeting are people who are registered electors for the town of Downham Market.</p> <p>The purpose of this meeting is so that electors can have their say on anything they consider is important to the people or the town of Downham Market.”</p>
2	<p>To sign the minutes of the Town Meeting held on Thursday 28th April 2022</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr Daymond Seconded: Cllr Westrop All Cllrs present in favour ‘The minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 28.4.23 were duly signed’</p>
3	<p>To receive a presentation from charities and community groups</p> <p><i>Discover Downham & District Heritage Centre</i> Tony Hall updated residents on the history of the centre and confirmed that they had generate a small surplus this year for the first time. He outlined the activities on offer and events to be held this year, and gave details of how to become a member of the centre.</p> <p><i>Clackclose Guiding</i> Emma Smith gave a summary of the groups currently running for ages 4 – 14 years.</p>

	<p>She described how the Guide Hut at the Jubilee Community Centre site has been renovated and updated. She finished with a plea for more volunteers to help run the groups and to continue providing valuable activities.</p> <p>Swan Centre Louise advised that demand for support had risen by 33% this year, with over 400 young people receiving some kind of support. She confirmed that the centre receives no statutory funding, with a need to raise around £200K pa to maintain the service.</p> <p>Twinning Club Chris Nunn gave a summary of the aims of the club and that it had celebrated it's 45th anniversary in 2022. She invited new members to join.</p> <p>Community Speedwatch Andy Bullen expressed a desire to set up a Community Speedwatch team. He said it has full support from the Police who provide training and equipment. He needs some more volunteers who should contact the Town Council office if they wish to make contact.</p> <p>Festival Committee Carrie-Ann Lister introduced the programme for the upcoming festival week, it being their 44th year. She added that it takes around £8000 to fund the festival and the committee relies on grants and fundraising.</p>
4	<p>To receive any updates from Borough and County Councillors Matters of recent interest include:</p> <p>Cllr Ratcliffe Working with NCC and the Town Council to increase pedestrian crossings and the number of public toilets, both of which are long term projects.</p> <p>Cllr Osborne The condition of the road surface on Fairfield Road Will be holding a B/Cllr surgery at the Library Fridays 5.30 6.30pm.</p> <p>Cllr Bullen Sports facilities at the Memorial field Play equipment at the Memorial field A high-tec pitch for the football club Promoting Downham Market as a destination Ensuring DM has a fair share of funding from the Borough Council Litter and dog mess Wildlife/environment Community funding</p>

5	Local electors to raise pertinent local topics for debate (equal time allowed for each topic) - There were no topics raised.
6	Local electors to vote on which pertinent local topics the Town Council should consider during the ensuing municipal year – Not applicable
Close	The Chairman closed the meeting at 7pm thanking everyone who had contributed and all those attending.