

DOWNHAM MARKET TOWN COUNCIL MARKETS STRATEGY GROUP
NOTES OF MEETING HELD MONDAY 17th AUGUST 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: Cllrs Woodmin, Horne, Westrop, Bulley, Hendry, Soehnle, Pickering, McKee & Hayes Town Clerk E Oliver	
1	<u>To receive Members apologies</u> Cllr Sharman	
2	<u>To receive any declarations of Interest</u> There were no such declarations	
3	<u>Agree the notes of the Market Strategy Meetings 27/2/20 & 3/8/20</u> Proposed Cllr Woodmin Seconded Cllr Pickering All Agreed	
4	<u>Review of Market Operation held on Friday 14th and Saturday 15th August 2020</u> Cllr Woodmin updated as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Miserable experience this weekend • Only 2 active stallholders turned up at the traders meeting • Friday saw an attempt at a boycott – weather, illness, family crisis given as late reasons for non-attendance • Clock side market was much better • Social media comments were negative again – misquotes, lies, and nasty comments • Security company attacked on social media and have complained about not being supported • One trader packed up early – asked Market officer to talk to them • Another delayed setting up in the morning • The feeling on the market is not good. • One of the Cllrs inappropriately challenged Cllr Woodmin and reportedly used bad language to the Security Officer • Cllr Pickering commented that the procedure needs to be carried out in accordance with Policy. • Group Cllr emails need to be regulated in the language used. • Traders are not helping create a positive atmosphere – seem to be working against themselves. <p>Cllr Hayes reported Liz Truss wants a meeting on 26th August 6.30pm with market traders and full council. Cllr Hayes has politely declined on social distancing grounds. A letter has been drafted addressing the inappropriate nature of the meeting. Cllr Hayes has offered a meeting between Liz Truss and the Council.</p> <p>She suggested involving the Council legal adviser in counteracting libellous social media comments, and reporting the mistruths to Facebook and Twitter.</p>	

	<p>It was stated that legal advice should be taken about the market at Denver which is within the 6 2/3rds miles market restriction area around Downham Market.</p> <p>It was felt that an opportunity be found to better inform all Cllrs at a meeting to avoid future inappropriate comments on social media and in emails. Members also discussed emails from one Cllr who has been using highly inappropriate and abusive language in his emails. Discussions followed about how Cllrs could register their support when the Clerk carries out Cllr agreed courses of action.</p> <p>The Clerk summarised the stalls that had been in place.</p>	
5	<p><u>To receive any update on the new licence and regulations</u></p> <p>The Clerk and Cllr Hayes summarised as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some comments have been received from Cllrs and traders - terms have been adapted as appropriate in response. • Cllrs discussed pitch sizes, food hygiene certification, children working on stalls – Cllr Pickering agreed to revise terms as agreed. • Pack up timing needs to be made crystal clear to traders and staff. • Extraordinary meeting of Full Council will look at and agree the new licence and regulations. 	
6	<p><u>To receive a report on the Trader Meeting held on 12th August</u></p> <p>There was no discussion on this item</p>	
7	<p><u>To agree any future actions</u></p> <p>Clerk to take legal advice. Arrange a confidential Council meeting – logistics to be discussed with the Mayor Response to comments about the security company to show support.</p>	
8	<p>Date of next meeting: 24 August 2020 <u>9.30am</u></p>	
	<p>SIGNED</p>	<p>DATE</p>