

NORTH WALSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

4 May 2017

MARKETS GROUP

Minutes of the meeting held in the Function Room, Kings Arms Street on 4 May 2017

PRESENT

Chair:	Mr N Clarke (Market Manager)
Members:	Cllr R Murphy
Mr N Lee	Mr B Wright

Meeting opened at 18:50

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Hester and Stuckey.

2. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 2 March 2017**

As proposed by Mr Wright and seconded by Cllr Murphy, these were agreed to be a true record of the meeting.

3. **ENTERTAINMENT**

The end of May Sunday market would feature Maypole dancing with the North Walsham Gymnastics Club from 11:00 until 11:30, followed by a “try it yourself” session with help from the gymnasts. Olivia Watson would be performing again at the June market, having been well-received in April. The North Walsham Busking Day session in August would include sites such as QD, the Market Cross and The Music Hut. The Town Clerk would approach Lidl and Sainsbury’s to seek permission for performers to be located there.

4. **ADVERTISING**

More postcards were needed. Additional locations for them would hopefully include Potter Heigham, Wroxham, Wroxham Barns and libraries in nearby towns.

It was confirmed that the maps around the town belonged to NNDC. They would be asked to update these. The Chair would contact the EDP about advertising/promotion.

5. **FUTURE MARKETS**

A petition signed by some 48 shopkeepers/businesses had been received seeking a Saturday market. However, there was some confusion about the basis for this, as it had been promoted as being “like the Thursday market”. Mr Lee noted that the normal Thursday market was a revenue bringer for town centre businesses, but that a monthly Saturday market would very likely result in trade falling in all businesses on every other Saturday. He felt that shops would not support the proposal if this was the case. The Chair would consider re-running the consultation.

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The Town Clerk summarised the Council's proposed town strategy consultation. It was agreed that market traders should be included as contributors to the town's economy. Messrs Lee and Wright agreed to comment on the draft questionnaire.

6. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The final two awards for 2016/17 would be donated to the North Walsham Good Neighbour Scheme and the Good Companions. Disability groups including North Walsham Play and the Friday St Benet's Hall group would be considered for 2017/18 awards. Given the reduction in stall fees, the Markets Group would consider changing the awards from quarterly to bi-annual.

Following on from the recent Bank Holiday "street party event", Mr Lee asked that the Town Council ensured any future Bank Holiday events were advertised and that businesses were told well in advance. The Town Clerk reported that the two Bank Holiday road closures had been for proposed antiques markets, which had fallen through. The Easter Monday event had not been fully thought through and had made a loss. North Walsham Play was likely to take advantage of the August Bank Holiday closure, but this would be better organised and promoted – the Town Clerk would speak to NWP Chair Mat Smith.

7. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday 13 July 2017 at 18:45, unless any pressing business arose before then.

Meeting closed at 19:40