



NORTH WALSHAM TOWN COUNCIL MARKET GROUP MEETING 20 FEBRUARY 2020

Minutes of the Market Group Meeting held on 20 February 2020 at 18 King's Arms Street, North Walsham NR28 9JX

Present :

Chair : Mr N Clarke (Market Manager)

Present :

Cllr B Wright

Mr N Lee

Lead Officer

Deputy Town Clerk : Ms T Foster (who prepared Minutes)

Meeting opened : 18.50

1.APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr B Hester (illness).

2.DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of Interest.

3.MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

As proposed by Mr N Lee and seconded by Cllr B Wright it was **RESOLVED**

**That the Minutes of the Market Meeting of 8 August 2018
are agreed as a true copy**

4.HIGHWAY PROBLEMS IN MARKET PLACE

The Chair explained when the gas road works move into Market Place the Thursday Market will move to the Bank Loke Car Park. It was understood that the gas road works would be carried out in sections being lower/middle/top. The Chair has been in contact with Mr R Wright at NNDC who would be providing signs indicating the new location of the market and where "free parking" was available. The Chair would be meeting him to discuss the signage.

An electricity supply would be needed at Bank Loke for a couple of the stalls which could be accessed from the ticket machine (*permission will have to be arranged to see whether we can have access*) although generators may be provided by the stall holders who required electric.

The positioning of the stalls has yet to be decided.

Once the date the market move is known small cards will be prepared which would be given to stall holders to hand out to customers to ensure they are aware of the move. The cards would read eg “Thursday Market will be held on the Bank Loke Car Park” (*wording to be agreed*).

To further ensure all customers were aware a large sign could be placed in Market Place stating the new location with other signs on the day stating “Market this Way” and “Market at Bank Loke Car Park”. May be placing a sign at the bus stop in Market Place giving passengers this information should be considered.

5. ENTERTAINMENT

The Chair had arranged for Ms L Cambridge to perform for the February Sunday Market with “Just Rick” for the March Sunday Market. If the market was around the Market Cross performances could take place there under cover.

The Buskers had proved popular and successful in the town, but it should be emphasized that they can only stay for two hours in one place. Their location must also be confirmed with the Market Manager with preference to being outside an empty shop rather than a shop open for business.

6. ADVERTISING

Media & Information - Consideration being given to the possibility of placing signs in the approaches to North Walsham to advertise the markets. Such placements, type of sign and wording have yet to be decided but it is hoped that it would encourage more customers. Placement of these signs would also need the permission of Highways.

7. FUTURE MARKETS

- **Thursday Market**

The Chair understood when the Thursday Market moved into Bank Loke Car Park some of the stall holders had not been very keen. It was agreed that for the duration of being in the Car Park they would be given reduced rates of 50% on their fees. Fees ranged on the stall size from £8.00 to £37.00 per stall. Further consideration to be given to this point.

- **Sunday Market**

As there was no longer a road closure during the last couple of months the stalls have been placed around the Market Cross. There are 7 stalls which are regular. However, some stalls like this position while others liked it as it was before in Market Place itself.

- **Placement of Markets**

Further items discussed :

- Use of the Precinct. Some stall holders did not want to move into the Precinct so some stall holders may be lost if it was moved.

- Possibility of having the stalls placed along the pathway at the top of the slope (placed here it would be seen by passing traffic) but the benches would take up some of the room for the stalls.
- No stalls could be placed on the slope for Health & Safety reasons
- To place the market on Market Place in the parking bay areas would need approval of Highways. To do this barriers and cones would be needed to ensure the safety of both pedestrians and passing traffic.
- The sale of alcohol must take place in certain zones under the TENS Licence, but the Chair is in contact with the Licensing Dept at NNDC and it may be that a variation of the Licence may be needed.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS PERMITTED BY THE CHAIR

Compensation for businesses

Compensation for businesses who had a shortfall due to the gas road works would find it difficult to prove the same. Any compensation application was dependent on ratios and percentages with profit margins applicable to the trade of the business proving claims under Government Legal Compensation were difficult and unlikely to succeed. The market stall holders may not come under this remit but wish to attend the meeting outlined below where this will be covered.

Meeting of Businesses in the Town

A meeting was to be arranged for the businesses in the town, and the Chair explained that some of the stall holders would like to attend. Once the meeting details have been agreed the date, time and location, the Chair would let them know.

Road Signs

The Chair advised there was a “Road Closed” sign in the shed and another sign had been ordered. These signs were available for use.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Next meeting to be when the gas road works have been completed.

Meeting closed : 19.30