

DOWNHAM MARKET TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING HELD TUESDAY 10th MAY 2016 AT 7.00PM

Present:	The Mayor	J K Fox
	The Deputy Mayor	F E Daymond
	Councillors	M Brown
		J W Doyle
		K Everitt
		J Groom
		B Hobbs
		R L Judge
		D Lawson
		Mrs K A Mellish
		R A Pegg
		M C Ross
		P R Sayers
		D J Sharman
		A D Stacey
		M D Starreveld
		R Turner
	Borough Councillor	J D Westrop
	Town Clerk	Mrs J M Markwell
	Deputy Clerk	Mr R A Davidson
	Administrator	Mrs C Edwards
	Receptionist	Ms N Hannan
	Press Representatives	3
	Members of Public	8

Those in attendance at the meeting were notified of the emergency evacuation procedure from the Town Council offices. Those present were asked to ensure that their mobile telephones were either switched off or on silent mode.

3113. Election of Mayor

The Mayor, Cllr Fox, addressed the Council:

Fellow Councillors, members of the staffing team, visitors.

Another Council year draws to a conclusion.

When getting round to preparing my address to this meeting I took a look at what I had said my objectives would be throughout the coming year: These are they:

To continue to work towards the Local Government Award Scheme Gold Award: This work has, at last, started to gain momentum and I will be pestering Councillors with various requests for approvals in order to attain the Quality Gold Status that we think is where we should be.

To continue to Improve / Develop communications with Borough Council: I thought that this would be a reasonable target with regular meetings with the Borough Council Leader and Borough Mayor. The Leader has, however, been very involved in many projects, not least the one concerning "Devolution" and has not been able to meet us as regularly as I had hoped, and then the CIL situation raised its head. I have built a good relationship with the Borough Mayor through many social meetings but I don't think that will improve general Council communications.

To work with the Council and public to sort out the Car Park Management scheme to the satisfaction of the majority through fair discussion, debate and communication: this is very much "On Going" and I must thank those who have put in many hours – I believe that there are still many more hours to go before we get a final agreed solution.

To continue to develop the publicity and communications between the Town Council and the public: I think that communications and publicity are still not as good as they could be. Certainly pre publicity for events still needs developing both for the Councillors and members of the public. Not everyone remembers what happened last time!

I look forward to the opening of "Discover Downham" – the Heritage Centre at the old Fire Station and therefore the return of the balcony in the Town Hall to Town Hall usage: Discover Downham has opened and I commend it to all Councillors and members of the public. It is really worth a visit. It's also great to get our Balcony back at the Town Hall. The official opening of Discover Downham is on 20th May.

As you can gather we have not had a totally achieving year, but we are moving forward.

During the Mayoral year Margaret and I have managed to visit a number of events both in the Town and throughout the wider county, even venturing to Wisbech. We have met a wide range of interesting people but I think that the highlights of my year have been here in Downham Market with the presentation of the salver to RAF Marham to help commemorate their Centenary and then the lighting of the Beacon to acknowledge the 90th birthday of the Queen. (Interesting to note that the last time that I was Mayor we celebrated the 90th birthday of Prince Philip by attending a dinner in his presence in King's Lynn. The next time I'm mayor will be when we celebrate my 90th birthday!!!! I don't think.)

Throughout the year I have had support from the Councillors with the many projects and events that have been going on in the Town. Attending a majority of the Standing Committee meetings has proved very interesting and I would strongly advise all Councillors to read the agendas and pop along to other meetings if something interests you. Remember that we all represent the people of the Town.

The Deputy Mayor and Mayoress, Frank and Heather, have been there with support all the time (even though he has been banished to Hilgay Fen for another year he still manages to be around when needed!)

The team of staff here in the Council offices is really a proficient Council Team. Not only do they put up with me almost every day but they are tremendously supportive to the whole Council with a wide range of knowledge. And I would like to thank them all for their efforts with a token gift to each in thanks for their patience and support.

Now a special thanks to the two ladies, the Mayoress and Deputy Mayoress. I can't speak for Frank and Heather but I do know that if their house life has been anything like ours over the past year it has been very much "I've got two meetings this evening so will need early meal please!" not just once in a while, but frequently and maybe more than once in each week. Then there has been the "Civic Event this evening – what shall I wear?" (not from me entirely but from Margaret as well). However I do know that both the Mayoress Margaret and the Deputy Mayoress Heather have done all that they can to make things go as smoothly as possible and for that I thank them both and have pleasure in presenting these tokens of our appreciation.

Now I have almost finished but, before I do so, I have one more special tribute to pay, to Councillor Tony Stacey.

A member of this Council who has, as of the end of last week, completed his first 30 years of unwavering service to Downham Market Town Council.

It has been my great privilege to work alongside Tony on a number of Committees and Working Parties, particularly, to most Councillors the "Oh not again!" Standing Orders Working Party.

In recognition of Tony's first 30 years on this Council it is my very great pleasure to present him with a Certificate of Achievement and a token of thanks for keeping us all "on the ball" as far as time is concerned.

Now it is only left to me to wish all the very best to my successor and on with the meeting and finding out who that successor will be.

The Mayor, Cllr Fox, asked for nominations for Mayor.

The Deputy Mayor Cllr Daymond addressed the Council:

Fellow Councillors, I propose in this forthcoming Mayoral Year 2016/2017, in which we celebrate our Sovereign's 90th Birthday and the 63rd Year of Her Gracious Reign; where we also celebrate certain landmarks within our town's recent history, that is to say the 40th Year of the twinning of Downham Market with the French riverside town of Civray; the year in which we shall be running the Dragon Boat competition and Water Festival for the tenth year; the year that we expand on our success in achieving a Gold Award in The Anglia in Bloom competition and other proposals in the pipeline, that Councillor Marion Ross, Chairman of Downham In Bloom Committee and Chairman of the Community Development Committee, would carry out with dignity and due diligence the duties of Mayor of Downham Market should she so be elected.

I therefore recommend to you all, that Councillor Marion Ross be duly elected for the position of Town Mayor for the Year 2016/2017.

Councillor Groom addressed the Council:

Mr Mayor, Fellow Councillors, Friends. I have no hesitation in seconding the nomination for Cllr Marion Ross to stand as this year's Mayor as I have wanted to extol her virtues for a very long time. I have known Marion for just under 30 years. Even though working full time her superb organisational skills has meant she has always played an active part making a very positive contribution to the community. I was delighted when she decided to stand for the Town Council and am now even more delighted when she agreed to stand for Mayor. Marion brings commitment and thoughtfulness to all that she is involved with. As Mayor she will engage sensitively and sympathetically with our community. She will be a positive presence in the wider community during her turn as our representative and I absolutely commend her as our Town Mayor for the Year 2016/2017.

Proposed – The Deputy Mayor Cllr Daymond

Seconded – Cllr Groom

'That Cllr Ross is elected Mayor of Downham Market for the ensuing year.'

All in favour

There being no other nominations, Cllr Ross was duly elected.

3114. Mayor Making and Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Cllr Mrs Mellish proposed a vote of thanks to the Mayor:

Good Evening Mayor, Fellow Councillors and Guests,

Very quickly another year has passed and I am sure John and Margaret have felt at some point it was a whirlwind and at others it was never going to end!

It is a great privilege to be the Mayor of our Town and a role which I can remember took John an awfully long time to take on, however, very much like his first run he has involved himself in so very many activities, visits, meetings and events and at all times committed himself thoroughly to the occasion. That of course coupled with the endless rounds of day to day Council business.

John has been a great ambassador for the town and of course as a very local lad has been able to offer his vast knowledge of the town to many new people he has met along the way. Such a great start for newcomers to understand parts of the history of where they live today which I realise now helps to make you feel involved in the community.

You have completed a sterling job John, of course not forgetting Margaret, and I hope you have enjoyed your year as much as the people who have met you along the way.

From the Town Council to you, John, thank you.

Cllr Ross received her chain of office.

Cllr Ross signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Mayor.

The Mayor, Cllr Ross, addressed the Council:

Thank you, thank you very much. I feel greatly honoured and, in fact, privileged to become Mayor of Downham Market and I shall do my utmost to advance Downham into the Borough and the Public eye as often as possible (in a good way of course!)

I'd like to be able to advance the participation in the community of young people and of their and our awareness of their role as residents of their town.

As you know it is the 40th anniversary of the towns of Downham and Civray becoming civically twinned towns. I believe twinning to be an important part of creating a peaceful Europe, and perhaps world. I became a member of the Twinning Club, which was created to take on all that this involves, in 1987 and joined the band of people who regularly open their homes to French members, feeding them, taking them out, fundraising so that everything they do here is free and paying for ourselves to accompany them on trips and to the dinner dances etc. This is mirrored, of course, when we go to France. I do hope that as many councillors and their spouses/partners as possible come to the Civic Reception on the 22nd of this month.

The most important thing for the rest of 2016 is, I believe, to wrap up the Neighbourhood Plan as soon as possible and in as efficient a manner as possible. Without this, all the effort being put into battle regards Section 106 and CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) will be totally wasted.

Last year we managed to gain a Gold Award from Anglia in Bloom and we are working as hard as we can to repeat this feat this year, albeit that it requires us to up our game. Fingers crossed.

And once again thank you very much.

3115. To receive Members' Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs' C Pyatt (family), J J Reed (business), and Mrs Y A Thompson (holiday).

The apologies were accepted.

3116. To receive Members' Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Public Participation

The Mayor, Cllr Ross, adjourned the meeting for public participation.

No members of the public wished to address the Council nor did any councillor wish to address the Council in that capacity.

Accordingly the Mayor, Cllr Ross, resumed the meeting.

3117. Election of Deputy Mayor

The Mayor, Cllr Ross, asked for nominations for Deputy Mayor.

Cllr Turner addressed the Council:

I would like to propose Councillor Frank Daymond as Deputy Mayor again for this coming year. The reasons being he has already just done the job this last year just gone and I think he did an excellent job, I think now he's got the practice in this year he can do the real job! He puts an awful lot of effort into everything he takes on; he is always doing something somewhere for the Council and I think he and Heather together will really support this Council and Marion.

Cllr Mrs Mellish addressed the meeting:

I now have the task of seconding Cllr Daymond to be our Deputy Mayor for the forthcoming year. I have no hesitation in seconding his nomination. Frank has been a rock to this Council and I am sure thoroughly enjoyed his last year in this post. As he is familiar with the role and I'm sure Heather is happy to support him I would ask my fellow councillors to support the vote for his continuation in this role.

The Mayor, Cllr Ross asked for any other nominations.

Cllr Starreveld addressed the meeting:

I would like to nominate Cllr Barry Hobbs. Barry has spent a good number of years in recruitment, taught law, is involved in a consultancy business with his wife Birgit and as well as a Master of Law is an accredited mediator. I believe these are the skills we will require in the forthcoming Mayoral Year because we have a challenge ahead of us and we need someone who has the skills set to meet and rise to that challenge. I believe Cllr Hobbs to be the ideal person for that role. He has also been a governor at both Downham Market High School and Clackclose Schools before becoming a Town Councillor.

Cllr Lawson addressed the meeting.

I'll second that motion for the reason we have a busy time of year negotiating with legal knowledge required in serious measures.

A vote was held and Cllr Daymond was elected as Deputy Mayor for 2016/2017.

Cllr Daymond and Mrs Daymond received their chains of office.

The Mayor, Cllr Ross, adjourned the meeting at 7.22pm. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor together with the Past Mayor left the Council Chambers in order for photographs and returned to the Council Chambers at 7.28pm.

The Mayor, Cllr Ross, resumed the meeting.

3118. Appointment of Standing Committees

The Standing Committees were appointed as follows:

Finance	Property	Town Hall	Community Development	Planning & Environmental
Cllr Hobbs	Cllr Doyle	Cllr Brown	Cllr Brown	Cllr Daymond
Cllr Judge	Cllr Fox	Cllr Doyle	Cllr Daymond	Cllr Groom
Cllr Lawson	Cllr Judge	Cllr Everitt	Cllr Everitt	Cllr Lawson
Cllr Mrs Mellish	Cllr Pegg	Cllr Fox	Cllr Groom	Cllr Reed
Cllr Pyatt	Cllr Pyatt	Cllr Mrs Mellish	Cllr Hobbs	Cllr Ross
Cllr Sayers	Cllr Sayers	Cllr Pegg	Cllr Reed	Cllr Starreveld
Cllr Stacey	Cllr Sharman	Cllr Sharman	Cllr Ross	Cllr Mrs Thompson
Cllr Mrs Thompson	Cllr Starreveld	Cllr Stacey	Cllr Turner	Cllr Turner

3119. Appointment of Representatives to Outside Bodies

The representatives to the various outside bodies were appointed as follows:

Downham Market Sports Federation

Cllr D Lawson

West Norfolk Sports Forum

Cllr C Pyatt

Festival Committee

The Mayor Cllr M C Ross

Joint Burial Board

Mr R J R Baker MBE, Mr M J Coles, Cllr J K Fox, Mr S W Nunn and Mr C T Sampson

Joint Remembrance Day Committee

Cllr J W Doyle, Cllr J Groom, Cllr R A Pegg, Cllr D J Sharman and Mr P Mouncer
(Cllr A D Stacey is RAFA representative)

Norfolk Association of Local Councils

Cllr D Lawson

Safer Neighbourhood Area Partnership

Cllr D J Sharman and Cllr Mrs K A Mellish

Silverdale Centre

Cllr J W Doyle and Cllr R Turner

West Norfolk Arts Forum

Cllr J Groom

West Norfolk Local Action Group

Mrs P B Sharp

West Norfolk MIND

Cllr D J Sharman

West Norfolk Tourism Forum

The Deputy Mayor Cllr F E Daymond and The Mayor Cllr M C Ross

Charities:

100 Acre

The Deputy Mayor Cllr F E Daymond, Mrs J Day and Mr C T Sampson

Retreat Almshouses

Cllr J K Fox and Mrs J Watson

3120. To inspect the Deeds, Leases and Agreements held on behalf of the Council

The Mayor, Cllr Ross, advised that a folder was available in the office for Councillors to inspect which held copies of all deeds, leases and agreements for the properties and agreements that the Council has.

3121. To fix the dates and times of Standing Committee meetings for the coming year

A list of the Standing Committee meeting dates had been circulated (Appendix 1).

The meeting dates were noted.

3122. To confirm bank signatories – Cllrs’ Doyle, Fox, Pegg, Pyatt, and Stacey

Proposed – Cllr Fox

Seconded – Cllr Lawson

‘That the 2016/2017 Council bank signatories are Cllrs’ Doyle, Fox, Pegg, Pyatt, and Stacey.’

All in favour

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.46pm.

Chairman

Date