

DOWNHAM MARKET TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING HELD TUESDAY, 14TH MAY 2013 AT 7.30PM

Present:	The Mayor	Cllr R A Pegg
	The Deputy Mayor	D J Sharman
	Councillors	Mrs V I Botham
		F E Daymond
		J W Doyle
		M P Ford
		J K Fox
		J Groom
		M Howland
		P W Neate
		Mrs S M Nunn
		C Pyatt
		M C Ross
		Mrs P B Sharp
		A D Stacey
		M D Starreveld
		D P Sutton
	Borough Councillor	A M Lovett
	Town Clerk	Mrs J M Markwell
	Deputy Clerk	Mr R A Davidson
	Administrator	Mrs C Woolnough
	Minutes Secretary	Mr S W Nunn
	Downham Web	Mr P Martin
	Press Photographers	Eastern Daily Press
		Lynn News
	Members of Public	9

Those in attendance at the meeting were notified of the emergency evacuation procedure from the Town Council offices.

The Mayor advised that the meeting would be electronically recorded as an aide memoire for minute taking. Councillors were advised that due to the nature of this meeting a video recording and photographs would be taken.

Those present were asked to ensure that their mobile telephones were either switched off or on silent mode.

The Mayor, Cllr Pegg announced that past Mayor Tinker Taylor had passed away and a minutes silence was held.

The Mayor, Cllr Pegg announced that past Mayor, Cllr Starling had resigned from the Town Council this morning.

2382. Election of Mayor

The Mayor, Cllr Pegg, addressed the Council:

Good evening Councillors, members of the public, friends and guests. We have come to the end of another Mayoral year and the start of another one. The past year has been a very busy one. It has been one full of events both local and national. There was the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the Olympics and most of all our own local offerings.

When I took over as Mayor there were still a lot of problems within the council. I hasten to add that this was not down to or the fault of the previous Mayor, Val Starling. Val was a very good Mayor, but circumstances surrounding her year of office prevented her doing some of the things that she wanted to achieve. Although there are still some problems with it, the skate board park was one of her achievements.

I don't intend to go over the problems as most of you know to some degree what these were and I don't wish to go over old ground. However, suffice to say we were left with staff shortages that presented great challenges. I am eternally grateful to Jean our Clerk, who against all odds worked so hard, working long hours during the many weeks of turmoil but she came through it and managed somehow to bring the council through it also. I saw her working through these days and she was selfless to the extreme. I know that some of you won't know just how hard she worked. Jean I say thank you for all you have done for all of us. I want to thank all the councillors who helped in the office during this time to keep the front office going. I faced up to some of the problems and challenges in the best way that I knew how. It has been said in the past that if problems are ignored they only get worse and they must be confronted head on – this I tried to do. Some didn't like how I did what had to be done. You can't satisfy all of the people all of the time. I feel that the council is now a more pleasant place to be and with the co-operation of all concerned could be even better. I sincerely hope so. I will work tirelessly towards peace and tranquillity and uphold what is right and correct and I will condemn all that is wrong.

I want to thank all councillors for their efforts, dedication and selfless work ethics when it comes to organising and running events. This town is second to none when it comes to staging events. What I would like to see more of in the future is more councillors becoming involved with helping out when the events are being organised as well as on the day. Even an hour or two will make an enormous difference. Just come and ask "what can I do or is there any help you need". I would also like to see more councillors put up, if it is their first time and stand for vice chair of a committee to learn the ropes, or if you have more experience then stand for Chairmanship. This is an ideal way of becoming Mayor which, and this is only my own opinion, is somehow a reward for the work that one puts in. A recognition of service to the town and council.

Thank you all for the support you have given me over the past year, and a special thank you to David my deputy. David had the misfortune of having an accident but he still supported me whenever he was able. David, I pledge my support to you during your year of office. I know you will have a good year and you and Jean will enjoy representing the Town Council at Civic events.

Finally, but certainly not least, I want to thank my wife, The Mayoress, for being there for me. She has, often against all odds been there to support me during the year. I know she has enjoyed her year even though at times the driving of the wheelchair was fraught with danger for whoever was in its path. Jill Thank you for being there.

I would now like to make a couple of presentations before we move on.

Cllr Doyle proposed a vote of thanks to the Mayor,

Mr Mayor, Councillors, Councillor Robin Pegg took over as our Mayor at a very difficult time for this Council, there were accusations about the Council and Councillors being made, (all of which proved to be groundless).and the whole atmosphere at the time was very unpleasant. Robin dealt with this in his own style by confronting it head on and I must say we now have a much more pleasant atmosphere to conduct our Council business in. Robin has represented the Council diligently throughout his year of office, both inside and outside the Town, not only as a figurehead but certainly at Town events, taking part in and running the events. Robin has a particular interest in young people's welfare, he has been instrumental in bringing the Boxing Club to the Town, although in its infancy it is already attracting young people and women who I am sure will see their confidence and commitment to the sport grow, and this will make them better people for it. Robin has done much for this Council and the Town during his Mayoral year and I would like to propose a vote of thanks to Councillor Robin Pegg for his Mayoral year 2012/2013.

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

Cllr Doyle addressed the Council:

Mr Mayor, I am sure you will agree Councillor David Sharman your deputy and our Mayor Elect has been a great support to you during your mayoral year. He has on those occasions you have asked him to deputise for you, represented the town with dignity and earned the respect of both members of the public and the civic leaders he has come into contact with on your and our behalf.

David has served the Council and the people of Downham Market well during his terms of office indeed he represents all the qualities needed to be an excellent Councillor. David's business background and experience is an asset to both him and this Council, he is a wise head and a safe pair of hands. Whatever task he is given we all know he is someone who will get the job done, even if it means rolling up his sleeves and doing it himself. If he is elected we could all wish him well in the thespian vernacular and say break a leg but perhaps that would be too close to the situation he found himself in when helping to put up the market stalls early one Saturday morning. Even then a broken ankle did not stop David from continuing with his duties as a councillor and chairman of a committee.

As I have said David has been an asset to this council and to the town during his tenures of office and I am sure he will be an asset to the town as its mayor. Therefore I have no hesitation in proposing that Councillor David Sharman is elected our town Mayor for the Mayoral year 2013/2014.

Proposed – Cllr Doyle

Seconded – Cllr Sutton

‘That Cllr Sharman is elected Mayor of Downham Market for the ensuing year.’

All in favour

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

2383. Mayor Making and Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Cllr Sharman and Mrs Sharman received their chains of office.

Cllr Sharman made his Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Mayor.

The Mayor, Cllr Sharman, addressed the Council:

Good evening Ladies and Gentleman and fellow Councillors I would first like to thank the Councillors for electing me as Mayor I consider this a great honour and I will do everything I can to be worthy of this position. I must thank Robin for all the hard work he has done in the past year and I would also like to thank all the Staff and Councillors for all the hard work they have done in the past year to make the Council as strong as it is. There are a number of changes being made now in Town now with the grants we have received and we will be looking for other grants for other projects.

The new Town Sign is now in place thanks to donations from the public and part funding from the Council.

In closing I would like to ask the same as the previous Mayors have asked for – for unity within the Council and a good relationship with the public

The Mayor, Cllr Sharman, presented Cllr Pegg with a badge commemorating his past year as Mayor.

2384. To receive Members’ Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr R L Judge (holiday), and Borough Cllr Mrs K A Mellish (work commitment),

The apologies were accepted.

Cllr J J Reed did not attend the meeting

2385. To receive Members’ Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Public Participation

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

Members of the public and Councillors did not wish to address the Council at this time.

The Mayor, Cllr Sharman, resumed the meeting.

2386. Election of Deputy Mayor

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

Cllr Fox addressed the Council:

Mr Mayor, it is with great pleasure that I stand this evening to propose Cllr John Doyle as Deputy Mayor of Downham Market for the coming Council year.

I am sure that I don't really need to say too much about John as we all know him and the way he works almost tirelessly to promote Downham Market in so many different ways. I say almost because there have been the very rare occasion when sleep has crept into his daytime schedule!

He is always willing to turn out, sometimes in less than pleasant weather, to help where help is needed with putting up stalls, marquees, tiered seating etc.

He also works hard to ensure that the Town Council is not just something that happens in a room where lots of talking takes place. He loves to see and be involved in things going on in the Town. He has taken his turn in the stocks at Halloween, played the part of St George and chased the Dragon around the Town Square, overseen the running of the Lights on Ceremony and, of course been the only Dragon Boat Drummer to cool off in the water of the Relief Channel at the Water Festival.

These are only a few of the aspects of Cllr John Doyle, I am sure that everyone around the room could name more, but these few are sufficient to convince me that he is the right person for the post of Deputy Mayor for 2013-14 year and therefore I formally propose him.

Cllr Daymond addressed the meeting,

'Councillor Doyle has been a Councillor ever since I have been on the Council; his predecessor was my mentor, John Leach. John Doyle has taken over this role very well and I have no reservation in seconding the proposal for him to become Deputy Mayor.'

The Mayor, Cllr Sharman asked for any other nominations

Cllr Ford addressed the meeting.

'Mr Mayor, Councillors, in contrast I would like to propose Councillor Patrick Neate for the post of Deputy Mayor for the period 2013/2014. As most of you will be aware, Patrick was elected onto the Council in May 2011, representing Old Town Ward. Consequently, to use his own turn of phrase he is one of the new boys and it should be applauded and encouraged by Council that a new face is keen to undertake this role.

Patrick has made significant contributions, which I can personally vouch for, in the boiler room departments of the Council, specifically finance and strategy. His solid resolve in these

areas have seen us achieve a somewhat stable financial platform, coupled with alternative strategies and questioning of the status quo.

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Outside of the Council he is active within the community, ably demonstrating this as a community governor of the High School and past president of the local Rotary Club. In summary therefore I have no hesitation in proposing the 'new boy' Councillor Patrick Neate for Deputy Mayor as I'm sure his grasp of the formal areas, coupled with his community spirit, ably supported by his wife Linda would serve the residents of Downham Market well.'

Cllr Pyatt addressed the meeting.

'Mr Mayor, we as a Council have always supported and encouraged new bodies within the Town, we have always supported new members on the Council and Patrick Neate is a typical member who has thrown his heart and soul into the Town and the Council and I have no hesitation in seconding him for the position of Deputy Mayor.'

A paper election was held and Cllr Doyle was elected to be Deputy Mayor for 2013/2014. Cllr Doyle received his chains of office.

The Mayor, Cllr Sharman, adjourned the meeting at 7.20pm. The Mayor, Cllr Sharman, the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Doyle, left the Council Chambers in order for the press to take photographs and returned to the Council Chambers at 7.30pm.

The Mayor, Cllr Sharman, resumed the meeting.

2387. Appointment of Representatives to Outside Bodies

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

Downham Market & District Chamber of Trade

Cllr J Groom

Downham Market and Villages in Transition

Cllr M D Starreveld

Downham Market Sports Federation / West Norfolk Sports Forum

Cllr P W Neate

Festival Committee

Cllr M C Ross

Jubilee Community Centre

Cllr J W Doyle, Cllr J Groom, Cllr C Pyatt, Cllr D J Sharman, Cllr Daymond, Cllr Pegg and Cllr Mrs P B Sharp

Joint Burial Committee

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

Joint Remembrance Day Committee

Cllr J W Doyle and Mr P Mouncer

Norfolk Association of Local Councils

Cllr J W Doyle and Cllr M D Starreveld

Safer Neighbourhood Area Partnership

Cllr D J Sharman and Cllr Mrs P B Sharp

Silverdale Centre

Cllr J W Doyle and Cllr Mrs V I Botham

Southern Area Neighbourhood Partnership

Cllr Mrs P B Sharp

West Norfolk Arts Forum

Cllr J Groom

West Norfolk MIND

West Norfolk Tourism Forum

Cllr F E Daymond, Cllr Mrs S M Nunn and Cllr M C Ross

School Governors:

Hillcrest (Crimpleham, Downham Stradsett & Wereham)

Mr C Moreton

Charities:

100 Acre

Mr P Allen, Mrs J Day and Cllr C T Sampson

Batchcroft

Mr P Allen, Mrs J Day and Cllr C T Sampson

Retreat Almshouses

Cllr J K Fox and Mrs J Watson

2388. Appointment of Standing Committees

The Standing Committees were appointed as follows:

Finance	Property	Town Hall	Community Development	Planning & Environmental
Cllr Doyle Cllr Ford Cllr Neate Cllr Mrs Nunn Cllr Pegg	Cllr Fox Cllr Howland Cllr Judge Cllr Pyatt Cllr Reed	Cllr Mrs Botham Cllr Daymond Cllr J Doyle Cllr Fox Cllr Howland	Cllr Mrs Botham Cllr Groom Cllr Judge Cllr Neate Cllr Mrs Nunn	Cllr Daymond Cllr Ford Cllr Groom Cllr Reed Cllr Ross

Cllr Pyatt Cllr Mrs Sharp Cllr Stacey	Cllr Sharman Cllr Sutton	Cllr Pegg Cllr Stacey Cllr Starreveld	Cllr Ross Cllr Sharman	Cllr Mrs Sharp Cllr Starreveld Cllr Sutton
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Finance – Appointment of Chairman

Proposed – Cllr Ford

Seconded – Cllr Mrs Nunn

‘That Cllr Pyatt is elected Chairman of the Finance Committee for the ensuing year.’

All in favour

Property – Appointment of Chairman

Proposed – Cllr Howland

Seconded – Cllr Pyatt

‘That Cllr Fox is elected Chairman of the Property Committee for the ensuing year.’

All in favour

Town Hall – Appointment of Chairman

Proposed – Cllr Doyle

Seconded – Cllr Fox

‘That Cllr Pegg is elected Chairman of the Town Hall Committee for the ensuing year.’

All in favour

Community Development – Appointment of Chairman

Proposed – Cllr Ross

Seconded – Cllr Mrs Nunn

‘That Cllr Groom is elected Chairman of the Community Development Committee for the ensuing year.’

For 4 Against 1 Abstentions 0

Planning and Environmental – Appointment of Chairman

Proposed – Cllr Starreveld

Seconded – Cllr Ford

‘That Cllr Daymond is elected Chairman of the Planning and Environmental Committee for the ensuing year.’

For 6 Against 0 Abstentions 1

2389. To inspect the Deeds, Leases and Agreements held on behalf of the Council

The Mayor, Cllr Sharman, 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.

2390. To approve the minutes of the Town Council meetings

The Clerk advised members that the minutes mentioned on the agenda were not correct. The minutes to be approved were for the Town Council Meeting of 9th April 2013 (pages 4213-4219).

The minutes were approved.

2391. To receive Councillors' questions

Q. It was asked if Councillor Reed had submitted his apologies for this meeting. (MH)

A. No apologies had been received from Councillor Reed.

2392. 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.

2393. To confirm bank signatories – Cllrs Doyle, Fox, Pyatt, Reed, Sampson, Stacey and Starling

Proposed – Cllr Groom

Seconded – Cllr Mrs Sharp

‘That the 2013/2014 Council bank signatories are Cllr Doyle, Cllr Fox, Cllr Pegg, Cllr Pyatt, and Cllr Stacey.’

All in favour

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.55pm.

Chairman

Date