

DOWNHAM MARKET TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD TUESDAY 25TH JULY 2013 AT 7.00PM

Present:	The Mayor	Cllr D J Sharman
	The Deputy Mayor	Cllr J W Doyle
	Councillors	Cllr Mrs V I Botham
		F E Daymond
		J K Fox
		P W Neate
		Mrs S M Nunn
		Mrs P B Sharp
		A D Stacey
		M D Starreveld
		D P Sutton
	Town Clerk	Mrs J M Markwell

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

Those in attendance at the meeting were notified that the meeting was being recorded for the benefit of those taking the minutes.

Those in attendance at the meeting were notified that mobile telephones should be turned off or switched to silent mode for the duration of the meeting.

2453. To receive Members' Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs M P Ford (prior engagement), M Howland (BCKLWN Meeting), J Groom (Holiday), Mrs R L Judge (work commitment) R A Pegg (Family Commitment).

The apologies were accepted.

Cllrs Mrs P D Damper, C Pyatt, J J Reed and M C Ross did not attend the meeting.

2454. To receive Members' Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

2455. To discuss the installation of the Platform Lift in the Town Hall

Within confidentiality a full discussion took place regarding the financial details of the lift project.

Proposed – The Mayor, Cllr Sharman

Seconded – Cllr Fox

'To invoke Standing Order 6a, that in the view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest, that the public and/or the press be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw.'

All in favour

The meeting came out of confidentiality.

Proposed – Cllr Fox

Seconded – Cllr Stacey

‘That this Council proceeds with the recommended contractor for the installation of the lift in the Town Hall’

For – 10 Against – 1

2456. To discuss the VAT registration

The Council will register for VAT from the 1st August, 2013. The Town Hall Committee agreed at their meeting of the 24th July to ‘opt to pay’ VAT and absorb the cost of the VAT charge for the current financial year within the letting fee. Figures were produced showing lettings and the impact of VAT on them.

There followed a full discussion on the possible way forward for the Town Hall to become a Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG) or Community Interest Company (CIC). There is still a considerable amount of work to be researched before the decision can be made.

Concern was raised that the decision to ‘opt to tax’ was being taken too early, but it was emphasised that by taking this decision it has not stopped the Town Hall becoming a CLG or a CIC in the future. The main benefit for doing it now was to be able to continue claiming tax on all expenditure relating to the Town Hall, not just the lift project.

Proposed – Cllr Mrs Nunn

Seconded – Cllr Stacey

‘That the recommendation from the Town Hall Committee to ‘opt to tax’ be accepted by the Full Council’

For – 10 Abstention – 1

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.15pm.

Chairman

Date