

**DOWNHAM MARKET TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD TUESDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2012 AT 7.00PM**

Present:	The Mayor	Cllr R A Pegg
	The Deputy Mayor	Cllr D J Sharman
	Councillors	Mrs V I Botham
		F E Daymond
		J W Doyle
		M P Ford
		J K Fox
		J Groom
		M Howland
		Mrs R L Judge
		P W Neate
		C Pyatt
		J J Reed
		M C Ross
		P B Sharp
		A D Stacey
		V F Starling
		M D Starreveld
		D P Sutton
	County Councillor	Mrs S E L Hutson
	Borough Councillors	A M Lovett
		K A Mellish
	Town Clerk	Mrs J M Markwell
	Minute Secretary	Mr S W Nunn
	Members of Public	14

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 not being recorded.

**2258. To receive Members' Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Mrs S M Nunn (Illness),  
The apologies were accepted.

**2259. To receive Members' Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Pyatt declared an interest in item 2265, payment of bills iii (Jubilee Community Centre).

**2260. To approve the minutes**

Cllr Reed commented that he felt the Mayor's address at the meeting of Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2012 was out of order, and that the Mayor should consider his position. He wished to propose a vote of censure and no confidence in the Mayor. He called for a named vote.

At this point the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Sharman took over as Chairman of the meeting.

Cllr Starling commented that the Mayor had been under extreme pressure with the emails being circulated and that he had a duty of care to try and sort the situation.

Cllr Ford commented on the email that Cllr Reed had sent to all members and Borough Councillors, he said it was divisive, taking the middle ground would be better for the Council, Cllrs Mrs Judge and Groom echoed his comments.

**Proposed – Cllr Reed**

**Seconded - Cllr Sutton**

**‘That this Council censures and has no confidence in the Mayor, Cllr Pegg’**

<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstentions</u>
Reed	Sharman	Mrs Botham
Sutton	Daymond	Ross
	Doyle	Pegg
	Ford	
	Fox	
	Groom	
	Howland	
	Mrs Judge	
	Neate	
	Pyatt	
	Mrs Sharp	
	Stacey	
	Starling	
	Starreveld	

The motion was defeated.

The Mayor, Cllr Pegg resumed as Chairman of the meeting.

Mrs Mellish reminded members that her complaint to the auditors was in her name and not a matter for the Borough Council.

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2012 (pages 4021-4026) were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

### **Adjourn meeting for public participation and reports**

The Mayor, Cllr Pegg, adjourned the meeting.

**Proposed – The Mayor, Cllr Pegg**

**Seconded – Cllr Groom**

**‘To suspend Standing Order 6c in order that the time public participation could be increased’**

**All in favour**

Police Representative

There was no Police representative present.

### County Councillor

County Councillor, Mrs S Hutson had produced a report which she read through. (Appendix 1).

Cllr Mrs Sharp congratulated the County Council that concession holders can now use the 9.05am bus to King's Lynn. However the stop in the Hollies is now only for dropping off and this makes the stop area in Bridge Street very busy. County Cllr Mrs Hutson was not aware of this situation. She reported that the Norfolk Green bus company were promised a stop in Bridge Street during regeneration. County Cllr Mrs Hutson advised the Council to deal with Norfolk Green direct.

### Borough Councillor Reports

A M Lovett, no report

Mrs K A Mellish reported that the taxi rank is not obligatory. The Church Road land sale will be decided by the end of the month.

Cllr Doyle voiced the opinion that the taxi rank had been forced on the town and that it should be located near to Tesco's if anywhere, Cllr Stacey endorsed this view.

Cllr Starling asked if there was any news from the open sessions about waste recycling, there had been no feedback as yet. Cllr Fox noted that there was a report on this subject in today's Lynn News.

Cllr Mrs Sharp asked if the Council's views with regard to the Church Road land sale will be taken into consideration. Mrs Mellish replied that Councillors could attend and comment at the Cabinet Meeting.

### Public Participation

Mrs R Bodle congratulated so many members of the public for attending the meeting, she said there was a good level of interest in Town matters. She had sent a letter to all Councillors offering her help for three months with no financial charge to the Council. (Appendix 2).

Mr Simon Prior asked if there was a strategy for the Town, he was especially concerned about the centre of Town and problems facing businesses.

Cllr Starreveld made him aware of the Downham by Design statement and that the production of a Neighbourhood plan was being considered

Cllr Groom reported that she had been part of the Regeneration Partnership for over ten years and that to provide answers for Town Problems would need a partnership, 'Let's Talk' is the latest idea but there is little support, only four people showed an interest after the latest meeting.

Ms Jane Harper asked if a 'Town Team' could be generated from this evening's meeting, the Mayor replied that this was not possible but could be born out of the Community Development Committee meetings.

Cllr Mrs Sharp voiced the opinion that a lot of young people are taking part in Town Matters.

Ms Jane Harper commented that the Town was decreasing business wise and that the chamber of Trade had suffered a large drop in membership.

Mr Phil Peads asked if the Council wanted to lead the Town forwards with a leadership role.

Cllr Starling commented that the Community Development Committee was the forum to lead things forward; ideas can be voiced at meetings.

Cllr Doyle reported that the Council keeps in contact with the schools, he read a report on how he perceived the town was progressing. (Appendix 3).

Mr Simon Prior was keen to look to the future, not the past; he asked where was the organising body for the Town's future. Cllr Groom replied that he should attend a Community Development Committee Meeting

Mrs R Bodle said that there were not now enough groups allied to the Community Development committee and that she felt that a Neighbourhood Plan was a must, but meetings had not yet taken place.

Cllr Reed voiced concern about the empty shops in Town and hoped that landlords could be persuaded to reduce rents to fill properties.

Cllr Ford commented that there was obviously a lot of interest in this subject, it was important to publicise which local Councils had responsibility in certain areas.

Cllr Doyle reminded the public that this Council receives no income from national or local Government or any business initiatives..

Ms Jane Harper commented that rents are not the issue, but footfall in Town.

The Mayor, Cllr Pegg, resumed the meeting.

#### **2261. To receive Correspondence**

A list of correspondence had been circulated (Appendix 4).

Cllr Groom noted that local footpaths were very important and that the Town Council should be involved in maintaining them.

County Councillor Mrs Hutson reminded members that the County Council had been subject to financial reductions and that footpaths could be maintained with the assistance of the public.

Cllr Stacey reported that at a recent Councillor's Surgery many members of the public had commented on the poor state of some footpaths and hedges. He thought that if the public were to be enlisted to assist then this should be publicised.

#### **2262. To receive Councillors' Questions**

Q. Cllr Starreveld reported that following an Local Development Framework meeting, it was confirmed that some 390 new homes would be constructed in Downham Market in the near future. The Borough Council are concerned over what effect this may have on the Town. 106 monies would be available and could Councillors give thought to where they think this funding could go.

Q. Cllr Sharp asked if the unused shop next to 'Feet First' in the High Street could have its mail removed from the floor.

Q. Cllr Reed reported that he had attended the recent meeting about the future of Denver Windmill. The site was now to be offered for sale and a scheme was mooted to sell shares to the public for £10 each to raise the necessary finance.

Q. Cllr Fox reminded members that their registers of interest were now published on the Town Council website. Could members check their photographs on the website and submit more recent ones if they think it necessary.

#### **2263. To Adopt the Standing Committee Minutes**

**Community Development Committee**

**Proposed – Cllr Groom**

**Seconded – Cllr Neate**

**'That the minutes of the Community Development Committee meeting of Tuesday 3rd July 2012 (pages 3957-3961) be approved.**

**All in Favour**

**Property Committee**

**Proposed – Cllr Doyle**

**Seconded - Cllr Mrs Judge**

**‘That the minutes of the Property Committee meeting of Tuesday 21st August 2012 (pages 4000-4005) be approved.’**

**All in Favour**

**Finance Committee**

**Proposed – Cllr Pyatt**

**Seconded – Cllr Cllr Ford**

**‘That the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting of Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2012 (pages 4009-4013)) be adopted.’**

**All in Favour**

**Planning and Environmental Committee**

**Proposed – Cllr Daymond**

**Seconded - Cllr Starreveld**

**‘That the minutes of the Planning and Environmental Committee meetings of Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2012 (pages 3986-3992), Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2012 (pages 4006-4008), Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2012 (pages 4018-4020) and Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2012 (pages 4032-4034) be approved.’**

**All in Favour**

**Town Hall Committee**

**Proposed – Cllr Sharman**

**Seconded - Cllr Stacey**

**‘That the minutes of the Town Hall Committee meeting of Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> August 2012 (pages 3993-3996) be approved.’**

**All in Favour**

**2264. To receive the Clerk’s Report**

The Clerk had nothing to report at this time.

**2265. To approve the Payment of Bills**

A list of bills had been circulated (Appendix 5).

**i. Town Council**

**Proposed – Cllr Stacey**

**Seconded – Cllr Mrs Sharp**

**‘That the Town Council bills be paid as per the attached list.’**

**All in Favour**

ii. **Town Hall**

**Proposed – Cllr Sharman**

**Seconded – Cllr Fox**

**‘That the Town Hall bills be paid as per the attached list.**

**All in Favour**

iii. **Jubilee Community Centre**

Councillor Pyatt had declared an interest in this item.

**Proposed – Cllr Doyle**

**Seconded – Cllr Groom**

**‘That the Jubilee Community Centre bills be paid as per the attached list.’**

**For 18      Abstentions 1**

**2266. Downham Market Festival**

Cllr Groom reported that the AGM had taken place but that very few people had attended. Currently the Committee is without a Secretary and Treasurer. If more members do not come forward the Committee may fail and the Festival not happen. Cllr Stacey addressed the members of public present and encouraged them to find more members for the Committee. Cllr Starling noted that the Committee will have a stand at the Community Fair this weekend.

**2267. To receive report on the Joint Burial Board**

Cllr Fox had submitted a report, (Appendix 6) he had nothing to add.

**2268. To receive letter from Mazars (External Audit 2011/2012)**

All Councillors have had a copy of the letter. It was decided that the reply would be formulated by the Internal Audit subcommittee. The deadline for a reply is 20<sup>th</sup> October 2012.

**2269. To accept the updated Standing Orders with an alteration to the Code of Conduct Date (items 26 and 40 change date from 15<sup>th</sup> May 2007 to 9<sup>th</sup> July 2012)**

**Proposed – Cllr Stacey**

**Seconded – Cllr Fox**

**‘That the Council accepts the updated Standing Orders with an alteration to the Code of Conduct Date (items 26 and 40 change date from 15<sup>th</sup> May 2007 to 9<sup>th</sup> July 2012)’**

**All in Favour**

**2270. To consider applications for the Human Resources Committee**

All Councillors had received copies of the applications. An election was held and Cllr Ford was elected to the Human Resources Committee.

**2271. To receive report from the Human Resources Committee – Cllr Mrs Sharp to report**

A report had been circulated Cllr Mrs Sharp read through the report. (Appendix 7).

**2272. To discuss any urgent items as agreed by the Mayor**

It was noted that the Sporting Awards evening is on Friday of this week. Members were asked to attend.

**2273. Mayor's Announcements**

The Mayor, Cllr Pegg reminded members that the Community Fair is on Saturday of this week at the Town Hall. He asked members to support local groups by attending the Fair.

**Proposed – The Mayor Cllr Pegg**

**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**

Members of public left the Council Chamber, at 8.32pm

The Mayor resumed the meeting.

**2274. Human Resources (Confidential item)**

**Proposed – Cllr Sharp**

**Seconded – Cllr Judge**

**“The Town Clerk’s accrued extra hours and other extra hours will be paid for as a monthly payment at a pro rata rate of her monthly salary.”**

**For – 17**

**Against – 2**

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.10pm.

**Chairman**

**Date**