

Droitwich Spa Town Council

MINUTES of the meeting of the CHARTER MARKET SUB-COMMITTEE held in the Council Chamber, St Richards House, Victoria Square, Droitwich Spa, on Monday 3 December 2013 at 2.00pm.

PRESENT: Councillor G R Brookes
Councillor E Harwood
Councillor R E Murphy
Councillor A Sinton
Councillor P Stevens

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors R G Beale.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: There were none.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were none.

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by Councillor E Harwood, seconded by Councillor A Sinton, and

RESOLVED That Councillor G R Brookes be appointed as Chairman of the Charter Market Sub-Committee for the current municipal year.

2. MEMBERSHIP OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE

RESOLVED That the membership of the Charter Market Sub-Committee be noted.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made, although it was noted that Councillor P Stevens was a High Street Trader. During the course of the debate Councillor Stevens confirmed that he would not be trading after January 2014.

4. REVIEW OF ACTIONS TO DATE

The Town Clerk had reported the actions to date and advised as to the latest discussions. Councillor A Sinton confirmed that Councillor Brookes' draft letter to Traders had intimated of concerns and Councillor Brookes gave details of these.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF A FRIDAY CHARTER MARKET AND RECOMMENDATIONS THEREON TO COMMUNITY AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Councillors Harwood and Murphy had taken the opportunity to visit the Saturday Charter Market in Evesham, operated by Mr Joe Jones and advised upon their findings, these being very favourable. Councillor Murphy circulated photographs he had taken on his visit. Both stressed the importance of allowing the Market Operator to manage each market day event. Town Clerk advised that once the decision had been made to have a market this would be the way forward. She and Mrs Yates the Area Partnership Manager would ensure all documentation etc was in place prior to operation. The planning application for Victoria Square would be the first matter to be addressed and could proceed independently of any decision upon the Charter Market.

Councillor P Stevens advised that he had submitted several questions to Councillor Brookes that he wished to see responses to, these being:

1. Was proper research done into what shopkeepers/ public wanted .I.E specific questions with yes/no answers that can be collated?
2. What percentage of shops were canvassed?
3. How many market stalls are proposed?
4. What will they be selling?
5. What will be the ratio of stalls between Victoria Square and Saltbarrow Market?
6. What research has been done about the possible detrimental effects a market may bring – not everything is win/win?
7. What timescale are we looking at for the start of the market?
8. Length of contract and escape clauses?
9. Are you prepared for the possible responses from the High Street about them (Victoria Square) and us?
10. Should all businesses be canvassed about the Town Market and not just those in the immediate vicinity?

Councillor Brookes reported upon the responses and communications he had previously with traders and it was accepted by the members of the Sub-Committee that some answers to Councillor Stevens' questions would only be apparent once the Charter Market was running. Councillor Sinton advised that the geographical layout of the Town as opposed to that of Evesham, together with its proximity to Worcester was a cause for concern when applied to the establishment of a market, and also that a Friday Market was not the same as a Saturday family-orientated market.

Following a very full and lively debate it was proposed by Councillor A M Sinton, seconded by Councillor E Harwood and unanimously

RECOMMENDED

he Friday Charter Market proceeds for a trial period of three months, but that it be monitored closely to identify any potential issues at an early stage, and that the associated documentation, including the application for planning permission in Victoria Square, be put in place.

The Town Clerk advised that the report of the Sub-Committee and its recommendations to Community and Amenities Committee would be circulated for consideration by the Committee at its meeting on 9 December 2013.

The meeting ended at 2.45pm.

Chairman of Sub-Committee
2013

Chairman of Committee
9 December 2013
