

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 Tuesday 10 June 2014 at 2.30pm.

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

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT: Mrs Janet Yates, Area Partnership Manager, Wychavon District Council; and Messrs Joe and Maxie Jones by invitation for Agenda Item No 6.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:
There were none.

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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.

4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING OF THE SUB COMMITTEE HELD ON 24 FEBRUARY 2014.

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the meeting of the Charter Market Sub-Committee held on 24 February 2014 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

5. TO REVIEW THE THREE MONTH TRIAL PERIOD OF OPERATION OF THE FRIDAY CHARTER MARKET.

[Councillor Harwood's latest Monitoring Report dated 10 June 2014 was circulated at the meeting.]

The Chairman thanked Councillor Harwood for his prepared weekly reports summary and these were considered by the Sub-Committee along with the Town Council's log of complaints received and operational issues encountered. The Town Clerk and Assistant Town Clerk advised upon the power overload in Victoria Square on 18 April 2014 and additionally the incident on 6 June 2014 relating to the War Memorial.

The Sub-Committee noted that the Chairman had addressed some of these issues at the time of complaint, enabling matters to be resolved satisfactorily. Issues were to be expected during any trial period.

Councillor Brookes queried whether the Saturday Farmers' Market on Victoria Square would relocate some of its stalls to Saltbarrow Market to encourage footfall to the area and the adjacent High Street during weekends and also on Fridays. Councillor Sinton reminded Councillor Brookes that the Sub-Committee had a remit for the Friday Charter Market only. The Town Clerk confirmed this, but that to assist enquiries could be made, however it was highly unlikely to happen.

The Sub-Committee noted that Wychavon District Council intended to charge rental for the use of Saltbarrow Market in the future. The Town Clerk advised that it would be helpful to clarify the actual rental involved for the use of Saltbarrow Market and possibly to request a formal extension of the waiver of the rental.

The Chairman queried with Mrs Janet Yates as to why the Farmers Market was not subject to charges and Mrs Yates confirmed that they did not use Saltbarrow Market, only Victoria Square. This had been allowable within the Permitted Development Rights for the area and as for the Charter Market, Worcestershire County Council did not charge rental. The Farmers' Market was not under Wychavon District Council's jurisdiction.

It was agreed that once a decision had been made to continue the Charter Market then signage and advertising could be addressed which would assist with the Saltbarrow Market issue. The electrical infrastructure in Victoria Square could also be investigated with a view to an upgrade. There being a general consensus that the pilot scheme for the Charter Market had been well-received, it was therefore proposed by Councillor E Harwood, seconded by Councillor A M Sinton, and

RECOMMENDED

1. That the Friday Charter Market continues on a permanent basis.
2. That therefore Expressions of Interest be sought as per Minute No 11 of the Charter Market Sub-Committee meeting 24 February 2014.

3. That formal application be made to Wychavon District Council for the waiver of rental on Saltbarrow Market.

6. TO MEET WITH MR JOSEPH JONES AND ADVISE UPON ANY ISSUES OUTSTANDING

Messrs Joe and Maxi Jones were invited to join the Sub-Committee. Mr Joe Jones advised that he was pleased with the progress made with the Friday Charter Market in Victoria Square. The stalls in the Saltbarrow Market area were not very successful due to a lower footfall in that part of the town, which in his opinion would improve with time. There had been good feedback from the public and the customer-base was mainly local, although there were some visitors from the surrounding towns. Victoria Square was an excellent site having easy access for those travelling by bus. The siting of the Fish Van had helped. Saltbarrow Market was a narrow site and impeded somewhat by the trees. Footfall for example the Italian Market had been better as it had been part of a Town Event.

In response to a question from Councillor P Stevens, it was noted that Gurney's Lane was the subject of a covenant which prevented market stalls (business use) being erected outside Waitrose supermarket.

Mrs Janet Yates offered to help with additional marketing and to look at the directional signage to assist with navigation for the public between Victoria Square and Saltbarrow Market on Market days. This was likely to be after the 21 June 2014 Summer Festival Weekend and the £500.00 grant for advertising was confirmed as having been already paid to the Town Council to assist with this purpose.

7. TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED That the press and public be now excluded from the meeting under the provision of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 by virtue of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted which involved financial and legal matters.

CLOSED SESSION

8. BUSINESS RATES INFORMATION

The Town Clerk advised that other than the valuation already reported, no further details as to the payment of Business Rates had been received.

Prior to the close of the meeting, the Chairman advised that Mr Jones was now charged on a monthly bases from July 2014 for the Friday Charter Market. This was to be for a further three months period for the purpose of inviting interested operators to tender. Weekly monitoring would continue and Councillor Harwood confirmed that he would be happy to assist with this as previously.

The Meeting closed at 3.30pm

Chairman of Charter
Market Sub-Committee
?? 2014

Chairman of Community
& Amenities Committee
7 July 2014
