

DOWNHAM MARKET TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ANNUAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD

Tuesday 13th July 2021 at 7.00pm at the Jubilee Community Centre

The meeting was held outside due to a COVID scare.

	<p>Present The Mayor, Cllr Groom Deputy Mayor Cllr Westrop Cllrs: Brighty, Daymond, Doyle, Gomez-Da Costa, Hendry, Jordan, Lawson, Lewis, Molyneux-Hetherington, Moyses, Pickering, Sharman, Woodmin, Pyatt (left the meeting at 9pm)</p> <p>Town Clerk Elaine Oliver Assistant to the Clerk Graham Spark</p> <p>Members of the Public</p>	ACTION
Number	Item	Action
37.21/2	<p>To receive Members' Apologies for Absence Cllrs accepted apologies from: Cllr Hepworth (Self isolation due to COVID) Cllr Hayes (work commitments); Cllrs Ratcliffe and Patel – BCKLWN Cllr White NCC</p>	
38.21/2	<p>To receive Members' Declarations of Interest Cllr Westrop declared an interest in item 43 being involved with one of the groups applying for grant funding</p>	
39.21/2	<p>Mayors Announcements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Mayor said she had great pleasure in welcoming the new members of the Council and outlined rules of the meeting ie Cllrs can speak once for 3 minutes to each agenda item and the meeting is conducted with respect • Opportunities Downham Market launched 10th May 2021. The consultation process has been very successful. • The Mayor has visited the Swan Centre several times • Met face to face with all the new Cllrs • Met with the new Inspector Chris Smith and the new Police Constable with whom she plans to have regular meetings • Opened the new Cheese shop in High St South, visited the new phone repair shop in High St North, Waffleopolis and the Cave restaurant 	

	<p>Adjourn the meeting for public participation and consideration of written reports and written questions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Norfolk County Councillor report – not present • Borough Councillors reports and questions – no questions • Public Participation – Cllr Westrop explained that although being submitted late, a question from a member of the public would be answered. ‘What are the council going to do to support local groups that have struggled throughout COVID?’ Cllr Westrop said that the member of the public is associated with the Downham Amateur Dramatics Society (DADS) who she encouraged to use the Council’s Grant Scheme if the group required support from the Council. Cllr Westrop had replied on behalf of the Council by email with suggestions of other potential sources of funding. <p>RESUME MEETING</p>	
42.21/2	<p>To agree the Council’s response to the following Planning Application: 21/01148/F and 21/01150/LB (associated Listed Building application) Conversion of hotel to 7 flats and HMO, amenity and parking area at Castle Hotel High Street Downham Market Norfolk PE38 9HF</p> <p>The Mayor summarised the Planning history to this application. Cllr Daymond spoke in favour of the application commenting that everyone deserves somewhere to live.</p> <p>Cllr Westrop agreed, however she focussed on the impact of the development on the town’s heritage assets, affecting as it does a Grade 2 Listed Building which an iconic building in the town. She said that the application should be refused on the following planning grounds:</p> <p>Adverse impact on the area. Changes to the fabric of the building which is an iconic landmark for the town. It will affect a key building in the conservation area in its design appearance and layout internally and externally. It imperils the Grade 2 status. Removing non-visible listed assets is reason enough to refuse the application. This application changes the original application which was for the development of good quality flats – changing it to include fewer flats and adding Housing in Multiple Occupation. She highlighted how much of the town’s heritage has already been lost. The application should be called in by the relevant Borough Councillor.</p>	

	<p>The Mayor added that there is already permission in place for a sympathetic development and she feels the new one should be resisted.</p> <p>Cllr Lawson advised that Grade 2 Listed status refers only to the external features of a building.</p> <p>Cllr Molyneux-Hetherington agreed that the loss of heritage assets is an important point. He and Cllr Hendry spoke in agreement with the points raised by Cllr Westrop.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Westrop Seconded: Cllr Hendry</p> <p>“That the planning applications 21/01148/F and 21/01150/LB are rejected on the planning grounds I have outlined” Agreed</p>	
43.21/2	<p>To consider grant applications (Cllr Westrop left the meeting)</p> <p>The Mayor introduced the grant applications received and previously circulated:</p> <p>The Clerk confirmed the budget for grants as being £25,000</p> <p>DM Park Run - Cllr Pyatt raised reservations about the location of the run at the High School, which would not hesitate to cancel it on days of inclement weather. He also wished to know if the Park Run committee had applied to Live Leisure and the Borough Council for funding before approaching the Town Council and the Clerk was able to reassure that they had. He recommended caution in supporting a new venture with £1000.</p> <p>Swan Youth Project Seeking £2000 for its Thursday Well-being Club. Cllr Daymond reminded Cllrs that DMTC has donated £1000 a year to the Swan Centre.</p> <p>DM Christmas Lights Seeking funding of £1500 for safety checks, to cover Public Liability Insurance and replacement to low energy bulbs. Cllr Pyatt highlighted that since the grant application was submitted the Borough Council has withdrawn all its funding and suggested the amount of grant be increased to £2000. It was agreed that the Xmas Lights could submit a further application should they wish. It was also agreed that Xmas Lights Ltd and DMTC would open discussions about replacement of old lights and consider the longer term future of the team.</p>	

	For information DMTC would receive 25% and without it 15%	
51.21/2	<p>To consider and agree the following motion: Proposed Cllr Westrop Seconded Cllr Pickering All in favour</p> <p>"This council commits to working with all other organizations across the QEH catchment area to use our influence and offices to add weight to the case being made by the Queen Elizabeth Hospital to obtain full funding for a new, replacement building and, for this funding agreement to be fast tracked and awarded before the Autumn Spending Review process. We call upon the Department of Health to prioritise the replacement of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, King's Lynn and treat it with the urgency it requires"</p>	
52.21/2	<p>To consider and agree Cllr Ratcliffe's motion</p> <p>This was not discussed as Cllr Ratcliffe was not present. It will be discussed at a future meeting.</p>	
53.21/2	<p>To submit items for next agenda Committee and Strategy Groups – Cllr Pyatt Councillors' questions – Cllr Groom explained that there is an option for Cllrs to ask questions about any agenda items and that items that need to be discussed can be put forward in this agenda item.</p>	
54.21/2	<p>To agree the date of next meeting This was agreed for 3rd August 2021 at 7pm</p>	
55.21/2	<p>Confidential Items To consider a resolution (under the Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960) to exclude members of the public and press.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Groom Seconded Cllr Doyle Agreed</p>	
56.21/2	<p>To discuss the Swan Centre Cllr Groom and the Clerk presented the details to Council of the negotiations that had taken place. It was proposed by Cllr Molyneaux-Hetherington and seconded by Cllr Woodmin to go forward with the proposal and draw up a draft lease to present to Council. Agreed</p>	
57.21/2	<p>To discuss Town properties It was agreed that the Clerk would draw up a paper looking at the option to sell a building in the town. This will then be presented to Council</p>	

	<p>At this point Cllr Groom asked for Cllr Lawson to leave the meeting as the legal advice could not be discussed with Cllr Lawson in attendance.</p> <p>Cllrs Daymond, Doyle, Jordan, Lewis, Moyses, Pyatt were also asked to leave as they had shown pre determination in signing and bias. It was explained that our legal team had given this advice</p> <p>A Cllr raised the issue of why legal matters were being discussed under confidentiality - Cllr Westrop noted that due to the nature of the advice given this had to remain confidential in exactly the same way as any other sensitive legal advice given, these matters should not be discussed with anyone outside of council meetings and he should know that this is our custom and practice. The Cllr in question left the meeting and the Mayor advised the Council that as 6 other Cllrs had supported him and the promotion of an agenda with illegal content they were pre-determined and asked to leave the meeting. The Cllrs left the meeting. The meeting still being quorate continued to discuss the legal matter in hand.</p>	
58.21/2	<p>To consider recommendation from HR “To take action on legal advice from Solicitors regarding Cllr Lawson”</p> <p>On a proposal by Cllr Pickering, seconded by Cllr Woodmin it was agreed to take the legal advice from the Solicitor and continue with the action as advised.</p>	