

LEIGHTON-LINSLADE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MARKET SUB COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, 27 FEBRUARY 2020 AT 10.30 AM

Present: Councillors G Perham (Chair)
 D Bowater
 T Morris
 R Berry
 M Freeman
 R Goodchild
 P Snelling
 B Spurr (substituting for Cllr K Cursons)
 A Dodwell (substituting for Cllr C Chambers)

Also in attendance: V Cannon, Head of Cultural and Economic
 Services
 M Saccoccio, Town Clerk
 M Jahn, Committee Officer
 A Harrison, Markets Manager
 C Peters, Market Support
 M Jahn, Committee Officer
 Cllr V Harvey

Members of the public: 0
Members of the press 0

25/MK APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor C Chambers (substituted by Councillor A Dodwell) and Councillor K Cursons (substituted by Councillor B Spurr).

26/MK DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to declare any interests, including the nature of those interests, which they had in any of the items under consideration at this meeting. No declarations were made.

27/MK QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC (3 minutes per person; maximum 15 minutes)

There were no questions from the public.

28/MK MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Sub-Committee received the draft minutes of the previous meeting, held on 21 November 2019 for consideration.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Markets Sub-Committee meeting held on 21 November 2019 be approved as a correct record and were signed accordingly.

29/MK MARKET TRADER REPRESENTATION

The Sub-Committee received and considered a report to ensure trader representation would be constructively undertaken and market traders would have a Liaison Officer formally recognised and affiliated to the National Market Trader Federation. The National Market Trader Federation could attend meetings as a voice for the traders if the Liaison Officer was unable to attend and offer advice when requested.

RESOLVED

- (a) to endorse Leighton Buzzard market traders have Liaison Officers formally recognised and affiliated to the National Market Trader Federation to facilitate trader representation at Committee meetings.**
- (b) to recommend the Liaison Officer be invited to the next appropriate Cultural and Economic Services Meeting for discussions on Market Matters.**

30/MK MARKET PITCH FEES ARREARS PROCEDURE

The Sub-Committee received a report to consider a new policy for Market Pitch Fee Arrears Procedure. The draft policy had been shared with all traders for their comments before being presented to the Sub-Committee for consideration.

RECOMMEND the adoption of the Market Rent Arrears Policy to Cultural & Economic Services Committee and thereafter to Policy and Finance Committee.

31/MK MARKET GENERAL UPDATE

The Sub-Committee received and considered an update report on market activity including market delivery from October to December 2019, trader recruitment, social media platforms, promotion and future speciality markets.

It was confirmed a Vegan Market would take place on a Sunday in the High Street date to be confirmed. The return of the Street Food Heroes on the last Friday of the month beginning in March until end of September and the French Market, to run for one day only on Friday 3 April 2020, both of which had proved popular and the introduction of the Vegan Market would offer a completely new market concept to the town.

The Sub Committee were informed that the Farmers Market would be reviewed and researched to ascertain how recruitment could be increased and what the customer base required. Officers would bring back to the sub-

committee once this research had been carried out.

Market promotion continued via social media, the Bee Local Magazine and the Town Council's About Town newsletter. The launch of Trader of the Month in February asked customers to put forward the trader they felt had provided good service and products. This trader would receive additional publicity through this scheme on social media and a certificate of achievement.

A suggestion was made and discussed regarding the option of offering an extra stall to traders on a trial basis to allow for expansion of products and increase the size of the market. Members agreed that this idea would need further research and discussion and in conjunction with the Liaison Officer and to wait until they were recruited.

Thanks were given to the Officers for their hard work and continuing to make the market thrive.

RESOLVED to note the report.

32/MK BUDGET REPORT

The Sub-Committee received and considered the budget report. The market was performing reasonably against the profiled budget for 2019/20 despite the loss of trading dates this financial year due to weather.

Members agreed although the market was not running at a profit it was critical to the High Street and the vibrance of the town centre.

The Committee suggested thanks be given to the traders in a newsletter for continuing to provide a good choice of stall and product in difficult weather conditions over the past weeks.

RESOLVED to note the report.

33/MK EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED that, under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the public be excluded on the grounds of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted which involves the likely disclosure of exempt information. The public and press to withdraw from the meeting during consideration of detailed discussion regarding the following: Market Operations.

34/MK MARKET OPERATIONS

The Sub-Committee received and considered a report to move to cashless payments for on-the-day market rent. Traders had been informed of this recommendation with one response received. Officers would liaise with traders to address concerns towards facilitating cashless methods.

RECOMMEND to Cultural and Economic Services Committee that cashless payments for on-the-day market rent be introduced to commence in the new financial year.

The meeting closed at 11.35 am.

I HEREBY CONFIRM THAT THE FOREGOING IS A CORRECT AND ACCURATE RECORD OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 27 FEBRUARY 2020.

Chair

21 MAY 2020