

SWAFFHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Market Committee meeting held in the Town Hall at 7.00pm on Monday 28th January 2008.

Present:- Mrs. S. Matthews (in the Chair)

Cllrs Mr. F. Sharpe, Mr. D. Harman and Mrs. S. Lister

Market Traders: Mr. C. Smith, Mr. B. Whitehair and Mr. D. Hackett

Mr. R. Bishop (Town Clerk)

Mr. I. Livesey (Market Superintendent)

1. To receive apologies for absence.

Mrs. M. Meyrick (Deputy Town Clerk) and Mr. I. Livesey (would be late)

2. To receive declarations of interest – for items included on the Agenda.

None.

3. To receive minutes of the Market Meeting – held on 30th October 2007.

Following a minor amendment referring to the proposed auction as an 'initial period' of three months. The minutes were agreed by the Committee and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

4. To receive a report from the Market Superintendent.

The Market Superintendent reported that since the last meeting three traders have left the Market without giving formal notice. Mr. Palmer Ice Cream owes £309.12; Mr. Newman fruit & veg owes £474.72, Mr. Strydom jewellery has just paid £184. The Deputy Town Clerk will be working with the Market Superintendent to start court proceedings with Mr. Newman and then follow on with other outstanding accounts.

Mr. Womack (foam) is having to give up due to ill health, he will be writing to the Town Clerk this week. The Market Superintendent requested that a letter of thanks go out to Mr. Womack as he has been a trader since 1980.

It was unanimously agreed to write a letter to Mr. Womack thanking him for trading on Swaffham Market since 1980.

Mr. Lee (outside Woolworths) has applied for a market license. It was reported that we had a few problems with him at first but this has been rectified. The Market Superintendent recommended approval on the proviso that if he stepped out of line again he would lose his market rights once and for all.

It was unanimously agreed to grant this license on the proviso that Mr. Lee adheres to the rules like any other trader.

Horsford Window Company Ltd want a market license, but we have had an objection from the other double glazing stall claiming that it affects his business and requests that the committee reconsider their decision to allow two double glazing stalls on Swaffham Market.

It was agreed not to grant a license to Horsford Window Company Ltd and to keep to just one double glazing stall. It was not deemed to be viable for two double glazing traders to trade from Swaffham Market.

A request has also been received from another egg trader, selling free range eggs only. It was explained that this was different to the existing egg trader.

It was agreed to grant a license and allow two egg traders on the Market.

Kingfisher removals have been on the market for six weeks selling house clearance items as a casual trader, he would like to continue on a permanent basis if the rent is right. He trades on the auction site area. The stall is attracting a lot of interest. It was recommended to have a trial for six months at a reduced rate. A 50ft x 18ft stall would cost £184 per month, casual rate is £23 per week. There followed a short discussion.

It was unanimously agreed to charge £30 a week for the stones site. It was further agreed to add a clause that if an auction requires this site in the future the Town Council reserve the right to re-locate Kingfisher Removals to an alternative site elsewhere on the market.

The central area is looking very sparse at the moment. It was recommended that we look to re-organising the area to make it look more condensed. There followed a lengthy discussion with suggestions put forward on possible improvements.

It was agreed to allow the Market Superintendent to come back to the Committee with a firm proposal for a new layout. To do the necessary groundwork by asking traders if they would move to accommodate the changes to benefit the market as a whole.

5. To receive a report relating to the Auction.

The Town Clerk reported that the three month trial period had been completed by Karl Bennett the auctioneer. The first auction was successful, but the charge for lots put off the general public from bringing in items to be auctioned. The second auction took place without the marquee and largely took place un-noticed. The marquee returned for the third auction and trade picked up once more, but still only selling items brought in by the auctioneer himself (mainly catalogue returns). The lot charge had been removed but this fact had not been widely publicized and it was to the detriment of the auction.

The Town Clerk was looking for guidance from the committee, as Mr. Bennett had set up and cancelled meeting with himself and the Deputy Town Clerk recently. There were early indications that he wished to continue but with a subsidy from the Council. It was not clear what this would be, as this would be one of the issues under discussion. In general there seemed to be a lack of commitment and since Kingfisher Removals had been trading on the market the need for the auction had subsided slightly.

The committee had a lengthy debate on the three month trial for the auction and concluded that it could have gone much better than it actually did. There were teething problems and different problems on each of the three months, but it was worth carrying on.

It was agreed to continue with a further three month trial, with no subsidy and the Town Clerk was not instructed to pursue Mr. Bennett for a response. If he came forward then the auction could continue for another trial period.

6. To report the attendance of a French Market on Sunday 20th April.

Brunomart are returning to Swaffham on Sunday 20th April and hope to come to Swaffham twice a year. They are hoping that Sunday is the better day for them to attend.

It was reported that an enquiry had been received from an Italian Market who wished to come to Swaffham. They are looking at a Sunday at the end of May or beginning of June. The details were circulated to members of the committee for consideration and discussed.

It was agreed to go ahead and arrange an Italian Market to see how this is received in the Town.

7. To agree date for next meeting – provisionally Monday 28th April 2008.

It was agreed to put this date in the diary but to call an extra meeting if required.

Meeting closed at 8.15pm

_____ Chairman.