

SWAFFHAM TOWN COUNCIL

The Minutes of the Market meeting held on Monday 11th September 2006 at 7.00p.m. in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Swaffham.

Present: Cllr Matthews (in the Chair)

Councillors:- Cllr Greaves, Cllr Lister, Cllr Stockdale.

Market Representatives:- Mr Hackett, Mr Bell, Mr Whitehair.

Clerk: Mr R. Bishop
Assistant Clerk: Mrs R. Noble
Market Superintendent: Mr I. Livesey

Public:- 1

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1. Cllr Sherwood. Work Commitments.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2.1. There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES OF THE 28TH JUNE 2006 ANNUAL MARKET MEETING

3.1. The above mentioned minutes had been circulated for information.

4. REPORT FROM THE MARKET SUPERINTENDENT

4.1. It was reported since the last meeting another 3 stall have been lost, but 2 more new ones have come onto the market. Large gaps in the market makes the market look empty at times. It was stated that traders are packing away earlier than usual.

4.2. A letter has been received from Mr Green, the auctioneer informing us he is disappointed he is being charged for a stall to sell produce from as he is already paying for the auction site. The Market Superintendent stated it was agreed at a meeting between Mr Green and the Town Clerk prior him taking on the auction site that cost would be incurred at he was selling produce and not auctioning it, it would be regulated the same as any other trader after six weeks he could apply for a licence. He is willing to pay the extra if the space is over and above the auction site, this has been prevented due to another market trader refusing to co-operate to overcome the situation.

Following a discussion relating to the position of traders in this area, Cllr. Jerome Stockdale proposed and Cllr. Anne Greaves seconded that the Town Clerk look at market rules and write to the trader informing him it was unanimously agreed at the meeting that it is imperative of the market that he moves to the site where he has been trading for the past 4/5 years together with a map with his new position.

The Clerk was instructed to write to the trader informing him it was unanimously agreed at the meeting that it is imperative of the market that he moves to the site where he has been trading for the past 4/5 years together with a map with his new position.

4.3. It was reported that pitch number WM17 has become vacant, with three existing traders requesting it. Following a discussion it was agreed to adhere to the long standing policy of the market for the longest serving trader requesting a transfer to move to the vacant pitch.

The Clerk was instructed to write to the three traders informing them of the decision.

4.4. It was reported that Jim Houlden has now retired from the market after 41 years, a letter to thank him for his support on the market has been sent to him from the Town Clerk. It was also reported that a collection was made by the traders on Swaffham and Fakenham markets and a plaque with his name was presented to him on his last day on Swaffham Market.

5. REPORT FROM THE TOWN CLERK

5.1. A letter was circulated to all committee members relating to a French Market which will be in Swaffham on Friday 20th and Saturday 21st October, this is a trial of a themed market to bring something different into the town and to boost our normal Saturday Market. It is part of a marketing and advertising campaign that has the aim of bringing the Market back to its full number now that the enhancement scheme has been completed. A discussion took place relating to charging them rent for their market, it was stated if they came back again that we could charge them then.

5.2. The letter which is to be circulated to all Market Traders asks all traders for ideas of building up the market and bringing back the general public. What are their ideas of themed markets and what they think about entertainment on a monthly basis.

5.2. A discussion took place relating to a request from C. Newman to take over a Fruit and Vegetable site. Clarification was required to establish if C. Newman is proprietor or manager.

It was agreed for the Market Superintendent and the Clerk to investigate if C. Newman is proprietor or manager before agreeing to request.

5.3. A discussion took place on ways of advertising the market, it was suggested that to advertise in the Market Trade News need only be done for one month, and also in the local paper. Cllr. S Lister proposed and Cllr. A Greaves seconded that an article is supplied by the Town Clerk to the local newspapers and that an advert is placed in the Market Trade News for one month.

It was unanimously agreed that an article is supplied by the Town Clerk to the local newspapers and that an advert is placed in the Market Trade News for one month.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

6.1. The date of the next meeting Monday 16th October 2006.

The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

_____ Chairman