



## WISBECH TOWN COUNCIL

### WISBECH MARKET PLACE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

11 JUNE 2018 – 7.30 pm

#### MINUTES OF MEETING

**Present:** Councillor Tibbs, Chairman; Councillors Hill, Miss Hoy, Maul, Oliver, Tierney and Wing.

**Apologies:** Councillor Balsevics.

#### **M1/18 Election of Chairman**

On the proposal of Councillor Miss Hoy, seconded by Councillor Oliver, it was decided that Councillor Tibbs be elected as Chairman of the Wisbech Market Place Management Committee for the municipal year 2018/19.

#### **M2/18 Public Participation: Wisbech Market Place enhancement scheme**

A parishioner enquired as to the timescale which would be operated by the Town Council with regard to implementing its scheme of enhancement for Wisbech Market Place. She expressed the opinion that the “wheels of local government turn slowly”.

In response, the Chairman commented that no timescale had been set as yet, given that the council is yet to decide upon a scheme; this would happen at minute M5/18.

Members decided that the enquiry/comments of the parishioner and the response of the Chairman be noted.

#### **M3/18 Election of Vice-Chairman**

On the proposal of Councillor Tierney, seconded by Councillor Miss Hoy, it was decided that Councillor Wing be elected as Vice-Chairman of the Wisbech Market Place Management Committee for the municipal year 2018/19.

#### **M4/18 Car boot activity at Wisbech Market Place**

Members considered the level of car boot pitch fee levied by the council for its car boot events which take place at Wisbech Market Place on Sundays and Thursdays.

The Clerk informed members that the current fee for a single pitch is £4.00 and he sought members' views on increasing that fee to £5.00. He explained the rationale for such a measure.

Members, having being informed that the Sunday event, which had been operating permanently since July 2016 (following a trial period of one year), continues to attract a good number of car booters each week, are of the opinion that this activity on Sundays could bear an increase (from £4.00) to £5.00 per pitch. However, they consider that, given that this activity on a Thursday is in its “infancy” (having commenced in February 2018), it would not be appropriate, at this time, to increase the fee for the Thursday event.



Members decided, unanimously, on the proposal of Councillor Tierney, seconded by Councillor Miss Hoy, that

- (1) the car boot pitch fee for Sundays be increased, with effect from 1 July 2018, to £5.00;
- (2) the car boot pitch fee for Thursdays remain at £4.00 for the time being;
- (3) the situation applying to both days be reviewed in six months' time;
- (4) officers of the council would ensure that car booters pay an appropriate fee for the amount of space that they occupy on the Market Place (some car booters would need to pay more than one pitch fee).

### **M5/18 Wisbech Market Place enhancement scheme**

Further to minute A25/17, members considered progressing the delivery of an enhancement scheme for Wisbech Market Place, in the light of the outcome of the consultation exercise and the investigative work which had been undertaken subsequently.

To assist members' deliberations, the Clerk summarised the outcome of the public consultation exercise, which had concluded on 30 April 2018. He commented that although there had, not surprisingly, been both positive and negative comments made by members of the public in respect of the various elements of the scheme, the overall position is that 80% of the (260) respondents support the concept of enhancing the Market Place in the manner suggested by the council (minute 175/17 refers).

The Clerk informed members that the council had received letters (all identical in terms of their wording) from a number of the market traders, raising certain operational issues; the Clerk summarised the traders' concerns. In addition, he reported an e-mail from a Wisbech resident asking the council to take the opportunity, as part of proposals to control traffic movements and parking on and around the Market Place area, to re-instate Cycle Route 1.

Councillor Miss Hoy commented that it would be necessary for the council, in implementing a scheme of enhancement, to provide solutions to the operational issues that had been identified by the traders. She expressed the opinion that not having traders' vans on the Market Place must be a feature of the scheme.

Councillor Miss Hoy urged members to adopt the concept scheme that had been the subject of public consultation and for the council to obtain quotations for each of the various elements (such as tidal clock, play equipment, gates), undertake any necessary discussions with the Local Planning Authority and the Local Highway Authority and to pursue the acquisition, from the Public Works Loans Board, of funding for the scheme.

Councillor Tierney commented that he had heard many contrary views from members of the public regarding this scheme; for example, some think the introduction of play equipment into the Market Place is a good idea and others think that it is not. He expressed the opinion that whatever scheme were implemented, there would be both supporters and critics. He suggested that the council should "press on"; he expressed the opinion that the Wisbech Market Place Task and Finish Group had worked very hard on the production of this scheme, which had achieved a "strong majority" support from the public.

Councillor Maul stated that he shares the opinion of Councillor Miss Hoy that there should be no parking of traders' vans on the Market Place as part of any scheme of enhancement. He informed the committee that he had spoken with many members of the public and the majority had made the



point that they would like to see the Market Place area be pedestrianised. He expressed the opinion that the necessary quotations for the various elements of the scheme should now be sought and there needs to be a dialogue with market traders to address their concerns in general and to discuss the no parking of vans in particular.

Councillor Tierney made the point that the council needs to demonstrate to the market traders, through its discussions with them, that they are valued by the council.

The Clerk commented that it may be difficult to obtain quotations for some elements of the scheme in the absence of particular specifications for the required works; to demonstrate that point, he mentioned that one local supplier of play equipment, when asked to provide a quotation for the provision and installation of play equipment at the Market Place, had commented that he would only be able to provide a quotation if the council could specify to him exactly what pieces of play equipment it is seeking. The Clerk’s concern was not shared by the majority of members, some of whom felt that the absence of particular specifications from the council would provide contractors with the opportunity to be flexible and creative in terms of their offer.

Councillor Tibbs, having listened to the comments made and views/opinions expressed by other members, commented that there would seem to be general agreement of the committee to progress this scheme. He expressed the opinion that ceasing to allow the parking of traders’ vans on the Market Place would not be popular with traders and is an issue which would need to be discussed with them.

Members decided, on the proposal of Councillor Tibbs, seconded by Councillor Miss Hoy, that

- (1) the council would proceed with a scheme of enhancement, based upon the concept which had been the subject of public consultation, for Wisbech Market Place;
- (2) quotations for the various elements of the scheme be sought;
- (3) the necessary discussions/consultations with key stakeholders, including the Local Planning Authority and the Local Highway Authority, be undertaken;
- (4) there be a dialogue with the market traders with regard to any operational concerns that they have with regard to the enhancement scheme;
- (5) investigations be made of the Public Works Loans Board in relation to the acquisition of funding for this scheme;
- (6) a further meeting of this committee be held in around one month’s time, for the purpose of evaluating the progress achieved by that time and determining any other actions necessary to facilitate delivery of the scheme.

**Meeting finished at 8.00 pm.**

Signed.....

Dated.....