

**RICHMOND TOWN COUNCIL MEETING of the RESOURCES COMMITTEE
Held 7.00 p.m. 13th September 2010 in the Mayor's Parlour, Richmond Town Hall**

PRESENT: Councillors: R. Lord (Chair)
J. Robinson
C. World
J. Steggles
O. Blease

In attendance: Town Clerk: Miles Templeton

1 Apologies:

Councillors McGarry and Heap.

2 Public Open Session:

Councillor Johnson was in attendance as a member of the public as he wished to make a statement about a matter which was to be discussed in private. There were no other members of the public present.

3 Declarations of Interest and Lobbying

As and when

4 Update from Chairman

The Chairman reported that the Vice-Chair would join him in an ad-hoc six-monthly reconciliation of the Town Council Accounts. This would be arranged with the Town Clerk.

5 Markets Update:

Councillor World gave a very detailed and comprehensive update on the Markets. He started by stating that the Market Hall refurbishment project was still being discussed and that Colin Grant (RSVCI) had been provided with costing information which showed that the Indoor Market was being run at a small profit. These costings were to be included within a forthcoming business case. The Town Clerk was instructed to write to RDC to ask if the Town Council could be kept informed about any plans to relocate the Tourist Information Centre (TIC) and to offer the Market Hall as a potential location for the TIC should it need to move.

Councillor World then gave details of a meeting that had been held between the Market Representatives and the National Market Traders Federation. This meeting had been a positive one and discussions had taken place about how best to promote the Indoor Market. These discussions were continuing.

He then informed the meeting that a matter had been dealt with concerning an incident between a trader and a member of the public.

The number of traders in the indoor market was holding up well. The outdoor market had a few spaces available and the Craft and Collector's Fair was

generally full although there had recently been a number of empty stalls due to holidays. The Antiques fair was full.

Proposed: Councillor World **Seconded:** Councillor Lord

RESOLVED: That the Indoor Market be closed on Monday, October 18th to allow for cleaning and the repainting of stall tops.

Proposed: Councillor World **Seconded:** Councillor Lord

RESOLVED: That the Christmas Market takes place on December 23rd and 24th and outdoor market stalls be allowed on the curtilage on 24th.

The Town Clerk was instructed to write to stall holders asking when they would like to be open during the week after Christmas.

The Town Clerk was instructed to write to traders offering them a free stall on the evening of the Christmas Lights Switch-on. Priority would be given to regular traders.

Proposed: Councillor World **Seconded:** Councillor Robinson

RESOLVED: That 2011 Craft and Collectors Fairs commence on April 3rd 2011 and that the Market Hall be offered to ROSA on 13th March 2011, to the Mayor's Charity on 20th March 2011 and to Bunny Burrows on 27th March 2011.

Proposed: Councillor World **Seconded:** Councillor Lord

RESOLVED: That discussions take place between the Town Clerk, Market Representatives and John Masson to investigate the feasibility of holding two Antiques fairs per month from April 2011.

The 2011 Beer Festival and Road Runners events will take place as normal in October 2011.

6 Town Clerk's update on progress of Resolutions from July meeting.

The Town Clerk stated that all of the actions which he took in the July meeting had been progressed to conclusion.

7 Charity Stalls on the Curtilage

Proposed: Councillor World **Seconded:** Councillor Robinson

RESOLVED: That charity stalls be given access to the Curtilage provided that a) the organisation do not already have premises available to them within the town, b) that it is understood that the Town Council do not provide tables and c) that no more than two such events be allowed per year for each charity.

The Town Clerk was asked to investigate the insurance implications that apply to charity stall holders on the curtilage. The Town Clerk informed members that RDC were in support of a request that had been made by “Welcome to Yorkshire” to locate an information panel on the curtilage in order to publicise Turner’s Yorkshire. He was asked to find out more about the request and then to convene with the Chair and Vice-Chair of Resources to take the matter forward. Members were generally in support of the curtilage being used for this purpose.

8 Rates for the use of the Market Hall and the Town Hall

Members were asked to give this matter some thought in advance of the October Resources meeting, at which a recommendation would be made on the new rates for consideration at the October meeting of the Full Council.

9 Market Hall Door Collections

Members discussed whether to continue with door collections at the Market Hall on Sundays. Many traders were against having them as they deter potential customers from entering the hall. Although some of the charities behave well, others do not follow instructions and can cause quite a commotion with over-exuberant tin-rattling etc. Members were asked to consider the matter so that a decision could be taken at the October Resources meeting about whether to continue with the collections at all.

10 Legionella Report

The Town Clerk updated members about the Legionella Report. An assessment had recently been carried out upon the buildings owned by the Town Council and this had proved to be satisfactory

Councillor Johnson was then invited to present his views on the proposed contract with a commercial radio station for publicising the markets. He stated that he was grateful to be given the opportunity to present and only wished to add to the knowledge base that would be drawn upon in deciding whether such a contract is to be placed. His main points were that:

- a) The news desk is a free resource and would be used to publicise Town Council events. This meant that the only other Council business which could be publicised related to the indoor and outdoor markets and that as these were profitable anyway he felt that public money should not be used to advertise them further.
- b) There would be no means of testing whether the proposed advertising was bringing extra custom into the markets, and therefore the success of the service could not be measured.
- c) He stated, in his view, the Town Council should not seek to advertise the markets but if they were to do so then an extra rate could be levied on the stalls to cover the cost of doing so
- d) He felt that the issue could be reconsidered again before March 2011 and, if a contract was placed, then the precept figures should include the full cost of the contract for 2011/12

Proposed: Councillor Lord

Seconded: Councillor Robinson

RESOLVED: That the Meeting move into Private Session

In Private

8 Contracts and Invoices

The Town Clerk provided the meeting with information relating to contracts and invoices that needed consideration.

8.1 Proposed: Councillor Lord

Seconded: Councillor Robinson

RESOLVED: That a recommendation to place a contract with a radio station to advertise the markets be taken to Full Council for approval.

8.2 Proposed: Councillor Lord

Seconded: Councillor Robinson

RESOLVED: That a quotation be accepted for the production of six galvanised steel boxes for the electricity points on the obelisk.

8.3 Proposed : Councillor Lord

Seconded: Councillor Robinson

RESOLVED: That the use of the Town Hall for civil ceremonies be advertised within “Getting Married in North Yorkshire”, a North Yorkshire County Council publication.

8.4 Proposed : Councillor Lord

Seconded: Councillor Robinson

RESOLVED: That a proposal to seek Employment Law consultancy support be taken to a Staffing Committee for consideration.

Proposed: Councillor Lord

Seconded: Councillor Robinson

RESOLVED: That the meeting move out of Private Session.

The meeting concluded at 8.20 pm.