WETHERBY TOWN COUNCIL
MARKETS COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES

Date: **Thursday 17th July 2025**
Time: **3:00pm**
Location: **Bramham Room, Wetherby Town Hall, Market Place, Wetherby, LS22 6NE**

Present: Councillor Bradley (Chair)
Councillor Buckle
Councillor Moss
Councillor Lavocah

In attendance: Town Clerk
Communications and Events Officer

MINUTES

1. **Apologies.**
Local Government Act 1972, s 85 (3)
It was **RESOLVED** that apologies be received, and reasons for absence accepted, from Councillor Riddell.

The Assistant Clerk also sent their apologies.

2. **Declarations of interests** - None.
Localism Act 2011, s 31
Members' Code of Conduct, para. 13-18, 19-20

3. **Public participation** – None.
Public bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, s 1 (3)

4. **Minutes.**
Local Government Act 1972, Sch 12, para. 41(1)
The minutes of the Markets Committee meeting held on *Thursday 12th June 2025*, as approved at Full Council on *Tuesday 8th July 2025*, was **RECEIVED.**

5. **Matters arising from the minutes** – None.

6. **Continental Market.**

6.1 Market Operation.
The committee discussed the responsibilities of the Market Operator and the Town Council during the operation of the April Continental Market, and what should be changed for the operation of the upcoming October market. The Communications and Events Officer reminded committee members that they were unable to commit the same amount of time to the promotion of the upcoming market as they had the previous market, due to work commitments, including the upcoming Bonfire Night event. However, they would share any online materials provided by the operator.

It was reiterated that committee members intend to engage with local businesses on at least 2 occasions, including hand delivering informational letters to businesses. The market operator will be responsible for producing their own letter to businesses, posters and banners. The Communications and Events Officer will liaise with the market operator on banner requirements.

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6.2 October international market fee.

The committee discussed the market fee for the Continental Market at great length, comparing with other market operators in Wetherby. The Communication the Events Officer reported that the continental market charges a minimal fee to the stalls holders, and the Continental Market is not a traditional food and drink market, nor as large scale as other similarly themed markets, therefore most other markets are not comparable. It was also anecdotally reported that overhead costs for the Continental Market substantially exceed the overhead costs for the operator's other market sites, especially when taking into account the fee is paid to LCC for licencing and fees to ensure compliance with road closure regulations.

Following an extensive discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to propose a fee of £750 to the market operator in the first instance and give delegated authority to the Communications and Events Officer to negotiate that fee to ensure the Continental Market will proceed.

The Communications and Events Officer advised that the fees may be too prohibitive for the market operator, resulting in the possible cancellation of the market and requested it be recorded that they advised against a fee of £750.

Due to time constraints, the committee moved to item 8, returning to item 6.2 after.

6.3 Community relations – None.

7. 2025 6 Weeks of Summer activities.

The committee **NOTED** that only the Fire and Police Services will be attending the market over the 6 weeks of summer event. However, a scavenger hunt has been arranged to take place across the full 6 weeks. The Communications and Events Officer has also been in communication with Community organisations, such as Martin House Hospice volunteers, Rotary Club, Wetherby Lions in Wetherby to arrange a children's activity stall each week.

8. Market curation proposal.

A proposal from the town's regular indoor market operator, requesting to curate the Sunday Dickensian Market and the market for Drovers Day, was received. The operator has proposed to operate the indoor market and expand to run the outdoor market. As the outdoor market is currently run by another operator, the committee **AGREED** for the Town Clerk and Communications and Events Officer to jointly liaise with the current outdoor operator and explore options for the possible relinquishing of the outdoor market's Dickensian market date.

A concern was also raised by the indoor market operator that both market operators would be running on the same weekend in December despite reportedly being informed previously that this would not occur. Town Clerk and Communications and Events Officer to investigate how this happened.

Finally, the committee acknowledged receipt of a letter from the outdoor market operator, requesting to move their monthly Sunday market to a Saturday. Town Clerk and Communications and Events Officer to investigate options and requirements to change date and report back at the following meeting.

9. Social media insights – None.

10. Items for information – None.

11. Date of next Markets Committee meeting.

The next meeting of the Markets Committee will take place on *Thursday 21th August 2025* at 3:00pm in Wetherby Town Hall.

The meeting closed at 4:05pm.
These minutes were recorded and prepared by Rowann Fitzpatrick, Assistant Clerk.