WETHERBY TOWN COUNCIL
MARKETS COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES

Date: **Thursday 21st August 2025**
Time: **3:05pm**
Location: **Bramham Room, Wetherby Town Hall, Market Place, Wetherby, LS22 6NE**

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

In attendance: Assistant Clerk
Communications and Events Officer

MINUTES

1. **Apologies** – None.
Local Government Act 1972, s 85 (3)

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)
It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Markets Committee meeting held on *Thursday 17th July 2025* be accepted.

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

6. **Continental Market.**

6.1 Market operation.
The Communications and Events Officer reported that the operator for the Continental Market had initially cancelled the October Continental market due to the expected overheads, including road closure, licencing, and advertising, being too prohibitive. However, they have since reestablished it after the Communications and Events Officer aided in reducing their road closure costings.

It was **NOTED** that the operator will be producing their own advertising materials. Letters addressed from Wetherby Town Council and the market operator have been produced and will be hand delivered to local businesses and groups by Councillors Buckle and Lavocah.

6.2 October continental market fee.
It was **NOTED** that following negotiation between the Communications and Events Officer and the operator, a market fee of £750 had been agreed. Thanks were expressed to the Communications and Events Officer for their work on the Continental Market.
Due to the delay as outlined in item 6.1, the Continental Market could not be included in the Wetherby Arts Festival brochure.

7. Wetherby market offering.

7.1 Market curation proposal.

A proposal was received from a market operator to deliver an indoor and outdoor market was rejected by the committee due to existing licencing agreements in place with the current monthly market operator.

Following a discussion, it was **AGREED** for Councillor Bradley to communicate with the proposer and Wetherby Lions to explain that due to prior licence and contractual agreements, the outside market will continue to be run by the monthly market operator. While they are welcome to continue operation of the indoor market, it should be clarified that from 2027 onwards, all event organisers should be aware that only 1 market may operate on each weekend with the exception of the Sunday of the Dickensian Fair when both an indoor and outdoor market is allowed as agreed by current market operators.

7.2 Monthly Artisan Market.

The committee **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** a proposal from the monthly Artisan market operator requesting to move the monthly Sunday market to a monthly Saturday market. It was **NOTED** that the approximate cost to the operator to request a transfer the Sunday Market licence to Saturday is approximately £7,500 and may not be approved by Leeds Licencing department. The market operator has since withdrawn their request.

8. Market boards.

Following purchase of new market stall board to replace damaged boards, it was noted that the remaining original boards are now in need of replacement.

Following a discussion, it was **AGREED** to get an up-to-date quotation for another 10 boards to match the newly installed market stall boards.

9. Social media insights.

The committee **RECEIVED** Facebook insights for the WTC Markets page. It was **NOTED** that between the *1st to 31st July*, there had been 75k views on the page. The top post, which promoted the fire service on the market, received 6,894 views alone and generated a reach of 2,971.

The committee were reminded that the *21st August* is the final week for the 6 Weeks of Summer event. The activities and the approximate number of participants for each week were discussed:

- Week 1: Angel trail, Martin House joke book. 60 participants in activities throughout the day.
- Week 2: Angel trail, giant Jenga, special visit by the Rotary Club of Wetherby Wharfedale and Wetherby Fire Services. 40 participants in activities throughout the day.
- Week 3: Angel trail, flower arranging activity, and a history of Coach Houses tour organised by Wetherby Civic Society. 25 participants in activities throughout the day.
- Week 4: Angel trail, biscuit decorating, and special visit by the police service. 50 participants in activities throughout the day.
- Week 5: Angel trail, egg decorating activity, and Stitch character costume performer. The special visit by the Police Services was cancelled. 40 participants in activities throughout the day.
- Week 6: Angel trail, face painting stall, food tasting, giant Jenga, and hula hooping activity. 60 participants in activities throughout the day.

10. Items for information.

10.1 Market feedback.

The committee **RECEIVED** correspondence from 2 traders thanking staff for their help on the market.

The committee expressed thanks to the teams and members who make Wetherby's market offering possible.

11. <u>Date of next Markets Committee meeting.</u>

The next meeting of the Markets Committee will take place on *Thursday 18th September 2025* at 3:00pm in Wetherby Town Hall.

The meeting closed at 3:56pm.
These minutes were recorded and prepared by Rowann Fitzpatrick, Assistant Clerk.