



# WETHERBY TOWN COUNCIL MARKETS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024  
**Time:** 3:00pm  
**Location:** Micklethwaite Room, Wetherby Town Hall, Market Place, Wetherby, LS22 6NE

**Present:** Councillor Billie Ager-Mills (*from 3.21pm*)  
Councillor Paul Bradley (Chair)  
Councillor Dean Buckle  
Councillor Galan Moss  
Councillor Alex Riddell (*from 3.02pm*).

**In attendance:** Iona Taylor, Town Clerk  
Helena Briden, Communications & Events Officer

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## MINUTES

1. **Apologies.**  
Apologies were **RECEIVED** from the Assistant Clerk and Councillor Riddell.
2. **Declarations of interest and request for dispensations** – none.
3. **Questions or comments from members of the public** – none.
4. **Minutes of the last meeting.**  
It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the last meeting of the Markets Committee, held on *Thursday 15th February 2024*, be approved as a true record.
5. **Matters arising from the minutes.**
  - 5.1 **Communication with traders.**  
It was **NOTED** that, to date, there have been no submissions through the 'comments box' which is available to traders each week. It was also **NOTED** that those traders who have given permission for their e-mail addresses to be used in this way have been sent the agenda for this meeting.
  - 5.2 **Parking on market days.**  
There was no new information reported.
  - 5.3 **Wetherby Easter Market.**  
The Clerk **REPORTED** that an 'Easter egg hunt' will run around the market on *Thursday 4th* and *Thursday 11th April 2024* which are the two Thursdays of the Easter holidays in the Leeds area. Traders will be given a number to display on their stalls. Children who find each number and complete an activity sheet will be able to claim their free chocolate egg from the Town Hall.

6. **Survey.**

It was **NOTED** that the survey about markets in Wetherby is live.

Councillor Buckle reported that he has already visited 23 shops in the town centre and hopes to have feedback from 50 businesses by the end of March when the consultation period is scheduled to end.

Councillor Bradley reported that he has spoken to 17 of the regular traders, with generally positive feedback received. The recent adverse weather has been commented on multiple times as it has reduced customer footfall to the market.

The Communications & Events Officer reported that 119 responses have already been received to the public consultation with several themes already emerging.

It was **AGREED** that, once the consultation period concludes at the end of March, Councillor Riddell should be given the raw data to collate, interpret and report back to the committee on.

7. **Bee Crafty Markets.**

The committee considered this event which is routinely held in Wetherby Town Hall and until now it has been solely viewed as a Town Hall booking. After consideration it was **AGREED** that it should be treated as a part of Wetherby's market offering and viewed alongside other events such as the Little Bird Artisan market. This is in accordance with the overarching vision for markets in the council's strategy document.

With this in mind, it was further **AGREED** that marketing opportunities should be permitted on the council's property assets and that future bookings should not be taken on the same weekend as the artisan market so as to spread the market offering evenly across the month.

8. **NABMA Diagnostic Tool.**

There were no updates to report on this activity.

9. **NABMA membership.**

It was **NOTED** that, as it is included in the budget for the 2024/25 period, the council's membership of NABMA has been renewed at an early bird price of £384.

NABMA (<https://nabma.com/>) provides information and support services to market operators.

10. **Items for information.**

**10.1 Correspondence.**

NABMA's Guide for Markets was **RECEIVED** and **CONSIDERED**. It was noted that nationally recorded footfall at markets is down and that this trend is not unique to Wetherby.

**10.2 International Market.**

It was **NOTED** that a site meeting will take place with Market Place on *Tuesday 26th March 2024* at 11am.

11. **Next meeting.**

The date of the next meeting of the Markets Committee was confirmed as being on *Thursday 18th April 2024* at 3pm in Wetherby Town Hall.

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*The meeting closed at 3.51pm.*

*These minutes were recorded and prepared by Iona Taylor, Town Clerk.*