



# WETHERBY TOWN COUNCIL MARKETS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2024  
**Time:** 3:30pm  
**Location:** Micklethwaite Room, Wetherby Town Hall, Market Place, Wetherby, LS22 6NE

**Present:** Councillor Moss  
Councillor Riddell  
Councillor Lavocah

**In attendance:** Rowann Fitzpatrick, Assistant Clerk  
Councillor Payne (Mayor of Wetherby) (From 4:17pm)

---

## MINUTES

1. **Election of the Chair.**

*Local Government Act 1972, s 15 (2)*

In absence of the Chair, Councillor Moss acted as the Chair for the duration of the meeting.

2. **Apologies.**

*Local Government Act 1972, s 85 (3)*

Apologies were received, and reasons for absence accepted, from Councillor Bradley and Councillor Buckle.

3. **Declarations of interest and request for dispensations** – None.

*Localism Act 2011, s 31*

*Members' Code of Conduct, para. 13-18, 19-20*

4. **Questions or comments from members of the public** – None.

*Public bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, s 1 (3)*

5. **Minutes of the last meeting.**

*Local Government Act 1972, Sch 12, para. 41(1)*

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the last meeting of the Markets Committee, held on *Thursday 16th May 2024*, be accepted.

6. **Matters arising from the minutes.**

6.1 **NABMA Diagnostic Tool.**

It was **NOTED** that there were no new updates to be received.

6.2 **Electric Bus Launch.**

It was **NOTED** that an invitation to Transdev's new bus launch and family fun afternoon on *Tuesday 18th June 2024* was received. Councillor Knight attended the event on behalf of the Town Council.

## 7. Survey.

*Due to a representative of an external market supplier joining the meeting, item 7 was discussed after item 9. The committee returned to item 7 at 3:50pm, and again at 4:25pm.*

The committee received a draft report on the results of the markets survey. It was **NOTED** that the majority of survey participants (70%) were Wetherby based with a small amount (23%) living within 5 miles of Wetherby. 51% of survey participants were either satisfied or moderately satisfied with the current market, however 30% indicated a low satisfaction with the market.

The survey results highlighted the following:

- Availability of local produce was indicated as a strength of the current market. This was also reflected in the responses to question 8, where local produce and speciality items, alongside wider food variety, and crafts and haberdashery, were the most requested products and services by survey respondents.
- The most common request overall was for more stalls on the market. An additional 32% expressed interest in having more street food vendors available.
- 50% of respondents would like to see themed markets including seasonal, street food, craft and flea markets, in addition to regular Thursday markets.
- Music on the market was also identified as a feature that may help improve the ambiance of the market. However, 20% of respondents commented that the current market's atmosphere was their favourite aspect.
- The timing of the market was highlighted as a weakness, with many respondents requesting more markets on weekends or later in the day. Though it was noted that there are limitations on market timings due to the market charter.
- Similarly, bad weather was also identified as a weakness. 21% respondents expressed wanting some kind of cover for the market in the case of bad weather.

Thanks were expressed to Councillor Riddell for their work on the markets survey.

The committee briefly discussed the use of reduced market stall tolls in January/February and loyalty schemes to help increase the number and retention of market stalls. However, it was **AGREED** that further consideration was required. As such, committee members should reflect on the contents of the report and suggest potential improvements to the markets in time for the following meeting.

## 8. Wetherby market improvements.

It was **AGREED** to defer agenda item 8 to the following Markets Committee meeting on *Thursday 18th July 2024*.

## 9. International market.

*Due to a representative of an external market supplier joining the meeting, item 9 was partially discussed prior to item 7. The committee returned to item 9 at 4:03pm.*

The committee received site plans from an international market supplier and **AGREED** that site plans 1 and 2 were the most practical, with site plan 1 being ideal. It was **RESOLVED** to progress with this supplier subject to more detailed plans being agreed.

The committee met with a representative of a market supplier to discuss initial plans for a continental market. It was **AGREED** that, subject to further discussions, a market from May 2025 would be ideal. It was **NOTED** that while the supplier has a core set of traders, they aim to work with local businesses and invite them to the market. The supplier also supplies their own power and would be responsible for road closures, licences, and insurances.

*\*Councillor Payne joined the meeting at 4:17pm.\**

Following a discussion, it was **AGREED** to arrange a site visit with the supplier to better establish space requirements.

**10. Items for information.**

**11. Next meeting.**

The next meeting of the Markets Committee will take place on *Thursday 18th July 2024* at 3:00pm in Wetherby Town Hall.

---

*The meeting closed at 4.31pm.*

*These minutes were recorded and prepared by Rowann Fitzpatrick, Assistant Clerk.*