

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
COLNE MARKET FORUM
HELD AT COLNE MARKET HALL
ON 2ND NOVEMBER, 2022**

PRESENT

Councillor A. Sutcliffe – Chairman (In the Chair)

Members:-

*Councillor S. Cockburn-Price
Steven J. Reed
Aneesa McGladdery
Craig M. Holden
Kathryn Pana
Pauline Hirons
Carol Barker
Amanda Preston
Samantha Martindale
Joanne Stephens*

*Pendle Borough Council (PBC)
Markets' Manager (Liberata)
Colne BID
Market Trader
Market Trader
Market Trader
Market Trader
Market Trader
Market Trader
Market Trader*

In attendance:-

*Charlotte Preston
Marion McKiernan
John Barker
Carly Wilson
Mike Poulter
Lynne Rowland*

*PBC
PBC*



7. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Members were reminded of the requirements of the Member Code of Conduct concerning the declaration of interests.

8. MINUTES

AGREED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 20th July, 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

9. MAKERS AND BAKERS MARKETS

The Chairman began by seeking feedback on the recent Halloween event and the Food Festival. Comments relating to the Halloween event included that it was slow in the morning, but busy in the afternoon; traders had had a good day, although some had not done as much trade; and there had been increased footfall but not necessarily improved sales.

It was felt that the Food Festival had had a positive impact, with some having a better trading day than others. The food stalls had done particularly well.

Traders mentioned that one drawback had been the lack of advertising around the town and confusion over parking. It was reported that, in recognition of the fact that many people were unaware of all the car parks in the town, Colne BID was going to produce a map to show all the restricted and non-restricted car parks in the area. During discussion it was commented that the road leading to the Parliament Street car park at the side of the market, believed to be one-way, was missing a No Entry sign at the lower end where it met Craddock Road. Clarification was sought on whether the road was one or two-way.

The meeting continued with a discussion on the Makers and Bakers Markets, when it was suggested that, rather than Makers and Bakers and artisan markets, a flea market or vintage market (e.g. vinyl records) would be more successful. These could be varied each time. Revival of the Comic Con was also suggested.

Of the past six events planned only four had taken place as two of the events had not had enough traders. This highlighted the need to try something different.

It was agreed that a calendar of events for next year should be prepared. Events currently planned/being considered included a Light Festival. Funding was being sought for this and it was proposed that it be kick-started with a food market. A mini food and drink event leading up to the main one was also suggested.

A request was made for proper consideration to be given to the timings of the events, bearing in mind that the indoor market traders began work early each day. It was also suggested that, during events, stalls be included inside the market hall, with a daily rent being charged for the empty units. It was agreed that this could be looked at nearer the time on receipt of advice.

10. CHRISTMAS 2022

An update was provided on plans for Christmas 2022. This included a Santa's Grotto on the four Saturdays in the lead up to Christmas (26th November to 17th December) with all money raised to be donated to Curry on the Street. 400 selection boxes, funded by the Traders Fund, had been purchased, but it was felt that more may be required. It was suggested that local supermarkets be approached for a donation.

The glass box was due to be decorated on 22nd November and a request was made for volunteers. Information was also provided on the food collection that was taking place in the market hall for the Salvation Army to prepare food parcels, and a tombola to raise funds for a defibrillator.

Further events included a steel drum band on Saturday 10th December and potentially a choir for the following Saturday.

A discussion was held regarding the Traders Fund, to which nothing had been added in a long time. It was noted that the signatories for the Fund were no longer traders on the market. It was suggested that a mini ballot be held on how best to take the Fund forward.

Following reports of anti-social behaviour and vandalism the Forum was informed of new QR code cards, created by the new policing team, to be used to report crimes. Information was also provided on Colne Youth Action Group (CYAG).

11.

GENERAL MARKET BUSINESS

Mike Poulter of Pendle Council provided a brief update on progress with the redevelopment proposals for the Market Hall/Bus Station site.

It was explained that, due to the current energy crisis, building/material costs, and inflation, it was proving difficult to deliver the project for which funding had been awarded. Therefore a balance had to be found between aspiration and affordability so as not to risk losing the funding. The Forum was reassured that a scheme would be delivered and that engagement would continue.

A number of specific issues were raised with regard to the behaviour of individual traders. The Markets' Manager advised that many of these were being addressed and asked that any concerns be reported to him.

A further issue raised was the smell of burning fat and a haze that appeared over the market floor. It was agreed that this would be investigated.

12.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

AGREED

That the next meeting of the Forum be held in January 2023.

CHAIRMAN _____