

	Meeting (No)	Market & Town Hall Committee (5)	
	Date	28th April 2026	
	Document		
		Market & Town Hall Manager's Report	MTH5/64

Neston Market

Market attendance has continued to be sporadic, mainly due to the bad weather. However, we have had a few new traders join us recently with a few more planned for the coming weeks.

The Easter Market was well attended despite the bad weather. The market was delivered over budget, by £2.89, due to an activity charge being increased from 1.4.26.

Town Hall Hire

Town Hall hire continues to be good and we have had several additional bookings for private parties.

Stage Project & Fireproofing

The stage project and Fireproofing requirements are all in hand with bookings made for the following dates:

Fireproofing	–	28 th April
Stage curtains #1	–	11 th May
Stage Lighting	–	12 th May
Stage curtains #2	–	19 th May

It should be noted that after further consultation with theatre groups it was decided to retain, but higher, the existing stage strip light at an additional cost of £80.

While the scaffolding is on site, and so that we don't incur a cost for additional scaffolding provision, I have requested that some of the coloured spot lights on the stage are replaced as they have blown.

I have also requested the replacement of some strip lights and spot lights in the main hall; this work will be from the Responsive Maintenance budget 4417.

Our caretaker has begun to sand the stage in preparation for polishing prior to the commencement of the stage works.

Town Hall & Market Square maintenance issues

We are still awaiting an update from Equans/CWaC regarding the outstanding maintenance issues.

Town Hall Roof Works

One the remaining 2 skylights is being be fitted W/C 20.4.26. The contractors are still waiting for confirmation of a fitting date for the high-level skylight above the main staircase, which will involve internal scaffolding above the first-floor staircase. Once

both skylights are fitted the last of the scaffolding will be removed. I will keep the committee updated.

The external fire door to the police office has been damaged due to the scaffolding and the contractors are arranging the replacement of this for us.

Employee Development Reviews

My EDR was carried out by the Chief Officer on 10th March and I carried out the EDR for our Caretaker & Market Officer on 26th March, following guidance from the Chief Officer.

Free room hire (Minute 10b M&TH 27.6.23)

No free room hire has been provided since the last scheduled meeting.

Reduced Pitch Fees (Minute 10a M&TH 27.6.23)

A 25% discount applied for the few traders who attended the market on 13.2.26, with approval from the chair, due to the exceptionally cold weather and heavy rain.

The maximum agreed figure of £200 per quarter for free or reduced pitch fees, to community or charitable organisations where there is community benefit, has not been exceeded.

Equals card expenditure

The total expenditure for the Equals card from 1.2.26 to 31.3.26 was £110.24.

Exceptions – There are no exceptions to report.

Delegated Authority – MTH4/54a 10.2.26 After consultation with officers and Cllrs it was agreed that the gold-coloured stage curtain fabric would be ordered.

Donations (Minute 24b M&TH 23.9.25)

Delegated authority has been given to the Market & Town Hall Manager to make up to 3 donations of £50 per year, should the need arise. Only 1 donation has been made so far in the 2025/26 council year.

Nicky McMahon

Market & Town Hall Manager