Meeting (No)	**Market & Town Hall Committee (4)**
Time & Date	**6pm, Tuesday 17 November 2026**
Place	**Neston Town Hall**
Document	**Minutes**

Present: Cllrs S Adderley, S Jones, P Kynaston, B Marple & N Ruscoe. In attendance: N McMahon (Market & Town Hall Manager).	
PART 1: Items to be considered in the presence of the press and public	
31	**Public Participation (maximum of three minutes per person)**
	No members of the public were present.
32	**Apologies for Absence**
	Apologies were received from Cllr Warner (business). **RESOLVED** to accept apologies from Cllr Warner. The absence of Cllr Jardine was noted
33	**Declarations of Interest**
	No declarations of interest were received.
34	**Minutes of the Last Meeting**
	RESOLVED To accept and sign the minutes from the Market & Town Hall Committee meeting held on 22.9.26. The Chair signed the minutes.
35	**Finance**
a	**RESOLVED** to receive the report detailing the revenue from Town Hall room hire, Market Square hire and market rent to 31.10.26 Cllrs stated that they had received positive comments regarding the new fruit & veg trader.
b	**RESOLVED** to receive the report detailing the market 'Square payment terminal' fees from 1.9.26 to 31.10.26.
c	**RESOLVED** to receive the report detailing a breakdown of HRGO costs from 1.9.26 to 31.10.26.
36	**Market & Town Hall Manager's Report**
	Cllrs asked for clarification from the Market & Town Hall Manger regarding the Repair Café booking, which starts in January and will be held in the reception area of the Town Hall. Plus, the Real Deal Markets incentive, which is a voluntary Charter, signed by a market operator and their local trading standards service – demonstrating a commitment to work together to prevent counterfeits and other illicit goods being sold at the market. Cllr Kynaston suggested that market traders should be given extra 'holidays' to use in bad weather situations. The Market & Town Hall Manager and The Chair explained that this had been discussed, in depth, when the 'Neston Market Policy Traders' Licence Terms & Conditions' document was reviewed, and that a system for those trading in bad weather is already in place. **RESOLVED** to receive the Market & Town Hall Manager's report.

37	**Display Cabinets**
a	**RESOVLED** to receive the report regarding the display cabinets. The Chair requested that this item should be deferred until the future plans for the building were agreed. However, Cllrs stated that they wished to progress this item as soon as possible. The Market & Town Hall Manager advised the committee that there are insufficient funds remaining in the current 2026/2027 budget to purchase cabinets. Cllrs suggested purchasing second hand cabinets at a lower cost and agreed that they would try to source these and advise the Market & Town Hall Manager of any suitable items. If a suitable second-hand cabinet could not be found the committee agreed to defer the purchase of any new cabinets until the new financial year 2027/2028.
b	**RESOLVED** to request, via F&A committee, in the new financial year 2027/2028 that an amount is drawn down from the Special Projects fund to cover the cost of the display cabinets, if a suitable second-hand alternative cannot be found. An initial figure of £600 was suggested, however a final figure will be agreed in the new financial year.
38	**Draft Budget**
a	**RESOLVED** to approve the projected budget for the remainder of the current financial year 2026/27 for the Market & Town Hall Committee.
b	The committee considered the Market & Town Hall committee's draft budget forecast for 2027/28. The committee queried the amount for budget 4417 Responsive Maintenance, noting the number of additional unexpected items that have arisen during the current year with an aging building. The Market & Town Hall Manager explained that she had already agreed to discuss this figure further with the Finance Manager and Committee Chair in early January 2027, before the final budget is agreed. The Committee made the following additional budget recommendations: • £500 requested to further enhance the updated speaker system in the hall. This would be used to purchase 2 higher spec, Bluetooth speakers capable of being used by theatre groups for sound during on stage productions. • The Market & Town Hall Manager was requested to obtain quotes for the replacement of all remaining Main Hall ceiling lights with LEDs. Once a figure is known a decision can be made whether to request that an amount is included for this in the 2027/2028 budget or if a request is made to drawn down funds from the special project fund. • The committee indicated that they have aspirations to have the first-floor windows at the front of the building renovated, and the large windows in the Main Hall replaced. However, this would need to be considered at some point in the future.
c	**RESOLVED** to call an extraordinary M&TH Committee meeting in early December, if necessary, to discuss figures, once obtained, under item 38b. **RESOVLED** to recommend that the draft budget request is sent to Council, via the December F&A committee, if no additional meeting is required.
39	**300th Anniversary Market**

	RESOLVED to receive a verbal update from the Market & Town Hall Manager. The Market & Town Hall Manager thanked the members of the 'Neston Market 300th Anniversary Task & Finish Group' for all of their input. As the group have now met their targets: a plan for the day, with the emphasis on the Friday Market, will be pulled together with the approval of the Committee Chair and the Chief Officer.
40	**Extra Market**
a	The Committee noted that a smaller extra market will be held on Tuesday 22nd December 2026 and that a sufficient number of traders had now indicated that they would attend.
b	The Committee noted that there will be no market on Friday 25th December 2026 or Friday 1st January 2027.
41	**Date of next meeting**
	The Committee noted that the next scheduled meeting will held be on 9th February 2027 at 6.00pm.