

DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, GROVE HOUSE, HIGH STREET NORTH, DUNSTABLE

ON MONDAY 22 JANUARY 2018

Present: Councillors Gloria Martin (Town Mayor), Sid Abbott, John Chatterley, Eugene Ghent, Peter Hollick, Liz Jones, Claire Meakins, Patricia Russell, Ann Sparrow, Pat Staples and Nigel Warren

In Attendance: David Ashlee (Town Clerk and Chief Executive), Rosemary O'Sullivan (Head of Finance and Support Services)

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Lisa Bird, Terry Colbourne, John Kane (Deputy Town Mayor), Jeannette Freeman and Anne Kennedy

Public Attendance: 0

24 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor	Interest	Agenda Item
Councillor P Hollick	Personal interest – member of CBC General Purposes Committee	3
Councillor N Warren	Personal interest – member of CBC General Purposes Committee	3

25 CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

The Town Clerk and Chief Executive presented information regarding Central Bedfordshire Council's Community Governance Review consultation.

Local authorities were required by Central Government to undertake a review of local governance arrangements every 10-15 years. Since Central Bedfordshire Council had been formed this would be its first Governance review. The review needed to be completed by November 2018, before the next Town and Parish Council elections.

The review was a two stage exercise. The first stage involved consulting directly with town and parish council's and the second stage involved consulting with the public once town and parish responses had been considered by CBC's General Purposes Committee.

The review gave the opportunity to suggest changes which the Council felt could better represent its community. These included councillor numbers, Dunstable parish boundary and a potential merger with other parish councils. Members had made the Town Clerk and Chief Executive aware of their suggestions for change and these were detailed in the report.

The Council considered that a reduction to 18 elected representatives would still provide sufficient governance arrangements for effective decision making. They also felt that

the proposed extensions to the parish boundary provided more sensible boundaries for existing local communities and reasonable extensions to the town of Dunstable in case of any future housing extensions.

The Town Clerk and Chief Executive had been specifically asked to include in his report information for consideration regarding a potential merger with Houghton Regis Town Council. However the Council agreed this was not something it wished to pursue but where opportunities arose would continue to work in collaboration.

- RESOLVED:**
- i) that Central Bedfordshire Council be requested to consider that the number of councillors elected to Dunstable Town Council be reduced from 21 to 18 as of the election planned for 2019

 - ii) that Central Bedfordshire Council be requested to consider extending the Dunstable parish boundary as illustrated by the maps given at appendix 3 of the covering report (the maps show proposed parish boundary extensions to the north and south of Dunstable).