

## **DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

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

**ON MONDAY 2 OCTOBER 2017**

Present: Councillors Gloria Martin (Town Mayor), John Kane (Deputy Town Mayor), Sid Abbott, Lisa Bird, John Chatterley, Terry Colbourne, Steve Elliott, Jeannette Freeman, Eugene Ghent, Peter Hollick, Liz Jones, Anne Kennedy, Claire Meakins, Ann Sparrow, Pat Staples, Nigel Warren and Andy Whayman

In Attendance: David Ashlee (Town Clerk and Chief Executive), Rosemary O'Sullivan (Head of Finance and Support Services), John Crawley (Head of Grounds and Environmental Services), Becky Wisbey, Head of Community Services and Michele Markus (Mayoral and Democratic Services Officer)

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Jessica Castle, Patricia Russell and Emma Simmons

Public Attendance: 0

#### **174 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 15 May 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor.

#### **175 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Interest</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>
Councillor Staples	Pecuniary interest – Dunstable Market	7
Councillor Bird	Pecuniary interest – Dunstable Market	7

#### **176 TOWN MAYOR'S REMARKS**

##### **a) Mayoral Engagements**

The Town Mayor referred to the report detailing her attendances at events since the last meeting of the Council up to 17 September 2017.

She highlighted the range of summer activities organised by the Council, particularly the second of Priory Pictures and the Last Night of the Proms, both of which she considered well organised, as were all the events this summer. She had also found the ceremony to install the new Team Vicar held at St Augustine Church most moving and had been pleased to be present to welcome Reverend Ricky Turner on behalf of the town.

The Town Mayor had attended a further 7 events since the report had been written and had been pleased to attend the Dunstable in Bloom Awards Evening and present awards to the successful entrants.

She also thanked those who had supported her recent Charity Race Night and announced that a Charity Golf Day would be held on 19 October, organised by the Town Clerk and Chief Executive, and would appreciate members' support. .

**b) Conclusion of Audit of Accounts 2016/17**

The Town Mayor reported on the Conclusion of Audit for Dunstable Town Council, which had been received that day and therefore not in time to be included in the Agenda pages.

The Council received the audited Annual Return for the 2016/17 accounts and accepted the External Auditor's Certificate and Opinion which stated that "on the basis of our review, in our opinion the information in the annual return is in accordance with proper practices and no matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met". The Town Mayor was pleased to advise that there were no matters which required the issuing of a separate additional issues arising report.

It was noted that it would not be possible to comply with the requirement to publish the certified return before the stipulated 30 September, as it had not been received until 2 October. The Notice of Conclusion of Audit, together with the certified Annual Return would be published from 3 October 2017.

**177 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no questions put to the meeting.

**178 QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 16**

There were no questions put to the meeting.

**179 COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**a) Priory House (Minute 148/2017)**

In answer to a question from Councillor Hollick, Councillor Staples advised that the family of the late Vivienne Evans were happy with the proposal to name part of the Lounge area 'Vivienne's Corner' as a tribute to her memory.

**b) South Bedfordshire Dial-A-ride (Minute 152/2017)**

Councillor Hollick gave an update on operations at South Beds Dial-a-Ride. The organisation were currently looking to work in the Leighton Buzzard area.

**c) Minutes**

**RESOLVED:** that, subject to the foregoing, the Minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 4 September 2017 be received.

**180 GROUND AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**a) Dunstable Town Football Club (Minute 155/2017)**

Councillor Hollick had been encouraged by the presentation given by the Vice-Chairman of Dunstable Football Club and the Town Clerk and Chief Executive would ascertain how Members could apply for membership of the Club.

In answer to a question from Councillor Colbourne, the Chairman, Councillor Jones, advised that there had been no impact on Creasey Park Community Football Centre as a result of the changes at the Football Club.

**b) MTRF, New Entrance Feature for Priory Gardens (Minute 159c/2017)**

In answer to a question from Councillor Colbourne, the Chairman advised that the proposed design for the entrance feature had been supported by the CBC Conservation Officers.

**c) Town Ranger Service (Minute 160c/2017)**

Councillor was pleased to note that the Town Ranger had managed to secure funding from Central Bedfordshire Council for regular cleaning of a number of the town's bus shelters.

In answer to a question from Councillor Sparrow, the Chairman advised that the Council had a contract to undertaken maintenance work at Eleanors Cross.

**d) Minutes**

**RESOLVED:** that, subject to the foregoing, the Minutes of the meeting of the Grounds and Environmental Services Committee held on 11 September 2017 be received.

**181 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

**a) Land at White Lion Busway Stop (Minute 169/2017)**

In answer to a question from Councillor Abbott, Councillor Kane responded that he had not yet been able to contact the Deputy Leader of Luton Borough Council regarding maintenance of this land. He would report back once any progress was made.

Councillor Abbott expressed his opposition to the proposal and Councillor Sparrow raised her concerns at the inclusion of an area for the provision of a catering concession which she thought could lead to a littering issue.

**b) Dunstable Truck Convoy (Minute 171/2017)**

Clarification was given that any financial contribution for the 2018 Truck Convoy would be paid directly to the Police. No contact had yet been made with the Police to ascertain the cost and what the contribution of up to £750 would cover. The Chairman advised that as soon as information was available it would be relayed to Members.

**c) MTRF, Quadrant Shopping Centre (Minute 172b/2017)**

In answer to a question from Councillor Hollick, the Town Clerk and Chief Executive advised that he had received a brief response from Edinburgh House indicating that they were still interested in proceeding with this project. If a costed project was not received within the MTRF timescale, CBC would withdraw funding.

**d) MTRF, New Town Centre Signage and Street Furniture (Minute 172c/2017)**

Councillor Sparrow asked for sight of the designs for agreed signage but the Town Clerk and Chief Executive advised that the currently agreed scheme was primarily for welcome and directional signage at the White Lion Busway stop and not within the town centre.

**e) CAB Management Committee (Minute 173a/2017)**

Councillor Meakins reported that the CAB Management Committee had held their AGM on 21 September and recorded their thanks to the Town Council for the generosity in allowing use of the Council Chamber at Grove House.

**f) Minutes**

**RESOLVED:** that, subject to the foregoing, the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 18 September 2017 be received.

**182 DUNSTABLE JOINT COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED:** that the Minutes of the meetings of the Dunstable Joint Committee held on 22 June and 21 September 2017 be received.