

DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

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

ON MONDAY 27 MARCH 2017

Present: Councillors Gloria Martin (Deputy Town Mayor), John Kane (Chairman), Andy Whayman (Vice-Chairman), Sid Abbott, John Chatterley, Terry Colbourne, Eugene Ghent, Liz Jones, Des Moffatt, Patricia Russell, Ann Sparrow, Pat Staples, William Tookey and Nigel Warren

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

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Peter Hollick (Town Mayor) and Claire Meakins-Jell,

Public Attendance: None

70 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 23 January 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

71 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor	Interest	Agenda Item
Councillor Staples	Pecuniary interest – Dunstable Market	As may arise

72 TOWN MAYOR AND DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR

The Committee considered nominations for Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor for the municipal year 2017/18.

RECOMMENDED: that Councillors Gloria Martin and John Kane be nominated for election as Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor respectively at the Annual Council Meeting to be held on 15 May 2017.

73 ACCOUNTS SUB-COMMITTEE

The Committee received the Minutes of the meetings of the Accounts Sub-Committee held on 18 January and 22 February 2017.

74 FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT

Members noted the report of the Head of Finance and Support Services which gave a summary of variations against budget to date which had previously been reported. Members noted the net expenditure at 28 February per service area, together with an indication of the anticipated outturn against budget which projected a net revenue saving at the end of the financial year.

Members also noted the current balance of the Council's allocated reserves as at 28 February 2017.

Funding claims for expenditure on MTRF projects were payable quarterly in arrears and the first such claim had not been settled at the time of the meeting.

75 COMMUNITY AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES (Minute 60/2017)

The Committee considered a recommendation from Community Services Committee that the existing Community Services Assistant post be re-designated to that of Neighbourhood Development Officer, along with the associated evaluation of the new job description.

RESOLVED: that the recommendation be adopted.

76 TREE RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME AND SURVEY (Minute 67/2017)

The Committee considered a recommendation from the Grounds and Environmental Services Committee that funds be released from the existing allocated reserve funds to undertake a 5 year programme of tree inspections and management, in line with the detailed programme submitted.

RESOLVED: that the recommendation be adopted and the Head of Grounds and Environmental Services, in consultation with the Chairman of Grounds and Environmental Services, be authorised to incur additional expenditure from the allocated reserve should the extent and costs of the necessary works in any given year exceed the current estimates.

Action: Head of Grounds and Environmental Services

77 MARKET TOWN REGENERATION FUND PROJECTS

The Town Clerk and Chief Executive presented an update report on Market Town Regeneration Fund projects that related to this Committee.

a) Architectural Lighting Scheme

The first phase of this project had now been completed and lighting has been installed on Grove House, Priory House and the Dunstable Conference Centre. It was confirmed that there was an agreement in place with Dunstable Conference Centre for maintenance of the lights owned by them.

Phase two of the project would be commissioned shortly. Phase 2 includes completing lighting to Grove House, including up lighting the main entrance to Grove House Gardens (for which planning permission should be achieved shortly) and completing the lighting scheme at Priory House. This aspect cannot be completed until the new overthrow for Priory Gardens was implemented which requires Historic England consent.

b) Quadrant Shopping Centre

The owners of the Quadrant Centre, Edinburgh House had confirmed that they would not be participating in the scheme to refurbish and re-open the public toilets. Members again expressed their disappointment and still wished to see public toilet facilities

provided, possibly by the Town Council, but at this time there was no identifiable Town Council owned land which could accommodate this.

c) New Town Centre Signage and Street Furniture

The bulk of this project would be carried out in conjunction with the de-trunking of the A5.

d) High Street Improvement Scheme

Officers were still working on this scheme with colleagues from CBC and twelve retail units were currently progressing to stage two of the application process. This is the most retail units actively engaged in the scheme than anywhere else in the Central Bedfordshire area.

e) Financial Implications

Now that it appeared that Edinburgh House were no longer participating in the MTRF scheme, a revised funding profile had been submitted to CBC, evidencing that the Town Council were still able to show 100% matched funding for the projects being supported.

78 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

- a) CAB Management Committee – no report.
- b) DITA –the AGM would be held on 21 March 2017.
- c) Hospice at Home – Councillor Jones advised that the organisation had held successful charity events and further fundraising events were planned.
- d) Ashton Schools Foundation – Councillor Sparrow reported that the sale of Ashton School site should be completed by the end of April and funds would then be available for new classrooms at Ashton St Peter.
- e) Ashton Almshouses – no report.
- f) Chews Foundation – Councillor Chatterley advised that the next meeting would be held in June.
- g) Poores Land Charity – Councillor Staples advised that the Maundy money would be distributed on 13 April.

Councillor Sparrow advised that the Dunstable Town Band would like to attend and play at the Car Rally and the Priory House Manager was looking into this possibility.

79 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: that, in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting.

80 CONCESSION TENDERS AND S106 FUNDING

The Town Clerk and Chief Executive reported on the four separate licenses for the Ice Cream concession, Bar concession, Food concession and Fun Fair concession. It was anticipated that the income target set for 2017/18 would be exceeded.

Members also noted the allocation of S106 monies from Central Bedfordshire Council to the Town Council, secured from the new Frenchs Avenue development for leisure provision.