

**DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GROUNDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES  
COMMITTEE**

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

**ON MONDAY 12 MARCH 2018**

Present: Councillors Gloria Martin (Town Mayor), Liz Jones (Chairman), Lisa Bird, Philip Crawley, Jeannette Freeman, Peter Hollick, Mike Mullany, Ann Sparrow, Johnson Tamara and Nigel Warren

In Attendance: David Ashlee (Town Clerk and Chief Executive), John Crawley (Head of Grounds and Environmental Services), Mary Dobbs (Cemetery Manager), Kelley Hallam (Office Administrator), James Slack (Sports and Leisure Facilities Manager) and Ian Swinnerton (Grounds Operations Manager)

Apologies: Councillors John Kane (Deputy Town Mayor) and Sid Abbott (Vice-Chairman)

Public: None

**59 BY ELECTION**

The Chairman welcomed the newly elected members for Manshead and Watling Wards, Councillors Philip Crawley and Mike Mullany, following the By Election held on 8 February 2018. Councillors Crawley and Mullany had made the Statutory Declaration of Acceptance of Office prior to the meeting.

**60 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of Grounds and Environmental Services Committee held on 15 January 2018 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**61 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no specific declarations of interest.

**62 PLANS-SUB COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meetings of Plans Sub-Committee held on 23 January and 13 February 2018 be received.

**63 CREASEY PARK COMMUNITY FOOTBALL CENTRE**

The Sports and Leisure Facilities Manager presented a detailed report on recent operations at the Centre including pitch and function hire and marketing.

Creasey Park in partnership with Beds FA and Dunstable Town FC had hosted a regional heat of the FA Peoples Cup for disability players. Nine teams had attended including a team from the local Weatherfield School.

The Committee were informed that the current profiled income and expenditure budget was showing a deficit of £28,661. Explanations were given for the shortfall including the replacement of half of all floodlight lamps and a loss of ATP hire income due to bad weather cancellations and new local competition from other facilities, amongst other reasons. It was hoped that the deficit would reduce in the last two months of trading. Members acknowledged that much of the unexpected expenditure was unavoidable.

Dunstable BMX Club was now established and were currently running taster sessions on Sundays. They had applied to CBC for Community Facilities Funding to pay for a start gate, which meant they could then start hosting events. Members were pleased that after 6 years of trying a club had finally been established.

#### **64 DUNSTABLE WAR MEMORIAL**

The Head of Grounds and Environmental Services presented an update report on the progress of the refurbishment of the Dunstable War Memorial.

Friends of Priory House and Gardens, with support from DTC officers, had put together a very comprehensive on-line crowd-funding page which was launched on 3 March. It would be open for one month and to date £1,455 had been raised as well as some cash donations.

The Dunstable and District Local History Society were working hard to finalise the list of missing names from the existing roll-call plaques. It was anticipated that the initial 28 names that were thought to be missing may double once further research was completed.

Early indications from Historic England suggest that they will fully support the project and give formal consent. CBC had confirmed that no planning consent was required.

#### **65 RECREATION GROUNDS, TOWN CENTRE GARDENS, CEMETERY AND ALLOTMENTS**

The Grounds Operations Manager and Cemetery Manager presented a detailed information report covering all areas of the Council's grounds maintenance responsibilities.

##### **a) Recreation Grounds**

Maverick Industries were due to visit Grove Skate Park to inspect a number of cracks that had appeared across the concrete surface.

Football fixtures and maintenance of the grass pitches was postponed from the week commencing 26 February due to frozen ground conditions. Fixtures would be re-arranged to play mid-week.

##### **b) Town Centre Area**

Maintenance of the formal lawn areas was to commence in March. This included treatments for moss control and an application of herbicide to make sure the lawn was ready for the start of the croquet season.

**c) Town Ranger Service**

The renovation of the Grove House outbuildings had been completed and the Rangers had moved their equipment in. This would especially benefit the Town Centre Ranger to have all his equipment based in a central location.

The Chairman commented on what a good job the Town Ranger Services had done during the period of snow in helping clear paths.

**d) Dunstable Cemetery**

Members received the burial figures for February to March 2018 to date along with the profiled income and expenditure figures as at the end of January 2018.

A group of children from Ashton St Peters had visited the cemetery to complete a study of WW1 graves.

Members congratulated officers on retaining the Silver status for the Charter for the Bereaved.

**e) Allotments**

There were currently 38 people on the waiting list, which was comparable to figures reported to the Committee in January 2018. Members received the detail of the waiting list.

**66 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS**

**CBC Development Management Committee:**

Councillor Jones had nothing to report.