

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 13 NOVEMBER 2017

Present: Councillors Gloria Martin (Town Mayor), Liz Jones (Chairman), Sid Abbott (Vice-Chairman), Lisa Bird, Jeannette Freeman, Peter Hollick, Ann Sparrow 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) and Ian Swinnerton (Grounds Operations Manager)

Apologies: Councillors John Kane (Deputy Town Mayor) and Andy Whayman

194 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of Grounds and Environmental Services Committee held on 11 September 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

195 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no specific declarations of interest.

196 PLANS-SUB COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meetings of Plans Sub-Committee held on 12 September, 3 October and 24 October 2017 be received.

197 CREASEY PARK COMMUNITY FOOTBALL CENTRE

The Town Clerk and Chief Executive presented a detailed report on recent operations at the Centre including pitch and function hire and marketing.

Creasey Park had suffered another break-in. Entry had been through the office window which was still boarded up awaiting confirmation from Central Bedfordshire Council that replacement could be undertaken in line with their insurance claim requirements. Nothing was stolen but the tills from the bar were damaged. Quotations were also being obtained for consideration by CBC for window shutters, such as those at the Splashside Café.

There had been recent progress in the formation of a BMX Club. An interested member of the public had managed to form a committee and had built a starting gate but it had been ascertained that there was no access to any S106 monies to fund its installation. Alternative avenues for funding were now being explored.

The Committee received the profiled income and expenditure report as at the end of September 2017.

198 WAR MEMORIAL REFURBISHMENT

The Head of Grounds and Environmental Services presented a detailed report on the work undertaken by the War Memorial Working Group and asked Members to consider the options provided.

The Working Group's project brief included the following key objectives:

refurbishment and improvements to the structure including re-facing the brickwork with stone and stabilisation of the memorial;

incorporation of a Combined Services emblem to commemorate those lost in conflict since 1945;

the addition of 28 names missing from the original roll call plaques for WW1 and WW2.

Members noted the preferences of the working group and the potential for crowd funding to support the cost of the project.

RESOLVED: that the Committee recommend to Finance and General Purposes Committee that financial provision be made to underwrite any shortfall in third party contributions to deliver Option 2 (Stabilisation and Refacing with stone) as detailed in the report, at a cost in the order of £50,000.

199 PLAY AREA REVIEW

The Town Clerk and Chief Executive presented a report that identified priorities and options for future improvements to the Council's play areas in line with the emerging Corporate Plan capital programme.

At Members' request, Officers had visited all 11 play areas to assess them to assist with prioritising play area improvements.

Members noted the details of the play area review and the officers' recommendations for proposed investment.

Members thanked Officers for the report and would make recommendations once the Town Council was in receipt of any section 106 payments or through the capital expenditure programme.

200 RECREATION GROUNDS, TOWN CENTRE GARDENS, CEMETERY AND ALLOTMENTS

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

a) Recreation Grounds

The installation of replacement play equipment at Willoughby Close had now been completed.

Two new benches were to be installed at Bennett Memorial Recreation Ground.

b) Town Centre Area

New security lights were due to be fitted to the grounds store at Priory Gardens to try and deter some of the anti-social activity around the building.

The theme for the 2018 Dunstable in Bloom campaign would be Remembrance and Peace to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War.

c) Town Ranger Service

The Town Ranger continued to provide local residents with assistance to deal with eyesores and other environmental related issues. The Ranger had dealt with 70 requests since April 2017.

The Town Centre Ranger and Town Ranger had now applied an anti-graffiti coating to the Splashside café and pavilion at Bennet Memorial Recreation Ground.

d) Dunstable Cemetery

Members received the burial figures for September, October and November 2017 along with the profiled income and expenditure figures as at the end of September 2017.

Memorial stability testing had now been completed. Grave exclusive rights holders would be contacted, if necessary, to carry out any repairs on their memorials. If the rights holders could not be traced the Council would have to consider whether to fund repairs or lay down the memorials.

An invitation had been extended to residents of Dunstable to form a 'Friends of Dunstable Cemetery' group. A meeting of interested parties will now take place on 21 November. The creation of this group was in line with the approved management plan for the cemetery and would help in retaining the Green Flag status.

e) Allotments

There were currently 46 people on the waiting list which was comparable to figures reported to the Committee in September. Members received the detail of the waiting list.

201 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

CBC Development Management Committee:
Councillor Jones had nothing to report.