

Dunstable Town Council  
Grove House  
76 High Street North  
Dunstable  
Bedfordshire  
LU6 1NF  
Tel: 01582 513000



DUNSTABLE  
TOWN COUNCIL

E-mail: [info@dunstable.gov.uk](mailto:info@dunstable.gov.uk)  
Website: [www.dunstable.gov.uk](http://www.dunstable.gov.uk)

David Ashlee Town Clerk and Chief Executive

Your Ref

Our Ref RGS/C6

6 April 2018

Dear Sir or Madam

**Dunstable Town Meeting**

You are invited to attend the Annual Town Meeting of the Parish of Dunstable which will be held at the **Council Chamber, Grove House, 76 High Street North, Dunstable on Monday 16 April 2018 at 7.30 pm.** The Agenda for the meeting is set out below.

Any elector of the Parish of Dunstable is entitled to attend this meeting.

Yours faithfully

David Ashlee  
Town Clerk and Chief Executive

---

**AGENDA**

1. Opening remarks by Town Mayor.
2. To approve the Minutes of the Town Meeting held on 3 April 2017 (see page 1).
3. Questions from Electors.

To: Dunstable Town Councillors and  
Central Bedfordshire Councillors for Dunstable

## **DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF TOWN MEETING**

**HELD AT CREASEY PARK COMMUNITY FOOTBALL CENTRE, CREASEY PARK DRIVE,  
(off BREWERS HILL ROAD), DUNSTABLE**

**ON MONDAY 3 APRIL 2017**

Present: Councillor Peter Hollick (Town Mayor) (in the Chair); Councillor Gloria Martin (Deputy Town Mayor); Mr D Ashlee (Town Clerk and Chief Executive) and 15 electors of the Parish of Dunstable, 12 of whom were elected representatives of the Town Council.

#### **1. WELCOME**

The Town Mayor welcomed electors to the 2017 Dunstable Town Meeting and explained its purpose. He reflected on some of the things that had been happening during the year and spoke of a number of initiatives which were coming to fruition. He had been pleased to open a number of new shops during his mayoral year and was optimistic about the future of the Quadrant Centre. He looked forward to the opening of the Woodside Link road and the A5/M1 link which would be of benefit to the town.

The Town Mayor also introduced Community Sergeant Sean Duignan of Dunstable Police who would be happy to take any questions during the course of the meeting.

#### **2. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Town Meeting held on 11 April 2016 were approved and signed as a correct record by the Town Mayor.

#### **3. PRESENTATION BY THE TOWN CLERK AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE ON THE MARKET TOWN REGENERATION FUND PROJECTS**

By way of introduction, the Town Clerk and Chief Executive explained the difference between Dunstable Town Council and Central Bedfordshire Council. He provided statistical information and outlined the 23 services delivered by the Town Council.

He then presented information regarding the Market Town Regeneration Fund (MTRF) projects, which were funded by Central Bedfordshire Council. Bids of up to £1million were made available to all Town and Parish Councils and all funding was to be spent by the end of March 2018. The Town Council had secured £610,000 and was able to evidence a further £935,000 of match funding which would assist with 7 different projects.

1) Town Centre Ranger – awarded £80,000 grant to purchase equipment for an enhanced town centre cleansing scheme – which was now fully operational.

2) Architectural Lighting Scheme - £60,000 grant awarded which enabled lighting to be installed at Grove House, Priory House and Dunstable Conference Centre. Phase 1 had now been completed and Phase 2 would be completed during this summer.

- 3) Bennett's Splash and Splashside Café - £275,000 grant awarded with £245,000 capital from Dunstable Town Council - work was underway and the new facility should be opened by end of June this year.
- 4) Priory House Feasibility Study - £30,000 grant awarded and £35,000 grant secured from Historic England which would provide a conservation programme and cost profile for future protection of Priory House.
- 5) New Priory Gateway Entrances - £30,000 grant awarded with £10,000 capital from Dunstable Town Council and £5,000 from various partners. Phase 1, the Priory Archway had been completed and Phase 2, entrance to Priory Gardens from High Street South was in the design process.
- 6) Town Centre Signage - £70,000 grant awarded and £5,000 contribution from Dunstable Town Council. The scheme is to be developed in line with A5 de-trunking. The Council would also provide new signage at the White Lion Busway stop.
- 7) Quadrant Centre improvements and Public Conveniences – Unfortunately this scheme was unlikely to go ahead.
- 8) High Street Improvements Scheme – Central Bedfordshire had made £1 million grant available for retailers/businesses for improvements to their shop/businesses which 12 retailers were actively supporting.

#### **4. QUESTIONS FROM ELECTORS**

In answer to questions raised on town affairs, the following responses were given:

Dunstable Market - the Town Mayor advised that the Town Council was doing everything possible to continue to provide services to traders and also advised that the Town Centre Manager was doing her best to encourage new stall holders and also encouraged residents to support the Market. The Town Council had offered reduced rents, encouraged different stalls such as crafts and held special events. A resident also enquired about the possibility of trialling a period of free parking in Wilkinsons car park to encourage visitors, a matter that would need to be referred to Central Bedfordshire Council for consideration as the car park was in their ownership.

A resident asked whether the Market could be moved to High Street North once the road was de-trunked. The Town Mayor explained the difficulties of finding a suitable location that provided vehicular access for stall holders as well as electricity supply. The Town Clerk and Chief Executive was however in discussion with Central Bedfordshire Council on this issue.

Nuisance of Off Road Motor Cyclists and Pedal Cyclists - Sgt Sean Duignan confirmed this was an on-going issue and the police were doing all they could. He advised that the Police were reliant on intelligence from the public and encouraged them to report issues through Crime Stoppers which would assist in the police taking positive action. There was a specific team dedicated to dealing with this nuisance who would make use of newly purchased off road bikes for this purpose, making use of headcams to gather evidence.

Sgt Duignan responded to a question from Councillor Colbourne and confirmed that any pictorial evidence that drivers may have from their in-car cameras could be beneficial to the Police together with detailed description of the bike and registration

number if possible. Information could be e-mailed to the dedicated e-mail address (now confirmed as [opmeteorinbox@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:opmeteorinbox@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk))

Councillor Tookey indicated that Green Lanes had been quiet for the last few months with no evidence of off road bikes but this could change during school holiday times.

A resident from Friars Walk was concerned that school pupils were putting their lives at risk when pedal cycling to and from school as they were riding into traffic, up one way streets, as well as riding on pavements and causing a nuisance to pedestrians. Sgt Duignan would take discuss the possibility of police patrols in and around First Avenue, Friars Walk and Periwinkle Lane. Councillor Moffatt advised that he was currently teaching at Priory school and whilst children were still in uniform they were under the auspices of the school and therefore any such incidents reported to the Headteacher would be dealt with. He also advised that the Head of Manshead School withdrew cycle parking permits when any such incident was reported to him.

Bennett Memorial Recreation Ground - It was confirmed that once the Splash Park was completed there would still be two football pitches available with existing changing facilities.

Dunstable Bowls Club – The Town Clerk and Chief Executive confirmed that the Town Council were assisting the Bowls Club with the relocation from Hawthorne Close and Councillors Hollick and Jones spoke in support of accommodating the Club at Luton Road Recreation Ground.

Priory Gardens – A resident praised the standard of maintenance of Priory Gardens which she felt were a pleasure to visit and spend time in. The Town Mayor spoke of the Council's pride in achieving Green Flag status for these and Grove House Gardens.

Community Sergeant Sean Duignan covered Dunstable, Leighton Buzzard and Houghton Regis and had been pleased to attend this meeting and would liaise with the Town Clerk and Chief Executive regarding possible community meetings in Dunstable in the same way that meetings were being held in Leighton Buzzard and Caddington, which gave the opportunity to learn what was happening locally and to ask questions about policing.

The Town Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance and participation and closed the meeting at 8.25 pm.