

DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

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

ON MONDAY 30 APRIL 2018

Present: Councillors Gloria Martin (Town Mayor), John Kane (Deputy Town Mayor), Sid Abbott, Lisa Bird, John Chatterley, Terry Colbourne, Philip Crawley, Eugene Ghent, Peter Hollick, Anne Kennedy, Liz Jones, Mike Mullany, Patricia Russell, Ann Sparrow, Pat Staples and Nigel Warren

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 Jeannette Freeman, Claire Meakins and Johnson Tamara

Public Attendance: 0

Before the commencement of the meeting, the Town Mayor's Chaplain, Reverend Nina Johnson, led the Council in prayer

77 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 5 February 2018 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor.

78 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no specific declarations of interest.

79 TOWN MAYOR'S REMARKS

The Town Mayor referred to the report detailing her attendances at events since the last meeting of the Council. She made particular reference to the High Sheriff's Citizenship Awards evening when Don't Let Dunstable Die had won an award and Liz Jones was runner up in her category for the local individual award. All those nominated were presented with a certificate of recognition, including Dunstable Town Guides and Dunstable History Society.

The Town Mayor thanked those who had supported her Civic Service on 22 April and thanked her Chaplain for conducting the service. She was particularly pleased that Hadrian School Choir had sang at the service

80 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions put to the meeting.

81 **QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 16**

There were no questions put to the meeting.

82 **COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE**

a) **Presentation on Community Policing in Dunstable (Minute 52/2018)**

Councillor Jones reminded members that the Priority Setting meeting would be held on Thursday 3 May at 6.00 pm at Dunstable Police Station.

In answer to a question from Councillor Hollick, the Chairman, Councillor Staples, advised that the Committee had been very impressed with the presentation to Community Services Committee and had asked that Sgt Bates attend on a more regular basis.

b) **Minutes**

RESOLVED: that, subject to the foregoing, the Minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 5 March 2018 be received

83 **GROUNDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

a) **Dunstable War Memorial (Minute 64/2018)**

Councillor Chatterley advised that funding donations now stood at just under £4,500. It was hoped further funds would be raised at the Council's WW1 event on 12 May 2018.

Councillor Russell asked that consideration be given to providing a seat at the War Memorial.

The Head of Grounds and Environmental Services advised that he was liaising with Historic England regarding the paving at the front of the War Memorial but did not anticipate any major problems.

b) **Grove Skate Park (Minute 65a/2018)**

It was noted that the intended repair works to Grove Skate Park had been delayed due to adverse weather conditions and officers were chasing for a new date.

c) **Priory Gardens Entrance Gates**

In answer to a question from Councillor Colbourne, the Head of Grounds and Environmental Services advised that discussions were being held with the Planning Department about the best way to deal with changing the positioning of the planned noticeboards on the gates. It could be a variation to the existing permission or may require a new application to place a noticeboard on the adjacent wall. Councillor Jones reminded Members that this Council's Plans Sub-Committee had approved the original application and requested that more care be taken in the future when considering the detail of the Council's own applications.

d) **Minutes**

RESOLVED: that, subject to the foregoing, the Minutes of the meeting of the Grounds and Environmental Services Committee held on 12 March 2018 be received.

84 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

a) Financial Monitoring ((Minute 71/2018)

In answer to a question from Councillor Abbott, the Town Clerk and Chief Executive advised that a sum of £55,000 had been allocated for the cost of the recent by-elections based on the original estimate provided, however the actual cost was just under £25,000.

b) Dunstable International Twinning Association (DITA) (Minute 74b/2018)

Councillor Sparrow advised that 37 visitors from Porz-am-Rhein would be visiting Dunstable and she extended an invitation to all Councillors to take the opportunity to meet them at the coffee morning at Priory Church on Saturday 11.30 am. She also advised that the Dunstable Town Band would be holding a concert in the Methodist Church at 7.30 pm on that date to which the visitors had been invited. An invitation had also been extended to all Members, tickets available on the door at £5.

In answer to a question from Councillor Warren, it was confirmed that arrangements had been confirmed for a buffet reception for the visitors, to be hosted by the Town Mayor at Grove House on Friday 18 May.

c) Minutes

RESOLVED: that, subject to the foregoing, the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held 19 March 2018 be received and the recommendation contained therein be adopted.

85 TOWN MEETING

The Council noted the minutes of the Town Meeting held on 16 April 2018. In answer to a question from Councillor Abbott, Councillor Hollick advised that he had contacted Central Bedfordshire Council regarding the issue of parking outside 172 High Street South but had no response and had chased it up again.

86 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.

87 HIGH STREET IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

The Council considered a loan request to assist an applicant in accessing grant funding from Central Bedfordshire Council's High Street Improvement Scheme. After careful consideration it was put to the vote and

RESOLVED: that the request not be granted.