

**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 18 JUNE 2018**

Present: Councillors Nigel Warren (Deputy Town Mayor), Peter Hollick (Chairman); John Chatterley (Vice-Chairman), Terry Colbourne, Philip Crawley, Eugene Ghent, Liz Jones, Gloria Martin, Patricia Russell, Ann Sparrow and Pat Staples

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

Apologies for Absence: Councillors John Kane (Town Mayor), Sid Abbott, Claire Meakins and Mike Mullany

Public Attendance: None

**119 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 19 March 2018 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**120 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no specific declarations of interest.

**121 ACCOUNTS SUB-COMMITTEE**

The Committee received the Minutes of the meetings of the Accounts Sub-Committee held on 21 March, 18 April and 23 May 2018.

**122 FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT – OUTTURN 2017/18**

The Head of Finance and Support Services presented financial reports for year ending 31 March 2018 which would inform the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2017/18 to be approved at the meeting of the Council on 25 June 2018.

All information was subject to audit but Members were pleased to note the positive outturn against the budget which would result in a contribution to the General Reserve.

**123 IT IMPROVEMENTS/UPGRADES**

The Head of Finance and Support Services presented a report giving background information on the Council's existing IT system and hardware and the requirements for further upgrades as part of the Council's IT lifecycle planning.

**RESOLVED:** that the sum of up to £14,000 be released from the allocated equipment reserve fund for provision of replacement desktops/laptops and associated upgrade to the Windows 10 operating system.

**124 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2019**

The Committee considered a draft calendar of meetings for the calendar year 2019. It was noted that the Council is required to hold 6 meetings of full Council during the year (including the Annual General Meeting) with the requisite cycle of Committee meetings reporting thereto.

**RESOLVED:** that the meeting dates set out in the Calendar of Meetings for 2019 be approved.

**125 PERSONNEL SUB-COMMITTEE**

The Committee received the Minutes of the meeting of the Personnel Sub-Committee held on 12 April 2018.

In answer to a question from Councillor Martin, it was confirmed that the national 2018 pay award had been agreed and implemented.

**126 CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW (Minute 25/2018)**

The Town Clerk and Chief Executive presented a report informing members of the outcome of the first stage of Central Bedfordshire Council's Community Governance Review, having responded to the consultation in January.

The decision of the CBC General Purposes supported the Council's view that the number of councillors be reduced from 21 to 18 but did not support members' view on the boundary extensions. Proposal to make slight alterations to the northern and southern boundaries had been suggested but not to the extent that members wanted.

**RESOLVED:** that Central Bedfordshire Council be advised that this Council accepts the decision of their General Purposes Committee in respect of the Community Governance Review.

**127 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS**

- a) CAB Management Committee – Councillor Meakins had advised that no formal meeting had been held in May but the time had been used to discuss new staffing arrangements for when the CAB relocated to the new Leisure Centre.
- b) DITA –Councillor Warren reported on the success of the Citizens visit from Porz-am-Rhein over the weekend of 18-21 May.
- c) Hospice at Home – Councillor Jones reported that the AGM would be held on 2July and the organisation were currently applying for grants.
- d) Ashton Schools Foundation – Councillor Sparrow reported that the children of 66 families had been awarded grants for school uniforms. It was noted that a new Head had been appointed to Manshead School. Councillor Sparrow also advised that a new Clerk to the Charities had been appointed and there would be an opportunity

to recognise the work of Yvonne Beaumont who was retiring as Clerk in June. Reverend Canon Richard Andrews would be leaving in August and an interim chair for the Charity had been appointed.

- e) Ashton Almshouses – nothing to report.
- f) Chews Foundation – Councillor Chatterley advised that the second of the two meetings per year would be held the following day.
- g) Poors Land Charity – Councillor Staples advised that the Charity held four meetings per year – nothing to report.