

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 11 JUNE 2018

Present: Councillors John Kane (Town Mayor), Nigel Warren (Deputy Town Mayor)
Liz Jones (Chairman), Lisa Bird (Vice-Chairman), Sid Abbott, Philip
Crawley, Jeannette Freeman, Peter Hollick, Gloria Martin and Ann Sparrow

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 Emma Simmons and Jessica Woodward

Public: None

112 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of Grounds and Environmental Services Committee held
on 12 March 2018 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

113 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no specific declarations of interest.

114 PLANS-SUB COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meetings of Plans Sub-Committee held
on 24 April, 6 March, 27 March and 15 May 2018 be received.

115 CREASEY PARK COMMUNITY FOOTBALL CENTRE AND SPLASH PARK

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 had taken its first booking from Sainsbury's for a corporate update
meeting and had stated that they would book again.

Members were informed that the grounds depot building at Creasey Park had
suffered a ram-raid hit. There had been significant damage to the shutter but nothing
had been stolen. The costs were being recouped through CBC's insurance
arrangements. Members asked what action the Police had taken and were informed
that to date they had not been to visit the site or collected the CCTV footage of the
incident.

A start gate had been manufactured for the BMX track and quotations were being obtained to build the necessary platform to attach it to. CBC had advised this could be funded from part of the Section 106 funding from the Central Bedfordshire College development.

Bennett's Splash and the Splashside Café had been operating since 14 May. The opening fun day event had been very well attended with the help of Perfect Personalised Parties who had volunteered their services. Another event to celebrate the start of the school holidays was planned.

Recruitment for staff at the Splashside Café had not been as successful as hoped. Only one duty manager had been employed for a 19.5 hour post. Staffing had therefore been managed by using staff from Creasey Park and casuals.

It was reported that the splash park had already experienced some incidents of anti-social behaviour and when the police were notified they had attended promptly.

116 BENNETT MEMORIAL RECREATION GROUND ADVENTURE PLAY AREA

The Head of Grounds and Environmental Services presented a report that updated members on the creation of a new adventure play area and to agree a member/officer panel to consider design and tender submissions from play companies.

The application to use the Section 106 Community Facilities contribution from Central Bedfordshire College to build an adventure play area had been approved by Central Bedfordshire Council. Of the £184,000, £174,000 would be used on the adventure play area and £10,000 would be used to build a platform at the BMX track at Creasey Park.

The Committee received an outline design brief and indicative timescales and were asked to appoint four of its Members to sit an appraisal panel along with officers, to assess the play companies presentations and designs.

Members discussed the outline design brief and it was suggested that once a final design was chosen there should be a public presentation.

- RESOLVED:**
- i) that Councillors Abbott, Bird, Jones and Martin be appointed to the appraisal panel
 - ii) that the Member/officer panel be authorised to determine the most suitable design and tender and present the successful design to a future meeting of this Committee
 - iii) that the Head of Grounds and Environmental Services be authorised to let a contract in accordance with the decision of the panel
 - iv) that design brief be approved.

117 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

Three incidents of vandalism in play areas had occurred since the last report to the Committee, at Mentmore, French's Avenue and Ridgeway Avenue recreation grounds.

The initial renovations to the main pitch at Creasey Park had been completed. The recent rain and warm weather had meant the grass seed had germinated very quickly.

b) Town Centre Area

22,000 bedding plants had been delivered for the summer floral displays and would be planted out over the coming 2-3 weeks. Hanging baskets, hole-star planters, window boxes and three-tier planters had already been installed. Unfortunately the displays at Ashton Square car park had already been vandalised several times and had been removed. Members thanked the Town Rangers for their actions in dealing with the vandalism.

c) Town Ranger Service

It was reported that the Town Ranger Services were working from the refurbished depot buildings at Grove House Gardens.

The Ranger services had this year been treating weeds with pressurised hot water and steam thus reducing the need for chemical herbicide treatments. Both Priors and Grove House Gardens footpaths and surfaces were no longer treated with herbicide.

d) Dunstable Cemetery

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

123 burials had now taken place in the lawn section of the cemetery extension. The Head of Grounds and Environmental Services will be organising a Member tour of the cemetery extension to review the remaining space and to discuss how future burial land might be provided.

e) Allotments

There were currently 36 people on the waiting list, which was comparable to figures reported to the Committee in March 2018. Members received the detail of the waiting list.

118 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

CBC Development Management Committee: Councillor Jones reported that there had been no Dunstable planning applications at any of the recent meetings.