

DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

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

ON MONDAY 1 OCTOBER 2018

Present: Councillors John Kane (Town Mayor), Sid Abbott, Lisa Bird, John Chatterley, Terry Colbourne, Philip Crawley, Jeannette Freeman, Eugene Ghent, Liz Jones, Gloria Martin, Patricia Russell, Ann Sparrow, Pat Staples and J Tamara

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 Peter Hollick (Chairman), Claire Meakins, Mike Mullany and Nigel Warren (Deputy Town Mayor)

Public Attendance: 3

Before the commencement of the meeting, the Town Mayor's Chaplain, Dr Johan Schoeman, led the Council in prayer

166 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held 25 June 2018 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor.

167 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no specific declarations of interest.

168 TOWN MAYOR'S REMARKS

a) Conclusion of Audit of Accounts 2017/18

The Town Mayor reported on the Conclusion of Audit for Dunstable Town Council, which had been received on 25 September 2018 and therefore not in time to be included in the Agenda pages.

The Council received the audited Annual Return for the 2017/18 accounts and accepted the External Auditor's Certificate and Opinion which stated that "on the basis of our review, in our opinion the information in the annual return is in accordance with proper practices and no matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met".

The Town Mayor was pleased to advise that there were no matters arising or minor issues identified.

The Notice of Conclusion of Audit had been published on the Council's website with the certified copy of the Annual Return.

b) Mayoral Engagements

The Town Mayor referred to the report detailing his attendances at a variety of events since the last meeting of the Council, up to 20 September. He had been particularly pleased to visit the two organisations who were his chosen charities for the year, Dunstable and District Disabled Sports and Dunstable Sea Cadets.

169 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions put to the meeting.

170 QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 16

There were no questions put to the meeting.

171 COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

a) Priory House (Minute 142/2018)

In answer to a question from Councillor Sparrow, the Chairman, Councillor Staples, advised that the meeting room was being renamed as the Jacobean Room to reflect the display of the Jacobean wall paintings. The refurbishment would include new flooring and furnishings to make the room more presentable for use, including as a wedding venue.

b) Reports from Outside Organisations (Minute 146/2018)

Councillor Martin reported that she had recently attended a meeting of South Bedfordshire Dial-a-Ride and the organisation was working well.

c) Minutes

RESOLVED: that, subject to the foregoing, the Minutes of the meetings of the Community Services Committee held on 3 September 2018 be received.

172 GROUNDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

In proposing receipt of the minutes of Grounds and Environmental Services Committee, the Chairman, Councillor Liz Jones, advised that Minutes 152 and 153 included recommendations that should have been referred to Finance and General Purposes Committee but approval for which was now sought from Council.

a) Plans Sub-Committee (Minute 149/2018)

Councillor Freeman asked for consideration of the requirement for the Plans Sub-Committee and the possibility of delegating authority to officers. Members discussed whether alternative arrangements could be made and the Chairman suggested that this should be considered at a future meeting of Grounds and Environmental Services Committee.

b) Dunstable War Memorial (Minute 151b/2018)

Councillor Colbourne expressed his pleasure at the progress made on the refurbishment of the War Memorial and the inclusion of the three individual service emblems. He thanked John Crawley, Head of Grounds and Environmental Services for his work on this project.

c) Town Centre Flagpole

At Members' request, the Town Clerk and Chief Executive would investigate the possibility of installing a new flag pole on Ashton Square, possibly as part of the current town centre refurbishment works.

d) Minutes

RESOLVED: that, subject to the foregoing, the Minutes of the meeting of the Grounds and Environmental Services Committee held on 10 September 2018 be received and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

173 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

a) Members' Allowances (Minute 160/2018)

Members expressed their differing views on the possible introduction of a members' allowance scheme. Councillor Chatterley reiterated that at this stage the recommendations of the remuneration panel were being sought and these would be reported to Finance and General Purposes Committee. Councillor Staples confirmed that the final decision would be taken by full Council.

b) Minutes

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting of Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 17 September 2018 be received.

174 CO-OPTION OF MEMBER TO REPRESENT NORTHFIELDS WARD

Following the resignation of Councillor Anne Kennedy, the Council had published notification of a casual vacancy. No petition had been received for a by-election and the Council had therefore published notice to co-opt. One nomination had been received from the South West Bedfordshire Conservative Association.

RESOLVED: that Gladys Sanders be co-opted to serve as a Member for Northfields Ward and be appointed to serve on the Finance and General Purposes and Grounds and Environmental Services Committees.