

DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GROUNDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

ON MONDAY 5 JUNE 2023 FROM 19:00

Present: Councillors Liz Jones (Town Mayor), Louise O’Riordan (Deputy Town Mayor), Matthew Brennan (Chairman), Richard Attwell (Vice-Chairman), Trevor Adams, Philip Crawley, Mark Davis, Kenson Gurney, Michelle Henderson and Matthew Neall.

In Attendance: Councillors John Gurney, Robert Blennerhassett and Peter Hollick, Paul Hodson (Town Clerk and Chief Executive), John Crawley (Head of Grounds and Environmental Services), Mary Dobbs (Cemetery Manager), Hayley McKee (Creasey Park Community Football Centre Manager), Dimitrisz Sopisz (Grounds Operations Manager), James Slack (Sports and Leisure Facilities Manager) and Kathy Doyle (Parks and Green Space Development Officer).

Apologies: Councillors Alex Butler and Johnson Tamara.

Public: Nil.

128/23 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of Grounds and Environmental Services Committee held on 13 March 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

129/23 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no specific declarations of interest.

130/23 PLANS-SUB COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meetings of the Plans Sub-Committee held on 7 March, 28 March, 18 April and 2 May 2023 be received.

131/23 CREASEY PARK COMMUNITY FOOTBALL CENTRE AND SPLASH PARK

The Sports and Leisure Facilities Manager summarised the report. Members recorded their congratulations to AFC Ladies on their achievement. The success of Luton Town in being promoted to the Premier League was celebrated. The Sports and Leisure Facilities Manager noted that this was likely to increase the popularity of Luton Town branded coaching and events held at Creasey Park.

Members requested that early notice and promotion was put in place before the beginning of the Pay and Play offer during the summer.

The Splash Park had been well used during good weather days and the café was increasing trade each week. Party bookings have proved popular. Some parking issues have arisen since the report was published. Officers were liaising with CBC's parking enforcement team as well as encouraging people to park at Ashton Square Car Park via social media. Members requested for details of the number of parties provided to be given for the next meeting and that some form of customer service feedback be provided.

Members discussed options for providing affordable or free suncream.

RESOLVED to delegate the Town Clerk and Chief Executive Officer to take any reasonable measures to provide free or low cost suncream for splash park users, in liaison with the Committee Chair.

132/23 GROUND – INFORMATION REPORT

Members noted the report.

Cemetery

Members congratulated the Cemetery Manager and her team for retaining the cemetery's silver status for the ICCM Charter for the Bereaved.

Allotments

Councillor Henderson declared an interest as an allotment holder.

Recreation Grounds – play areas

The Deputy Town Mayor asked whether the skate park could have time set aside for younger users, and whether skating teachers who use the site might be willing to sponsor such signage. For example, on a Saturday morning from 9 to 12. Officers agreed to investigate what might be possible.

Members requested that information on works and timescales to install the kickabout MUGA and new play area at Kingsbury Recreation Ground is shared widely via the Council's social media and also on site.

Town Rangers

The Mayor thanked the Town Rangers for their quick work in responding to a request from residents to clean benches.

133/23 PURCHASE OF ELECTRIC PEDESTRIAN SWEEPER

Members noted the report.

RESOLVED To defer the decision to Full Council pending investigation by officers into other options and sources of funding for a larger machine.

134/23 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

No update

135/23 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED In terms of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the public and press in accordance with Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1961 S1.2 to allow discussion on establishment and contractual matters relating to the following item.

136/23 LAWN CEMETERY POLICY

Members received a confidential report. The Head of Grounds and Environmental Services summarised the report.

RESOLVED To amend the policy for the current lawn cemetery sections to allow for the placing of mementos and planting across the full area of the grave space but to retain the restriction on the placing of permanent kerb sets and benches.

137/23 CREASEY PARK MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

The Town Clerk & Chief Executive updated Members on ongoing discussions regarding the management arrangements for the Creasey Park Community Football Centre.

The meeting closed at 21:40