

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 6 NOVEMBER 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, Phillip Crawley, Mark Davies, Michelle Henderson, and Matthew Neall

In Attendance: Councillor 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), Kathy Doyle (Parks and Green Space Development Officer) and Georgia Pearson (Democratic Services Manager)

Apologies: Councillor Kenson Gurney

Public: Nil.

219/23 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no specific declarations of interest.

220/23 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of Grounds and Environmental Services Committee held on 11 September 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

221/23 PLANS-SUB COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meetings of the Plans Sub-Committee held on 12 September 2023 and 3 October 2023 be received.

222/23 ACTION TRACKER

Members received the Action tracker provided.

223/23 CREASEY PARK COMMUNITY FOOTBALL CENTRE AND SPLASH PARK

The Sports and Leisure Facilities Manager provided members with an update the progress report for the operations at Creasey Park Community Football Centre and Bennett's Splash Park.

224/23 GROUNDS – INFORMATION REPORT

Members received the report provided.

Cemetery

The Cemetery Manager summarised the report giving details about various activities and works completed in the cemetery. The Cemetery Manager touched on the recent support the council provided in aid of Baby Loss Awareness Week for the local community.

Allotments

Councillor Michelle Henderson declared an interest due to being an allotment holder.

The Cemetery Manager summarised the report and highlighted that the waiting list for allotments was at its highest level for several years.

Members asked officers to consider opportunities to develop allotment land at each recreation ground as part of the management plan development scheme.

ACTION - Head of Grounds and Environmental Services

Recreation Grounds – play areas.

The Grounds Operations Manager summarised the report given to members.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)

Members received the update provided.

It was proposed, seconded and,

RESOLVED:

1.1. To accept the offer of grant funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and from S106 funds, should the applications prove successful.

1.2. To recommend to the Finance and General Purposes committee the release of any funding secured to deliver the project applied for.

Town Rangers

The Grounds Operations Manager summarised the report given to members.

Dunstable in Bloom and Green Space Projects

The Parks and Green Space Development Officer summarised the report given.

225/23 FENCING AT MENTMORE RECREATION GROUND – DECISION REPORT

Members received the report provided. Due to a misunderstanding regarding the meterage of the fence needed the quote provided in the report was incorrect and would be an extra £800.

Members asked officers to review options for adding bollards or other security measures at the entrance to Mentmore to ensure vehicles are not able to access the site once it is made accessible to wheelchair and buggy users, and to put measures in place if this is possible within existing revenue budgets.

ACTION - Head of Grounds and Environmental Services

It was proposed, seconded and,

RESOLVED: To recommend to the Finance and General Purposes Committee the release of £6,019 from the earmarked Fencing Reserve to supply and install fencing and modify the existing entrance access at Mentmore Recreation Ground.

226/23 RECREATION GROUND MANAGEMENT PLANS – DECISION REPORT

Members received the report provided. Members suggested that future surgeries be linked to consultations, possibly being held in the relevant recreation ground in the summer months.

It was proposed, seconded and,

RESOLVED:

- I. For Mentmore to move to year two and Brewers Hill to year one in the Recreation Grounds Management Plans timetable.
- II. To approve the programme to develop simple management plans for 10 recreation grounds and open spaces outlined in section 3 of this report.

227/23 VEHICLE REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME – DECISION REPORT

Members received the report provided.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: That members approved the vehicle replacement programme summarised in section 3 and detailed in full in Appendix 1.

**228/23 PRE-PURCHASE OF GRAVE SPACES AT DUNSTABLE CEMETERY –
DECISION REPORT**

The Head of Grounds and Environmental services summarised the report to members.

It was proposed, seconded and,

RESOLVED:

- I. To change the current pre-purchase policy, in line with Option 2, and no longer allow residents or non-residents to pre-purchase a grave space, with immediate effect.
- II. To keep under review Options 3 and 4, taking account of progress and further works to secure new burial land.

229/23 GROUNDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES BUDGET FOR 2024/25

Members received the report provided. The Town Clerk and Chief Executive summarised key points of the report. Members were invited to ask questions or make suggestions to officers in the following weeks to support the preparation of the final version of the budget for the next meeting of the Committee.

230/23 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

CBC Development Committee – Cllr Nicholas Kotarski

No update

The meeting closed at 20:43