

## DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

#### HELD ON MONDAY 4 DECEMBER 2023 COMMENCING AT 7.00 P.M.

Present: Councillors Liz Jones (Town Mayor), Louise O’Riordan (Deputy Mayor) Trevor Adams; Gregory Alderman; Richard Attwell; Robert Blennerhassett; Matthew Brennan; Phillip Crawley; Michelle Henderson; Peter Hollick; Nicholas Kotarski; Matthew Neall and Johnson Tamara with John Crawley (Head of Grounds and Environmental Services), Paul Hodson (Town Clerk and Chief Executive), Georgia Pearson (Democratic Services Manager) and Lisa Scheder (Head of Finance and Responsible Financial Officer)

Present: Becky Wibsey (Head of Community Services), Annette Clynes (Town Centre Manager) and Graham Wilson (OBE, Legal and Policy advisor to the National Association of British Market Authorities)

(Via Teams)

Apologies: Councillors Wendy Bater; Mark Davis; John Gurney and Kenson Gurney

Public Attendance: 1

#### **243/23 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 2 October 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor.

#### **244/23 DECLARATIONS**

There were no specific declarations of interest.

#### **245/23 CHAIRMAN’S REMARKS**

The Town Mayor spoke in support of a report relating to her activities up to November 2023.

#### **246/23 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no questions put to the meeting.

#### **247/23 COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 30 October 2023 be received.

#### **248/23 GROUNDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting of the Grounds and Environmental Services Committee held on 6 November 2023 be received.

## **249/23 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 13 November 2023 be received.

## **250/23 ACTION TRACKER**

The action tracker was circulated to members from past committee meetings.

## **251/23 DIAL-A-RIDE REPRESENTATIVE – TO NOMINATE A NEW REPRESENTATIVE FOLLOWING THE RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR JOHN GURNEY FROM THE ROLE.**

Councillor Liz Jones nominated Councillor Peter Hollick for the role of Dial-A-Ride representative due to his previous work with the organisation.

It was proposed, seconded and

**RESOLVED:** That councillor Peter Hollick be the Council's representative for Dial-A-Ride.

## **252/23 COUNCILLOR NICHOLAS KOTARSKI – MOTION**

*“To rename the Downside Community Recreation Park to Manshead Recreation Park, Gary Cooper Recreation Park, or another non-political Dunstable name of fame”.*

It was proposed, seconded and

**RESOLVED:** That this motion be deferred to the GES committee, to consider during the development of the management plan for the Downside Recreation Ground in 2025/2026

## **253/23 COUNCILLOR RICHARD ATTWELL – MOTION**

*“Given the seriousness of the situation, magnitude of complains and upset residents we all seem to be experiencing right across all the wards in Dunstable with seemingly no response or improvements from the Police to date regarding youths riding illegal motorbikes with balaclavas, no crash helmets and a total disrespect to the law and other people I think we all need to join forces and do whatever we can with a unified approach. We simply can't have masked gangs running amok on motorbikes like this speeding and doing wheelies on our roads, parks, and green spaces, it is totally unacceptable, illegal, intimidating, and dangerous.*

*As Councillors we owe our residents the right for peace and quiet in their own homes and the freedom to enjoy our parks and open spaces without the risk of injury to children, the elderly, and families alike. With this in mind, I would like to propose for Madam Mayor to request a meeting with the Police Commissioner, the Mayor and a representative group of Councillors to discuss the police's response and approach for greater support and assurance for our Dunstable residents against this and other anti-social behaviour which sadly seems to have escalated alarmingly in recent months before a serious accident or situation occurs.”*

It was proposed, seconded and

**RESOLVED: to adopt the motion.** It was agreed that the following members make up the representative group: Councillors Liz Jones, Louise O’Riordan, Trevor Adams, Richard Attwell and Nicholas Kotarski.

ACTION – Councillor Liz Jones, Mayor of Dunstable

**254/23 TO RECEIVE AND NOTE THE OUTCOME OF THE EXTERNAL AUDIT FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2022/2023**

It was proposed, seconded and

**RESOLVED:** to receive and note the outcome of the external audit for 2022/23

**255/23 TO RECEIVE REPORTS/UPDATES BY MEMBERS OF CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL ON MATTERS OF INTEREST TO THE TOWN COUNCIL**

There were no updates.

**256/23 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND THE PUBLIC**

It was proposed, seconded and

**RESOLVED:** in terms of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972, the following item will be likely to disclose exempt information relating to establishment and contractual matters and therefore, pursuant to the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 the public and press be excluded.

**257/23 TOWN CENTRE SERVICES – TO DISCUSS A REPORT FROM THE TOWN CLERK AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

The Town Clerk and Chief executive summarised the report provided to members. Guest speaker Graham Wilson (OBE, Legal and Policy advisor to NABMA) attended via Teams and explained NABMA’s policy and background to exercising market rights.

It was proposed, seconded and

**RESOLVED:** to defer the decision to a future meeting.

**The meeting closed at 20:28**