

## DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

HELD ON MONDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 2023 FROM 19:00

Present: Councillors Liz Jones (Town Mayor), John Gurney (Chair), Robert Blennerhasset (Vice-Chair), Trevor Adams, Gregory Alderman, Wendy Bater, Peter Hollick, Nicholas Kotarski and Matthew Neall.

In Attendance: Paul Hodson (Town Clerk and Chief Executive), Becky Wisbey (Head of Community Services), Gill Peck (Youth and Community Manager), Gina Thank Thanky (Events Officer), Lisa Stephens (Cultural Services Manager) and Georgia Pearson (Democratic Services Manager)

In Attendance: Annette Clynes (Town Centre Manager) and Michelle Collings (HSHAZ Manager) (Remotely)

Apologies: Councillor Alex Butler, Councillor Kenson Gurney

Public: Nil

#### **165/23      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None received.

#### **166/23      MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 22 May 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

#### **167/23      UPDATES ON SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS**

##### **Hospice at Home: Maureen Kerr**

Maureen Kerr outlined the work of Hospice at Home and their use of the Council's funding.

Councillor Liz Jones declared interest being a Trustee for Hospice at Home

Hospice at Home offer a service to referrals from doctors who suffer from a range of life limiting illnesses. Most referrals are cancer patients. They have currently 41 referrals 28 of which are Dunstable based.

Hospice at Home currently have 25 volunteers, 23 of which are over 60 years of age. The funds provided have enabled them to increase their volunteer staff and service providers.

##### **Citizens Advice: John Kane (Vice Chair)**

Mr Kane expressed that with the funding they are provided, Citizens Advice have been able to offer their services for an extended period on Thursdays. They are now currently open until 6.30 pm which is a 2-hour extension on their original opening time.

Since the closure of Watling House, Citizens Advice have experienced an increase in calls and workload by 30%, this includes the assistance to people who are applying for PIP.

Citizens Advice now also offer a social prescribing service in which doctors refer people to receive support.

### **Dunstable and District Local History Society: John Buckledee**

Cllr Hollick declared an interest as a member of the history society.

Cllr John Gurney declared an interest due to attending the Society's meetings.

Mr Buckledee updated Members on the work of Dunstable and District Local History Society. The extensive project to publish the Council's cemetery database online is nearing completion. The Dunstable and District Local History Society currently have 120 members. They have launched a new historical trail with QR code links of Dunstable.

### **168/23 TOWN CENTRE SERVICES**

Members received the report provided. The Town Centre Manager summarised the key elements of the report to members. Pub Watch and Shop Watch are continuing their partnership with meetings to follow. For the Twilight Market Cllr Hollick expressed interest in approaching schools for entertainment which will bring along parents etc. to support all areas. The Town Centre Manager advised that over the summer, schools did not participate as much however this is something that will be explored.

Cllr Alderman suggested circulating the sponsorship of the Christmas tree to the public to invite donations. Councillor Jones advised that she will liaise with her contacts.

### **169/23 OLDER PEOPLES' SERVICES**

Members received the report provided. The Youth and Community Manager summarised the key elements of the report to members. Cllr Adams asked what costs would be needed to continue the Happy and Active Together project after April. The Youth and Community Manager advised that grants would continue to be applied for. The actual costs would be provided closer to the time and if the grants are unsuccessful, attendees would need to contribute to the cost.

### **170/23 GROVE CORNER AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Members received the report provided. The Youth and Community Manager summarised the key elements of the report to members. The Youth and Community Manager expressed that meetings with schools will now be commencing. This will enable them to find out where they can help the youth community and where they may need to be to engage further. Cllr Jones congratulated the team on a fantastic summer. 1,845 children took part in all community events over the summer.

Cllr Adams expressed interest in a follow up with the schools for feedback on how these events may have had a positive impact on the achievements of the students involved.

### **171/23 EVENTS**

Members received the report provided. The Events Officer summarised the key elements

of the report to members.

**RESOLVED:**

To agree the following events programme for 2025/26:

<b>Event and venue</b>	<b>Date 2025</b>
St George's Day (Priory Gardens)	Saturday 26 April 11.00 am to 4.00 pm
Around the World (PG)	Saturday 24 May 10.30 am 4.30 pm
Dunstable Classic Motor Rally (PG)	Saturday 7 June 10.00 am to 4.00 pm
Dunstable Live (Grove House Gardens)	Saturday 21 June 3 pm to 8 pm
Sunday Band Concerts (GHG)	Sunday 29 June, 27 July & 17 August 12.00 noon & 2.30 pm
Priory Pictures (PG)	Saturday 5 July From 12.00 noon
Party in the Park (GHG)	Saturday 19 July 12.00 noon to 8.00 pm
Priory Pictures (PG)	Saturday 9 August From 12.00 noon
Priory Proms in the Park (PG)	Date and Times TBC from BBC
Christmas Carols and Torchlight Procession (TS)	Friday 29 November From 7.00 pm

**RESOLVED:** to give Autism Bedfordshire the use of one of the Town Council's free uses of Grove Theatre for their AGM.

**RESOLVED:** that officers should explore opportunities to diversify the band concert programme and to agree to the changes for the 2024 events programme.

**172/23**      **HIGH STREET HERITAGE ACTION ZONE (HSHAZ)**

Members received the report provided. The HSHAZ Programme Manager summarised the key elements of the report to members.

**173/23**      **PRIORY HOUSE**

Members received the report provided. The Cultural Services Manager summarised the key elements of the report to members. The Jacobean room is out of use due to the works to Priory House. It was advised that due to the works on Priory house there may be an impact on sales over the Christmas period however other measures are being taken to increase income where possible.

**174/23**      **PETER NEWTON PAVILLION**

Members received the report provided. The Peter Newton Pavilion is leased by the Town Council to the Bedfordshire Football Association. The building was built in 2011 and an annual report is provided to update on the FA's compliance with the lease conditions.

Members were advised that the duration of the lease is for 75 years from 1994. Bedfordshire FA have not made more than £25,000 in profit from the Peter Newton Pavilion in the last year and so no funds will be passed to the Town Council.

**175/23      REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS**

South Beds Dial-a-Ride Management Committee – Cllr John Gurney

Cllr Gurney advised there was no report at present due to not being able to attend their AGM meeting as this clashed with the CBC DMC meeting, which took priority. A report will follow.

Dunstable Town Band – Cllr Robert Blennerhasset

No update currently.

Men in Sheds – Cllr Richard Attwell

In the absence of Councillor Attwell, Councillor John Gurney informed Members that the group had held an open evening for families.

**176/23      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.

**177/23      NATIONAL LOTTERY HERITAGE FUND GRANT – PRIORY HOUSE**

**RESOLVED** - to accept a National Lottery Heritage Fund Grant should the application be successful.

**The meeting closed at 20:55pm**