

## DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

#### HELD ON MONDAY 26 JUNE 2023 COMMENCING AT 7.00 P.M.

Present: Councillors Liz Jones (Town Mayor), Trevor Adams; Gregory Alderman; Richard Attwell; Wendy Bater; Robert Blennerhassett; Matthew Brennan; Alex Butler; Mark Davis; Peter Hollick; Nicholas Kotarski and Matthew Neall; with Paul Hodson (Town Clerk and Chief Executive) Lisa Scheder (Head of Finance and Responsible Financial Officer), James Slack (Sport & Leisure Facilities Manager), Rachel Connor (Communications and Marketing Officer) and Becky Wisbey (Head of Community Services – via Teams).

Apologies: Councillors Philip Crawley; John Gurney, Kenson Gurney, Michelle Henderson, Louise O’Riordan and Johnson Tamara

Public Attendance: One

#### **147/23 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 17 April 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor.

#### **148/23 DECLARATIONS**

Councillor Hollick declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 10 as holding an honorary position with the Dunstable Theatre Company.

#### **149/23 CHAIRMAN’S REMARKS**

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

#### **150/23 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

A member of the public raised that two lights in Priory Gardens adjacent to the Christmas Tree were not working. The Mayor undertook to visit the site and work with officers to resolve the situation.

#### **151/23 TO ANSWER QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 16**

Councillor Butler attended Dunstable Live and asked why it ended so early (at 8 pm). The Mayor confirmed that Dunstable Live and Party in the Park end at 8 pm. The Head of Community Services informed Members that events had gone on until 10 pm some years ago. The Central Bedfordshire Council Safety Advisory Group (SAG) had advised that events should end earlier to reduce the risk of poor behaviour, and officers observed that an earlier finish also enables clear up to take place safely while it is still light. This also enables attendees to contribute to the town’s nighttime economy after the event.

#### **152/23 COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee

held on 22 May 2023 be received.

#### **153/23 GROUNDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

The Chair of the Grounds and Environmental Services Committee updated Members that suggestion to provide free sun cream had been investigated, and it was not possible to do this in light of the risks to the Council and the Splash Park equipment.

A Member queried whether any progress had been made on the suggestion to seek a time for younger users to use the Skate Park. The Town Clerk and Chief Executive informed Members that the relevant officer was not present, but he would provide Members with a written update after the meeting.

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting of the Grounds and Environmental Services Committee held on 5 June 2023 be received.

#### **154/23 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 12 June 2023 be received.

#### **155/23 REFERRAL REPORT FROM THE ENVIRONMENT AND GREEN SPACES COMMITTEE: NEW PEDESTRIAN CLEANER**

It was proposed, seconded and

**RESOLVED:** that subject to there being no funding forthcoming from Central Bedfordshire Council, Members approve the release of up to £16,878 from the earmarked Vehicle and Equipment Reserve to purchase the Eco City Sweeper 2 as detailed in the original report provided at Appendix 1.

#### **156/23 REFERRAL REPORT FROM THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE: STANDING ORDERS**

It was proposed, seconded and

**RESOLVED:** that the Council amends Standing Orders to say:

3.e “Members of the public may make representations, answer questions and give evidence at a meeting which they are entitled to attend in respect of the business on the agenda. Members of the public may, at the discretion of the Chair of the meeting, raise any issue relevant to the town at a meeting of the Full Council.

f Questions and representations from the public at all meetings of the Council or its Committees do not require notice, however members of the public are requested to give notice of questions to the Town Clerk and Chief Executive in writing a minimum of three working days prior to the date of the meeting to enable full responses to be prepared before the meeting. Where a question is asked without notice, a written reply will be provided within three working days.

#### **157/23 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT AND INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT**

It was proposed, seconded and

**RESOLVED:** to receive the final internal audit report for 2022/23.

**158/23 ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS**

It was proposed, seconded and

**RESOLVED:** to approve the Annual Governance Statement.

**159/23 ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS**

It was proposed, seconded and

**RESOLVED:** to approve the Accounting Statements in the Annual Governance Return.

**160/23 FREE USES OF GROVE THEATRE - REPORT**

It was proposed, seconded and

**RESOLVED:** to approve the use of one of the free uses of the Grove Theatre by the Dunstable Musical Theatre Company.

**161/23 HERITAGE AT RISK GRANT – PRIORY HOUSE REPORT**

It was proposed, seconded and

**RESOLVED:** To agree to apply for and accept a further Heritage At Risk grant from Historic England should the application be successful and to in turn undertake all the necessary structural repairs to the attic, floor and partitions.

**162/23 REPORTS/UPDATES BY MEMBERS OF CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL ON MATTERS OF INTEREST TO THE TOWN COUNCIL**

Councillor Brennan reported that there was nothing to report at this stage. The Mayor reminded Members that the Joint Committee was due to meet on Thursday 6 July.

**163/23 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND THE PUBLIC**

It was proposed, seconded and

**RESOLVED:** in terms of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972, the following items 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.

**164/23 FUTURE MANAGEMENT OF THE CREASEY PARK COMMUNITY FOOTBALL CENTRE**

It was proposed, seconded and

**RESOLVED:** that the Council submit the proposal provided to Central Bedfordshire

Council and then signs an agreement to enter into a new 10-year agreement to manage the Creasey Park Community Football Centre, providing that:

- a) Central Bedfordshire Council agree to the construction of an extension to the current facility by one room, using funds from the current capital reserve and available S106 funds.
- b) The new agreement is subject to five-year review by both parties.
- c) The Town Council ensuring sufficient funds are in the ATP Sinking Fund to replace the two artificial pitches when required. This would mean the Town Council providing a subsidy of £18,000 per year (rising by an estimated 4% increase each year) for the next five years, the amount to then be reviewed for the following five years.
- d) The budget provided is adopted.

It was additionally **RESOLVED** to request that Central Bedfordshire Council adds solar panels to the Creasey Park Community Football Centre to help CBC and the Town Council achieve their environmental aims and to reduce future utility costs to enable additional funds to be reinvested into the services provided at the site.

**The meeting closed at 20:10**