

DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

HELD ON MONDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2024 FROM 7:00 PM

Present: Councillors Louise O’Riordan (Town Mayor), Sally Kimondo (Deputy Mayor), Liz Jones (Chair), Matthew Neall (Vice-Chair), Peter Hollick, Wendy Bater, John Gurney, Gregory Alderman, Trevor Adams, Mark Davis, and Nicholas Kotarski.

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

In Attendance (Remotely): Annette Clynes (Town Centre Manager) and, Becky Wisbey (Head of Community Services)

Apologies: Councillor Robert Blennerhassett

Public: 3

225/24 - Apologies for Absence

Councillor Robert Blennerhassett

226/24 - Declarations of Interest

There were no specific declarations of interest

227/24 - Public Question Time

3 members of the public were in attendance.

The Chair of Community Services from Houghton Regis Town Council asked the Town Council to consider stopping licensing markets.

228/24 - To agree the minutes of the meeting of 2 September 2024

The minutes of the meetings of the Community Services Committee held on 2 September 2024 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

229/24 - Town Centre Services

The Town Centre Manager highlighted the key points of the report to members. Members were advised that since writing the report, the Ashton Square toilets have once again been given the platinum award.

Members discussed the Council's use of the Market Charter Rights. The Head of Community Services explained to members that the Council licences markets to protect the interests of traders and Dunstable's markets.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: to continue to apply the Council's Market Rights Policy, and publish the summary documents provided in Appendices 1 and 2

230/24 - Events

The Events Officer summarised the key points in the report.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: to agree a £10,000 increase as per Community Services budget report for Party in the Park in 2025

231/24 - Priory House

The Cultural Services Manager summarised the report provided to members and highlighted key information.

The Christmas season has come to Priory House with the Christmas stock now available within the shop.

Priory House works are currently delayed by 2 weeks due to the wall painting conservations. The work at the moment is planned for June 2026 completion. From April to mid June, Priory Tea Rooms is due a planned closure to complete some roof works which will take approximately 6-9 weeks.

232/24 - Grove Corner and Community Engagement

Members noted the report provided which was summarised by the Youth and Community Manager.

A verbal update was provided to members regarding the activities which were held over the October half term: On Friday 25 October a biscuit decorating class was held at the Splashside Café which saw 40 young people attend. Due to the weather on Monday 28 October, the officers decided not to do giant games but did hot chocolate instead which saw 16 young people attend. On Wednesday 30 October there were 29 young people who attended football and boxing at Kingsbury Pavillion. On Thursday 31 October there was a gaming bus and face painting at Ashton Square, which 28 young people attended.

233/24 - Older People's Services

The Youth and Community Manager summarised the report provided to members.

ACTION - Members asked that the Town Clerk and Chief Executive write to Central Bedfordshire Council regarding Bedfordshire Football Associations attitude towards the Community aspect for the use of Creasey Park Community Football Centre for awareness and comment.

234/24 - Community Services Budget Report

The Town Clerk and Chief Executive summarised the report to members.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: to recommend that the Finance and General Purposes Committee adopt the draft budget proposals and fees and charges for the Community Services Department for 2025/26, as well as indicative budget changes for the following three years outlined within the report.

235/24 - Reports from Outside Bodies

South Beds Dial-a-Ride Management Committee - Cllr Peter Hollick
Councillor Hollick advised members that the next meeting is on 13 November, and he would report further at the next meeting

Dunstable Town Band - Cllr Robert Blennerhassett
No update

Men in Sheds - Cllr Richard Attwell
No update

236/24 - Exclusion of Public and Press

RECOMMENDED 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 it is, therefore, RECOMMENDED that pursuant to the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 the public and press be excluded.

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.

237/24 - Priory House - Confidential Report

The Head of Community Services Summarised the report to members. Members discussed all points within the report in detail.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: that all recommendations within the report be adopted.

238/24 - Downside Community Centre - Confidential Report

The Youth and Community Manager summarised the report to members. Members discussed all points within the report in detail.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: council resolved to provide Downside with a 25 year lease to occupy the Downside Community Centre as recommended and to invite Ringcraft Boxing to apply for an SLA of £2000 per year initially for 4 years.

239/24 - Date of the next meeting - Monday 6 January 2025 at 7.00 pm

The meeting closed at 9:10 pm