

DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, GROVE HOUSE, HIGH STREET NORTH, DUNSTABLE

ON MONDAY 13TH FEBRUARY 2006

Present: Councillors A J Fairbairn (Town Mayor); Mrs C M Gresham (Deputy Town Mayor); Councillors R R Anklesaria, Mrs B M Boatwright, P J Boatwright, A Bray, Mrs J K Fairbairn, J Freeman, A E Green, M Jones, J A Harnett, C E Meakins-Jell, Mrs S A Newton, B Ralley, P E Russell, Mrs A Stock, T A W Stock and M Tilley with Mr R Walden (Town Clerk), Mrs H A Hupton (Deputy Town Clerk), Mrs R G Smith (Administration and Finance Manager) and Mrs M Markus (Civic Administration Officer)

Apologies for Absence: Councillors T C Colbourne and M J P Mullany

59 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 5th December 2005 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor.

60 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Members declared their interest in the items indicated:

Councillor Mrs Boatwright	Cordova	Prejudicial Interest (Member of Management Committee)
	DITA	Prejudicial Interest (Member of Management Committee)
Councillor P Boatwright	Cordova	Prejudicial Interest (Member of Management Committee)
Councillor Mrs Newton	Peter Newton Pavilion	Personal Interest (Facility named after family member)
	Facilities at Ashton Middle School	Personal Interest (Council Representative Trustee)
Councillor Mrs Fairbairn	Facilities at Ashton Middle School	Personal Interest (Council Representative on Ashton Foundation)

(There was no discussion on those matters in which Members had declared a prejudicial interest.)

61 TOWN MAYOR'S REMARKS

The Town Mayor reported on the various events and activities at which he and the Deputy Town Mayor had represented the Council since its last meeting.

62 LIBRARY AND PROMOTIONS COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting of Library and Promotions Committee held on 6th January 2006 be received.

63 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

a) Dunstable Old People's Welfare Association (Minute 13(b)/06)

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Newton, advised that the Association had submitted outline funding proposals to the Big Lottery and had passed the important step of being invited to submit the second stage of formal detailed proposals.

b) Connexions (Minute 14(c)/06)

The Chairman reported that the Chief Executive of Connexions would be attending the next meeting of her Committee but he had already agreed the principle of entering into formal partnership arrangements and had provided funding for use of the facilities at The Place during the current financial year.

c) The Place (Minute 14(d)/06)

The Chairman reported that Bedfordshire County Council had now agreed to contribute £16,000 towards the running expenses of The Place during the current financial year and officer meetings had been arranged to discuss funding in future years.

d) Minutes

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting of Community Development Committee held on 16th January 2006 be received.

64 HIGHWAYS, PARKS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

a) Translink Open Space (Minute 27/06)

The Chairman, Councillor P Boatwright, advised that the Public Inquiry into this matter had now been fixed to start on 3rd May and was scheduled to last for three days. The venue was still to be advised.

b) Link Road to Northern Bypass (Minute 31/06)

The Chairman reported that the County Council and the Joint Planning and Transportation Committee had agreed to this Council's suggestion that the project for a link road from the Boscombe Road employment areas to the proposed Northern Bypass should be known as the "Woodside Connection".

c) Bus Shelters (Minute 36/06)

The Chairman reported that a five year programme for the replacement/improvement of bus shelters had now been agreed with the County Council to be funded from the Local Transport Plan Budget and also from developers' contributions under planning agreement. £100,000 was available in 2006/07 and a schedule of all works to be carried out that year would be agreed with the County's contractors by the end of March. He was able, however, to confirm that new shelters, as requested by Councillors, could be provided at Meadway, Mayfield Road opposite the shops, a second identical shelter to the large landmark shelter

opposite Nicholas Way, two new shelters in High Street North opposite Ashton Middle School and Tavistock Street and in Luton Road near Liscombe Road. As indicated in the Minute, the Association of Senior Citizens would be consulted on the final scheme before orders were placed but, following concerns already expressed by their representative in the press he sought the Council's confirmation that it was content that the new shelters would be standardised for ease of future maintenance to a similar design to the recently installed shelter in Luton Road.

By way of a amendment it was proposed by Councillor Green that the present shelter in Meadway be removed but not replaced.

RESOLVED: that the Council confirm that all new shelters be standardised to the type of design presented by the Chairman but that the damaged shelter in Meadway be not replaced.

d) **Minutes**

RESOLVED: that, subject to the foregoing, the Minutes of the meeting of Highways, Parks and Planning Committee held on 23rd January 2006 be received.

65 **FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

a) **District Council Standards Committee**

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Boatwright, advised that there was a vacancy for a town council representative on the Districts Standards Committee. Ordinarily it would have been the turn of Houghton Regis Town Council to nominate a Member but they had declined to do so. The County Association of Local Councils had therefore asked this and Leighton-Linslade if they wished to make a nomination. There were no nominations forthcoming at the meeting.

b) **Town Meeting (Minute 51/06)**

The Chairman was delighted to report that Jo Ditch, the new Manager of the Grove Theatre had kindly agreed to address the Town Meeting on 3rd April on matters relating to the new theatre. She was further delighted to report that Claire Mills, a local woman and former Queensbury School pupil, had also agreed to share at the Town Meeting her recent experiences of rowing the Atlantic as part of the Row Girls team to raise funds for the Rotary Club's Shelterbox Charity.

c) **Accounts**

The Chairman reported that the Audit Commission had completed its external audit of the Council's Accounts for 2004/05 and, although the final report had not yet been received, the Council had been advised that it was expected there would be no formal comments or recommendations to be reported to the Council. On behalf of the Council she congratulated the Administration and Finance Manager, Mrs Rosemary Smith and her staff on this continuing excellent achievement.

d) **Minutes**

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting of Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 30th January 2006 be received and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

66 **NORTHFIELDS WARD VACANCY**

The Town Clerk reported that Mr Derrick Millington had resigned as a Member of the Council with effect from 31st December 2005. He had duly posted notice of the vacancy but no Members of the public had requested that the vacancy be filled by election. The Council was accordingly free to fill the vacancy by co-option.

RESOLVED: that the vacancy be filled at the Annual Council Meeting.

67 **COUNCIL WEBSITE**

Shaun Simpson, the Council's Promotions Officer, gave a detailed presentation of the Council's recently revised website which provided easier navigation facilities and greater opportunity for regular updates and potential interaction with users.

Members thanked Mr Simpson for his presentation and his work on upgrading the website.