

DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

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

ON MONDAY 24TH APRIL 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, T C Colbourne, Mrs J K Fairbairn, J Freeman, A E Green, M Jones, C E Meakins-Jell, M J P Mullany, Mrs S A Newton, Mrs A Stock, T A W Stock and M Tilley with Mr R Walden (Town Clerk), Mrs R G Smith (Administration and Finance Manager), Mrs M Markus (Civic Administration Officer) and Major Jacqui Wright (Town Mayor's Chaplain)

Apologies for Absence: Councillors A Bray, J A Harnett and B Ralley

At the commencement of the meeting the Town Mayor's Chaplain led the Council in prayer.

112 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 13th February 2006 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor.

113 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Members declared their interest in the items indicated:

Councillor Mrs Gresham	Dunstable and District Flower Club	Personal Interest (Member of Club)
	Dunstable Old People's Welfare Association	Personal Interest (Council Representative)
	Hospice at Home Volunteers	Personal Interest (Council Representative)
Councillor T A W Stock	Dunstable Downs	Personal Interest (Member of National Trust)
Councillor M Tilley	Dunstable Arts Council	Personal Interest (Council Representative)
Councillor Mrs Boatwright	Dunstable Old People's Welfare Association	Prejudicial Interest (Member of Executive Committee)
	Dial-a-Ride	Prejudicial Interest (Chairman of Organisation)
Councillor T C Colbourne	Dunstable Old People's Welfare Association	Personal Interest (Council Representative)
	1st and 3rd Dunstable Scout Groups	Personal Interest (Chairman of Scout Council)

Councillor T C Colbourne	Dunstable and District Scout Council	Prejudicial Interest (Chairman of Council)
Councillor A J Fairbairn	Dunstable and District Senior Citizens Association	Personal Interest (President of Association)
	Dunstable Young People's Centre	Personal Interest (Council Representative)
Councillor Mrs J Fairbairn	Dial-a-Ride	Personal Interest (Council representative)
	Development at Ashton St Peter Lower School	Personal Interest (Council Representative on Ashton Foundation)
Councillor Mrs Newton	Peter Newton Pavilion	Personal Interest
	3rd Dunstable Rainbows	Personal Interest (Relative of a Member)
Councillor P J Boatwright	Change of Use 60 Bull Pond Lane	Personal Interest (Acquaintance of Owner of adjoining property)
	Dunstable International Twinning Association (DITA)	Prejudicial Interest (Member of DITA Executive) (and left meeting during discussion)
All Members of Plans-Sub Committee	Alterations to 23 Staines Square	Personal Interest (Applicant a District Councillor)
Councillor M Jones	Trico Site Development Framework	Prejudicial Interest and left the meeting during discussion (Chair of North Dunstable Residents Association)

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

114 TOWN MAYOR'S REMARKS

The Town Mayor reported on the various events and activities at which he had represented the Council since its last meeting. He particularly thanked those Members who had supported his charity Ball which had contributed significantly to the total of £5,200 which had been raised for his various charities during the year.

115 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Mrs S Colbeck observed that building new roads did not solve problems of traffic congestion and she advocated, as an alternative, improvement to public transport particularly buses. She also felt that users of buses should have the best facilities in the form of robust shelters provided for them. The Town Mayor indicated that her comments would be taken into account by Councillors when considering the relevant issues.

116 **EMERGENCY PLANNING**

Mr Vladek Cirin, Head of the Civil Contingencies Unit at Bedfordshire County Council gave a detailed presentation on emergency planning, now known as “Resilience Planning” in Bedfordshire. He invited the Council to consider preparing its own Community Emergency Plan for the town.

The Town Mayor thanked Mr Cirin for a most helpful and informative presentation and confirmed that Finance and General Purposes Committee would be asked to consider at its next meeting the preparation of a Community Plan.

117 **LIBRARY AND PROMOTIONS COMMITTEE**

a) **Library - Young Adults’ Area (Minute 71(e)/06)**

In answer to a question from Councillor Mrs Boatwright, the Chairman, Councillor Tilley, confirmed that a report on the liaison of the Youth and Community Manager and the Library Manager regarding current issues of concern relating to young people both in and around the Library would be submitted to the next meeting of his Committee.

b) **Tourist Information Centre (Minute 74(b)/06)**

The Chairman advised Councillor Colbourne that he would receive a written reply relating to discussions with First City Connect regarding the sale of rail tickets at the Tourist Information Centre.

c) **Grove House Gardens: Wooden Eagle**

In answer to questions from Councillors Colbourne and Green the Chairman reported that following repairs to the wooden eagle it had not been found practicable to remove it into storage in the manner envisaged at the last meeting of his Committee. The sculpture was accordingly remaining in place for the time being but the matter would be reviewed at the next meeting of his Committee.

d) **Minutes**

RESOLVED: that, subject to the foregoing, the Minutes of the meeting of Library and Promotions Committee held on 6th March 2006 be received.

118 **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting of the Community Development Committee held on 13th March 2006 be received.

119 **HIGHWAYS, PARKS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE**

a) **Trico Site development Framework (Minute 5, Plans-Sub 70.3.06)**

The Chairman, Councillor P Boatwright, reported that this Council’s concerns regarding the density of housing and the planned access onto the A5 at this site had been considered at the meeting of the Joint Planning and Transportation Committee held on 13th March. That Committee had been advised that a detailed traffic assessment had indicated that access onto the A5 Trunk Road was acceptable and the developers had also indicated that there would be some improvements made to the turning facilities. The site was very accessible by a variety of public transport routes. In terms of density the Regional Strategy suggested

a density of no less than 30 dwellings per hectare. In the light of this advice the Joint Committee had approved the draft Framework without amendment.

b) Bus Shelters, Meadway/Cemetery Lane (Minute 95 (d)/06)

By way of amendment it was proposed by Councillor Mrs Newton, duly seconded and

RESOLVED: that the damaged shelter at this location be replaced as part of the impending bus shelter replacement programme.

c) Minutes

RESOLVED: that, subject to the foregoing, the Minutes of the meeting of Highways, Parks and Planning Committee held on 20th March 2006 be received.

120 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

a) Outside Organisations

RESOLVED: that Major Jacqueline Wright be nominated as a Council Representative on Ardley Hill Lower School and Mrs Cathy Howes be re-appointed a Representative Trustee on the Lockington and Marshe Charities.

b) Town Centre Management Committee

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting of the Management Committee held on 4th April 2006 be received.

c) Minutes

RESOLVED: that, subject to the foregoing, the Minutes of the meeting of Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 27th March 2006 be received and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

121 TOWN MAYOR

At the conclusion of the meeting Councillor Mrs Boatwright thanked Councillor Andy Fairbairn for the manner in which he had conducted Council meetings during the past municipal year.