

DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

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

ON MONDAY 31ST JULY 2006

Present: Councillor Mrs C M Gresham (Town Mayor), Councillor Mrs B M Boatwright (Deputy Town Mayor and Chairman), Councillor M J P Mullany (Vice-Chairman), Councillors P J Boatwright, A J Fairbairn, Mrs J K Fairbairn, M Jones, Mrs S A Newton and M Tilley with Mr R Walden (Town Clerk), Mrs H A Hupton (Deputy Town Clerk), Mrs R G Smith (Administration and Finance Manager), Ms N Bell and Mr D Levett of Bedfordshire Heartlands Primary Care Trust

242 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on 15th May and 19th June 2006 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

243 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no specific declarations of interest.

244 STEPPINGLEY COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Following the preliminary consideration of this matter by Community Development Committee, the Committee received Nicola Bell, Chief Executive of Bedfordshire Heartlands Primary Care Trust and David Levett its Communications Manager, who discussed with Members the proposed re-provision of community based intermediate care beds currently provided at Steppingley Community Hospital. Both of the preferred options included the NHS purchasing beds in nursing homes convenient to South Bedfordshire and Nicola assured Members that there was sufficient capacity to achieve this without reducing the amount of respite or other care normally available.

RESOLVED: that the Deputy Town Clerk be authorised, in consultation with the Chairman of Community Development Committee, to send a composite response of the Council's comments on the proposal as outlined during the meeting.

245 ACCOUNTS

RESOLVED: i) that the Minutes of the meetings of the Accounts Sub-Committee held on 22nd June and 20th July 2006 (see Appendix 'A') be received

ii) that the Appointment of 28th September as Public Audit Day when electors may exercise their right to question the Auditor be noted.

246 CIVIC EVENTS AND MAYORAL ACTIVITIES

The Committee received a detailed report of the Civic Administration Officer giving full details of the many and varied events at which the Town Mayor had represented the Council since the last meeting of the Committee. Members also noted the following forthcoming Mayoral Events:

Monday 11th September 2006	Charity Golf Day	t.b.a.	Dunstable Downs Golf Club
Sunday 15th October 2006	Civic Service	3.00 pm	Priory Church of St Peter
Saturday 18th November 2006	Charity Race Evening	7.30 pm	St Mary's Church Hall, West Street
Saturday 9th December 2006	Christmas Carol Concert by The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints	7.30 pm	Priory Church
Monday 11th & Tuesday 12th December 2006	Christmas Teas for the Elderly	2.30 pm – 5.00 pm	Cordova, West Street
Saturday 0th January 2007	Coffee Morning	10.00 am – 12 noon	Grove House
Saturday 3rd March 2007	Charity Ball	7.00 pm till late	The Riverside Suite, Vauxhall Recreation Club
Saturday 28th April 2007	Bedfordshire Police Choir Concert	7.30 pm	Salvation Army Worship and Community Centre

247 SOUTH BEDFORDSHIRE LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (LSP)

The Minutes of the meeting of the Local Strategic Partnership held on 9th March 2006 were received. Members were pleased to note that the LSP at its next meeting would be considering a report recommending gap funding for the Mayfield Centre from the period of the conclusion of the current agreement until the opening of the proposed Childrens Centre.

248 DUNSTABLE LIAISON FORUM

The Committee received the Minutes of the meeting of the Liaison Forum held on 19th July 2006 (see Appendix 'B').

249 REFERENCES FROM HIGHWAYS, PARKS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: that this Committee concur with the proposals of Highways, Parks and Planning Committee relating to a replacement vehicle and the short term lease of staff/storage facilities (Minute Nos. 232 & 240/2006) be endorsed.

250 BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS

RESOLVED: i) that Councillor Mrs Fairbairn be nominated for election to the County Committee

ii) that Councillors A Fairbairn, Mrs Fairbairn and Tilley be appointed to represent the Council at the Annual General Meeting of the Association to be held on 25th October

iii) that all Members of the Council be invited to advise the Town Clerk by the end of August of any resolutions they would wish to see discussed at the Annual Meeting.

251 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: that, in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting.

252 STAFFING MATTER

RESOLVED: that the temporary staffing arrangements relating to the Tourist Information Centre as set out in the report of the Deputy Town Clerk be approved.

253 DISCIPLINARY AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

RESOLVED: that the draft revised Disciplinary and Grievance Procedure as set out at (Appendix 'C') be adopted.