

DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

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

ON MONDAY 30TH APRIL 2007

Present: Councillor Mrs C M Gresham (Town Mayor); Councillor Mrs B M Boatwright (Deputy Town Mayor); Councillors R R Anklesaria, T C Colbourne, A J Fairbairn, Mrs J K Fairbairn, J Freeman, A E Green, J Harnett, M J Hearty, M Jones, Mrs S Littlechild, M J P Mullany, Mrs S A Newton, P E Russell, Mrs A Stock, and M Tilley with Mr D Ashlee (Town Clerk), Mrs M Markus (Civic Administration Officer) and Mrs R G Smith (Administration and Finance Manager) and Reverend Richard Andrews (Town Mayor's Chaplain)

Apologies for Absence: Councillors P J Boatwright, B Ralley and T A Stock

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

117 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 12th February 2007 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor.

118 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Members declared their interest in the items indicated:

Councillor Mrs B Boatwright	Cordova	Prejudicial Interest (Member of Management Committee)
	Dunstable Young People's Centre	Personal Interest (Trustee)
	South Beds Dial-a-Ride	Personal Interest
Councillor T C Colbourne	1st Dunstable Scouts	Personal Interest
	3rd Dunstable Scouts	Personal Interest
	8th Dunstable Scouts	Personal Interest
	Dunstable and District Scout Council	Prejudicial interest
Councillor A Green	Dunstable Downs	Personal Interest (Member of National Trust)
	Priory House	Personal Interest (Member of English Heritage)
Councillor Mrs C Gresham	Dunstable & District Flower Club	Prejudicial Interest (Member of Club)
	Cordova	Personal Interest (Council Representative on Management Committee)
	Hillcrest Out of School Club	Personal Interest
	Dunstable Old People's Welfare Association	Personal Interest

Councillor Mrs S Newton	Peter Newton Pavilion 3rd Dunstable Rainbows	Personal Interest (Centre named after family member) Personal Interest
Councillor T A W Stock	Dunstable Downs	Personal Interest (Member of National Trust)

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

119 TOWN MAYOR'S REMARKS

The Town Mayor reported on the many and varied events at which she had represented the Council since its last meeting.

She also thanked everyone for the support for her Charity Ball on 3rd March which had raised over £2,500 for her charities. Cheque presentations would shortly be made to the following organisations from the monies raised during her Mayoral year:

McMillan (approx £8,000
Army and Sea Cadets £1,000
Dunstable Salvation Army £1,000 for the Young People's band
Local District Scouts £1,000
Beacon House £1,000 for help and support for young people with mental health problems would soon be

The Town Mayor also extended an invitation to all Members to a civic reception on Friday 11th May for the Dunstable Rugby Union Football Club in recognition of their achievement in reaching the final of the EDF Energy Intermediate Cup Final at Twickenham.

As this was the last meeting at which Cllr Mrs Gresham would preside as Mayor she expressed her thanks to the Chaplain, Revd Andrews for his spiritual guidance to the Council throughout her Mayoral year as well as his invaluable support at her Civic Service. She also thanked the Council and staff for their support during the year and had been honoured to hold the position.

120 LIBRARY AND PROMOTIONS COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting of Library and Promotions Committee held on 5th March 2007 be received.

121 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

In presenting the report of this Committee, Councillor Mrs Newton expressed her thanks to Council staff for their help over the years of her Chairmanship.

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting of Community Development Committee held on 12th March 2007 be received.

122 HIGHWAYS, PARKS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

In presenting the report of this Committee, Councillor Russell expressed the Council's best wishes for a speedy recovery to Councillor Peter Boatwright who was presently in hospital.

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting of Highways, Parks and Planning Committee held on 19th March 2007 be received.

123 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

a) National Association of Local Councils

RESOLVED: that Councillor Mrs Gresham be appointed to represent the Council at the Annual Conference of the Association with Councillor Mrs Newton and the Town Clerk on 5th-7th October 2007.

b) Minutes

RESOLVED: that, subject to the foregoing, the Minutes of the meetings of Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 5th and 26th March 2007 be received.

124 DUNSTABLE CEMETERY EXTENSION (Minutes 181/05, 28, 54 & 228/06)

The Committee recalled the various reports relating to the compulsory purchase of allotment plots at the Victoria Allotments and the Town Clerk reported that the judicial review period had now lapsed and works could commence to commission contractors to undertake the landscaping works required to create the cemetery extension.

JE Jacobs had quoted to project manage the cemetery extension works and their quotation exceeded £10,000. The Council's standing orders state that contract works between £10,000 and £50,000 should be subject to three quotations. However, because the Council has been assisted by JE Jacobs already on this issue they have a strong knowledge base that will help in completing the project.

JE Jacobs had been asked to quote for the design of the extended cemetery layout, the procurement of contractors and onsite supervision. It was anticipated that this would be completed by the end of August 2007 with the expectation of contractors being on-site for ten weeks during September, October and November. There would then be a period in the region of twelve months where the contractor would assume maintenance responsibilities, before handing over long term maintenance arrangements to the Town Council.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

JE Jacobs had quoted £22,050 for the design, procurement of contractors and site supervision work. This would form part of the overall extension costs and would be included in the application to the Secretary of State for permission to borrow funds.

The Council had already authorised the Town Clerk to apply for permission to borrow funds but until the design had been fully costed, final project costs would not be known. It is estimated that final costs could be in the region of £350,000.

During land purchase negotiations it had become apparent that further plots that fall outside of the original cemetery extension proposal had become available for purchase

RESOLVED: i) that, in light of the specialist nature of the extension work, the Council waive standing orders in relation to the awarding of contracts and secure the services of JE Jacobs who have already assisted the Town Council in the progression of this initiative

ii) that the Town Clerk be authorised to complete the purchase of three further allotment plots adjacent to the original cemetery extension proposals should the opportunity arise and the cost of these (in the region of £20,000) be included in the final loan application.

(ACTION: TOWN CLERK)

125 GOOD CITIZEN AWARD

The Council had, in the past, made awards to individuals to recognise achievements and contributions made within the community of Dunstable. The award is given so that the Town Council can show its appreciation, in a suitable manner, to an individual at an appropriate occasion and presented in the form of an inscribed and framed scroll signed by the Town Mayor.

Richard Walden, the previous Town Clerk of Dunstable Town Council, had been nominated as a recipient of the Good Citizen Award in recognition not only of his contributions made to the Town Council over the past 22 years, but also as a result of his wider contributions to the local community.

Richard has contributed to the community of Dunstable in many ways during his life in Dunstable. He has been involved in considerable amounts of charity related activity due to his involvement in the Rotary Club of Dunstable and his local church. He has also authored a book on the street names of Dunstable and is heavily involved in a local football club. Other examples of his contributions to Dunstable life include teaching Sunday school and representations on local charitable trusts. However, Richard is most widely known for his work as the Town Clerk of Dunstable Town Council, a post he held for 22 years. During this time Richard developed the Council from a one man operation in 1985 to the significant organisation it currently is. The result being that the Town Council has a high reputation locally for the quality services it provides and is recognised nationally as one of the leading Town Councils in the country.

RESOLVED: that, in recognition of his distinguished service to Dunstable Town Council and his outstanding contribution to the wider community, the Council confer the Good Citizen Award upon Richard Walden, to be presented at the Annual Meeting of the Council on 21st May 2007.

(ACTION: TOWN CLERK)