

DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

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

ON MONDAY 4TH FEBRUARY 2008

Present: Councillor Mrs B M Boatwright (Town Mayor); Councillor A E Green (Deputy Town Mayor); Councillors R R Anklesaria, T C Colbourne, A J Fairbairn, Mrs J K Fairbairn, J Freeman, Mrs C Gresham, Harnett, M J Hearty Mrs S Littlechild, C E Meakins-Jell, M J P Mullany, Mrs S A Newton, P E Russell, T A Stock, Mrs A Stock and M Tilley

In Attendance: Mr D Ashlee (Town Clerk), Mrs R G Smith (Head of Finance and Support Services) and Mrs M Markus (Democratic and Mayoral Services Officer)

Apologies for Absence: Councillors P J Boatwright, M Jones and B Ralley and Reverend R Andrews (Town Mayor's Chaplain)

At the commencement of the meeting the Town Clerk led the Council in prayer.

55 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 3rd December 2007 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor.

56 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Members declared their interest in the items indicated:

Councillor Mrs S A Newton	Peter Newton Pavilion	Personal Interest (Centre named after family member)
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57 TOWN MAYORS REMARKS

The Town Mayor referred to the very busy Mayoral engagement diary in December as previously reported to Finance and General Purposes Committee. All the events had been special in their own way and she had enjoyed attending each of them.

58 LIBRARY AND PROMOTIONS COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting of Library and Promotions Committee held on 7th January 2008 be received.

59 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting of Community Development Committee held on Monday 14th January 2008 be received.

60 HIGHWAYS, PARKS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting of Highways, Parks and Planning Committee held on 21st January 2008 be received and the recommendation contained therein be adopted.

61 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

a) Town Council Precept 2008/2009 (Minute 44/2008)

Councillor Mrs Newton reported in detail on the precept recommendations of Finance and General Purposes Committee.

- RESOLVED:** i) that the proposed budget for 2008/2009 as presented to Council be approved
- ii) that the Town Clerk be authorised to incur the various items of expenditure detailed in the budget, subject to compliance with the requirements of the Council's Standing Orders
- iii) that the revised scale of charges, set out in the Budget book, be approved with effect from 1st April 2008 or the start of the 2008/2009 winter playing season, as appropriate
- iv) that, in consequence of the foregoing, the Town Council issue a precept upon South Bedfordshire District Council in the sum of £1,580,926
- v) that the expenditure proposals funded from reserve funds as set out in the Budget book be approved
- vi) that the Mayoral allowance be treated as a normal Council expenditure account in 2008/2009, for subsequent review in consultation with the Town Mayor.

b) Appointment of School Governor to Moorlands School

RESOLVED: that an invitation to appoint a Member of Dunstable Town Council as a School Governor to Moorlands School be declined.

c) Town and Parish Council Reception

RESOLVED: that Councillor A E Green be appointed as the Council's representative to attend the Town and Parish Council Reception to be held at County Hall on 19th February 2008.

d) Minutes

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting of Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 28th January be received and the recommendations contained there in be adopted.

62 DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL WEB SITE

The Events Officer gave a brief demonstration of the new web site which was being designed with the following aims:

1. To be accessible for updating by all members of staff and other eligible users
2. To be easy and fast to navigate for all people accessing it
3. To supply all the relevant information on Dunstable Town Council and its services
4. To have a modern appearance that is adaptable to the needs of the Council
5. To fit in with the corporate image of Dunstable Town Council
6. To comply with the legal requirements on accessibility
7. To be "future proof" for a minimum of 3 years
8. To have the ability to be expanded to accommodate any growth in the Council's usage of the internet with regard to the booking of services.

The Events Officer would advise Members of the website link that could be accessed to show the design process of the new website. The website would be hosted and available to the public on 7th April 2008.