

DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HIGHWAYS, PARKS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

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

ON MONDAY 11TH JUNE 2007

Present: Councillor Mrs B M Boatwright (Town Mayor); Councillor A E Green (Deputy Town Mayor); Councillors M Tilley (Chairman), P E Russell (Vice-Chairman), R R Anklesaria, Mrs J K Fairbairn, M Jones, Mrs S B Littlechild, M Mullany, B Ralley and Mrs A Stock

In Attendance: Councillor Mrs C Gresham with Mr D Ashlee (Town Clerk) and Mrs R G Smith (Administration and Finance Manager)

Apologies for Absence: Councillor P J Boatwright

163 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor B Ralley	Traffic Regulation Orders	Personal Interest (Relative of resident of Greenfield Close)
Councillor Mrs Gresham	Croquet Lawn	Personal Interest (Member of Dunstable Croquet Club)

164 MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 19th March 2007 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

165 PLANS-SUB COMMITTEE

In answer to a question from Councillor Jones, the Town Clerk advised that it was understood there would be further opportunity to consider any amendment to the Trico site planning application following the submission of this Council's comments, as agreed at the meeting of Plans Sub-Committee held on 14th May 2007.

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meetings of Plans Sub-Committee held on 13th March, 2nd April, 23rd April, 14th May and 22nd May 2007 (see Appendix 'A') be received.

166 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

A resident of Meadway raised concerns at the nuisance being caused by unauthorised vehicular access into the Cemetery grounds and the large family groups visiting the Cemetery which were disturbing residents quiet enjoyment of their own gardens and the peaceful contemplation of other visitors to the Cemetery.

A member of Dunstable and District Senior Citizens Association and resident of Canesworde Road addressed the Committee on the need for a greater priority for public transport including the provision and replacement of bus shelters. She also spoke against the proposal for the installation of teen equipment in Grove House Gardens.

167 DUNSTABLE CEMETERY

The Committee received a report of the Performance and Environment Manager on the current work programme within the Cemetery.

168 CEMETERY VEHICULAR ACCESS

Members recalled that in September 2006 and March 2007 they had received reports of nuisance within the Cemetery ground with family groups, many in vans and lorries visiting the Cemetery for long periods and causing nuisance to other visitors and adjoining neighbours.

Consideration had been given to the possible installation of a height restriction barrier and/or automatic barriers from the car park into the grounds which would remain locked throughout with access restricted to authorised vehicles and those registered disabled who have keys to the existing gate. At the March meeting it was agreed that proposals for the introduction of automatic barrier equipment would not be pursued at the present time. Letters had been sent to all those keyholders reminding them of the requirement to close the gates behind them on entry and exit. However, it was evident that the gates were still being left open in the evenings and at weekends.

The Committee had also considered the question raised by a resident of Meadway who had also shown photographic evidence of the numbers of lorries parking within the Cemetery grounds. Whilst Members were sympathetic to the request for restricting vehicular access to the grounds they were concerned to find the right balance to suit all visitors to the Cemetery and allow vehicular access for those who would be unable to visit otherwise.

- RESOLVED:**
- i) that a height restriction barrier be installed from the car park gates into the grounds and the existing gates (currently operating on a keyholder system) be left open
 - ii) that the main gates into the Cemetery car park from West Street continue to be locked every evening by the security company
 - iii) that the situation be monitored over a weekend period and a survey be carried out on the number and type of vehicles entering the grounds and the number making use of the car park, the results of which would be reported to the next meeting of this Committee.

Action: Performance and Environment Manager

169 TOWN CENTRE AND GARDENS

The Committee received a report of the Culture and Regeneration Manager on recent activities undertaken within the town centre areas and Grove House and Priory House gardens. Members were disappointed to note that two of the recently planted trees in Grove House Gardens had been damaged within a few days of planting.

Members noted that the recent survey around the town centre would determine a programme of works to remove obsolete road signs and unnecessary signs as part of partnership working between the Town Council, South Bedfordshire District Council, Highways Agency and Bedfordshire Highways.

In answer to a question from Councillor Jones, the appearance of new signage outside the Halifax in High Street North, apparently indicating the location of a disabled WC to the north, would be investigated.

170 BUS SHELTERS

The Committee noted the planned programme of replacement/relocation of bus shelters. In answer to a question from Councillor Green, it was agreed that clarification would be sought on the standard of replacement., It had been understood this was to be on a like for like basis but the agreed replacement shelter in Meadway now included illumination which it had not been present in the old shelter.

Action: Culture and Regeneration Manager

171 TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS

The Culture and Regeneration Manager submitted a report on the newly introduced scheme of Bedfordshire Highways, the "Local Council Request for Traffic Management Improvements". This now required any requests from residents for possible highway improvements to be submitted, on the prescribed form, to the relevant town or parish council for their consideration.

It was anticipated that there would be many such requests if this scheme was to continue and Members asked that more detail be submitted in future, particularly to clarify any highways terminology.

Consideration was given to requests for

- a) installation of bollards at Birchside to restrict parking on grass verges
- b) H-bar markings at a property in Birchside, and
- c) additional parking facilities in Greenfield Close.

RESOLVED: i) that the three requests be supported and Bedfordshire Highways be advised accordingly

ii) that the Police be asked to consider the possibility of prosecuting those obstructing the highway in Greenfield Close

iii) that Bedfordshire Highways be asked to write to all residents in the Close advising that obstruction of the highway is an offence and can lead to a fixed penalty.

Action: Culture and Regeneration Manager

172 TEEN EQUIPMENT

The Committee considered the report of the Culture and Regeneration Manager regarding the proposed installation of teen equipment in Grove House Gardens, as selected in consultation with young people. Members wished to give further consideration to the type of equipment and location for installation and to assist in this it was

RESOLVED: that an appropriate site visit be arranged to view the type of equipment proposed and further consideration be given as to the best location for any such provision.

Action: Culture and Regeneration Manager

173 COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE

The Dunstable and District Scout Council had sought permission to place an additional commemorative plaque on their current commemorative stone in Priory Gardens, to mark the centenary of scouting.

RESOLVED: that the request be approved.

174 CROQUET LAWN HIRE

Following the successful Charity Croquet match held in Priory Gardens in July last year, the Town Council had assisted in the establishment of the Dunstable Croquet Club who now regularly met at Priory Gardens. The Council's assistance had included the waiving of any fee in the first season and no formal hire charge had been agreed. A recent request had also been received from the Methodist Church to use the croquet lawn.

RESOLVED: i) that the croquet lawn be available for hire to other organisations, the number of bookings per week to be determined by grounds maintenance staff

ii) that the hire charge be £9.50 per hour.

Action: Culture and Regeneration Manager

175 RECREATION GROUNDS

The Committee received a report of the Performance and Environment Manager on recent activities undertaken within the recreation grounds. Members were pleased to note the success of the BMX race meeting held at Peppercorn Park.

In noting the theft of bowling green maintenance equipment from Luton Road pavilion store, Members asked that additional security be investigated.

Action: Performance and Environment Manager

176 STREET NAMING

Members suggestions for 6/7 new street names for the development on the former Trico site at High Street North/Brewers Hill Road included those on a car manufacturer's theme, including Vauxhall, Commer, Ford, Sparks, Steering, as well as Walden Way and a possible reference to Trico. Members were asked to relay any other suggestions to the Town Clerk for submission to South Bedfordshire District Council.

Action: Town Clerk

177 TIDY CAMPAIGN

The Committee received the Minutes of the meeting of TIDY held on 28th February and 28th March 2007.

178 ICE CREAM CONCESSION

An application had been received for a permanent pitch for an ice cream concession on land next to the play area at Grove House Gardens. Members agreed in principle to allowing concessions but a detailed report would be submitted to a future meeting on the possible procurement of concessions at all Council events and at various locations, rather than the current ad-hoc arrangements on a permanent basis. In advance of that consideration it was

RESOLVED: that an ice-cream concession be let to the applicant for a 3 month trial period during the summer, on land next to the play area in Grove House Gardens and the Town Clerk be authorised to finalise arrangements in consultation with the Chairman.

Action: Town Clerk