

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 23RD JULY 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), Mrs J K Fairbairn, Mrs S B Littlechild, M Mullany, B Ralley and Mrs A Stock

In Attendance: Councillors Mrs C Gresham, T C Colbourne and T A W Stock with Mr D Ashlee (Town Clerk) and Mrs K Winton (Head of Parks and Cemetery Services)

Apologies for Absence: Councillors R R Anklesaria, P J Boatwright and Mrs M Jones

217 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor T C Colbourne Traffic Regulation Orders Prejudicial Interest (School Governor, St. Christopher's Lower School)

218 MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 21st May and 11th June 2007 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

219 LUTON ROAD, DUNSTABLE - MAJOR HIGHWAY WORKS

The Chairman welcomed Mr John Donovan, Senior Engineer from Bedfordshire Highways, who answered Members' questions on the proposed highway works to be carried out on Luton Road, Dunstable. In summary the main points arising from the discussion were:

- Project cost approx £1.4 million
- Start date late October 2007
- Works likely to last 12 weeks
- Road closure to be one lane from 10.00 pm – 6.00 am

Members expressed their concerns regarding the road works and asked that due consideration be given to the following:

- the potential issue of increased 'rat running' through residential areas
- extending the planned works to include the stretch of Luton Road between the Dunelm store and the Bramley Court development
- means of access for residents of Luton Road to their own driveways
- the Highways Engineer re-visit the site and thoroughly examine the area before details are finalised.

RESOLVED: that written confirmation of the above be sent to Mr Donovan.

Action: Head of Events and Town Centre Services

220 PLANS-SUB COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meetings of Plans Sub-Committee held on 12th June and 3rd July 2007 (see Appendix 'A') be received.

221 DUNSTABLE CEMETERY

The Head of Parks and Cemetery Services reported on the current work programme within the Cemetery.

It was noted that the height restriction barrier was on order and would be installed shortly. Additional car parking spaces were being created at the far end of the Cemetery to discourage visitors from parking on the grass.

222 TOWN CENTRE AND GARDENS

The Head of Events and Town Centre Services submitted a report on recent work activities undertaken within the town centre areas and Grove House and Priory House Gardens.

Members commented favourably on the town's floral arrangements and thanked all staff involved for their efforts.

223 TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS

Members considered requests from Dunstable residents regarding traffic management improvements in the town.

- RESOLVED:**
- i) that the installation of the pedestrian crossing in Langdale Road be supported but Bedfordshire Highways be asked to review the position of the proposed crossing
 - ii) that the extension of yellow lining and the installation of bollards outside St Christopher's Lower School be supported
 - iii) that the installation of the additional speed camera in Luton Road be supported
 - iv) that the proposed traffic calming in Bull Pond Lane and Langdale Road be agreed in principle but Bedfordshire Highways be asked to investigate or consider alternative measures for slowing traffic without the use of road humps.

Action: Head of Events and Town Centre Services

224 RECREATION GROUNDS

The Head of Parks and Cemetery Services reported on recent work activities undertaken within the recreation grounds. The Committee was pleased to note the ongoing success and increasing membership of the BMX Club but were disappointed to hear that the pavilion at Bennett Memorial Recreation Ground had once again been subject to vandalism on three separate occasions recently.

225 BLOWS DOWN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Committee received the Minutes of the meeting of Blows Down Management Committee held on 5th March 2007.

