

# **DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LIBRARY AND PROMOTIONS COMMITTEE**

**HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, GROVE HOUSE, HIGH STREET NORTH, DUNSTABLE**

**ON MONDAY 7TH JANUARY 2008**

Present: Councillor Mrs B M Boatwright (Town Mayor); Councillors T A W Stock (Chairman); J Freeman (Vice Chairman); R R Anklesaria, Mrs J Fairbairn, Mrs C Gresham and C E Meakins-Jell

In Attendance: Mr D Ashlee (Town Clerk), Ms M Alexander (Head of Events and Town Centre Services), Mr S Simpson (Events and Health & Safety Officer), Mr J Sutton (National Trust) and Mrs R Lambert (Library Manager)

Apologies for Absence: Councillors A E Green (Deputy Town Mayor); J Harnett, Mrs S B Littlechild and B F Ralley

### **1 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 29th October 2007 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **2 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following Members declared their interest in the items indicated:

|                 |                 |  |
|-----------------|-----------------|--|
| Cllr Stock      | Dunstable Downs | Personal Interest (Member of National Trust) |
| Cllr Anklesaria | Dunstable Downs | Personal Interest (Member of National Trust) |

### **3 DUNSTABLE LIBRARY**

The Library Managers report was received by the Committee Members, with acknowledgement of an amendment in the 'borrowing' statistics (should have read 10,878 and not 00878). Congratulations were offered to the Library staff for their continued work with the 'Teen Corner', as well as ongoing promotions and initiatives throughout the Library.

### **4 DUNSTABLE DOWNS**

The report of the Property Manager was received by the Committee. The Members were advised of the Centre's forthcoming first anniversary at the end of January 2008. The mains water supply is still awaited, but an installation date for February 2008 has now been set.

Planning approval for the 'sculpture concept' by Mark Haywood should hopefully gain planning approval from BCC planners later in January.

Working with the Dunstable Hang-gliders and Paragliding Club the Centre now provides 'Downs Weather on the Web'. This is accessed either by phoning 08444 121800 or via the web on [www.dhpc.info](http://www.dhpc.info).

Multi-user trail has been on hold over the holiday period and as yet no completion date has been advised. Cllr Boatwright commented on the usefulness of the trail for all users.

The date for the annual Kite Festival had been re-scheduled. This was due to a clash of dates with a festival held in Dover on the same weekend. In addition the Greensand Trust would be running an Easter Egg Trail on 19th March 2008, part of a national National Trust event sponsored by Cadbury's.

## **5 PROMOTIONS**

Members received the report of the Events and Health and Safety Officer, detailing past events.

## **6 PROPOSED EVENTS PROGRAMME 2008 / 2009**

Members considered the proposed events programme which was achievable with the current staffing levels of Dunstable Town Council staff supplemented by the use of a temporary events assistant, casual staff and event health and safety personnel.

**RESOLVED:** i) that the events programme for 2008/2009 as set out in the report be approved

ii) that a recommendation be made to Finance and General Purposes for the addition to the establishment of a part time post of Events Assistant.

(Action: Head of Events and Town Centre Services)

## **7 FORTHCOMING EVENTS REPORT – CARNIVAL 2008**

**RESOLVED:** i) that the admission prices for this year's Carnival be set at £2 for adults, £1 for children and concession and under 5s admitted free

ii) that a family ticket for 2 adults and 2 children be offered at a price of £5

iii) that the theme for this years Carnival Procession be 'The Films of Disney'.

(Action: Events and Health & Safety Officer)

## **8 PRIORY HOUSE**

The report of the Priory House Manager was accepted by the Committee. Members were pleased to learn that the various service areas within Priory House had continued to improve and that a range of Christmas activities had been well attended. Members expressed their hopes that a good range of Easter products would be made available for purchase in the gift shop and that the popular 'demonstrations' / workshops, which had previously been held in the Undercroft would continue throughout 2008 / 2009. The Priory House Manager was asked to bring to the next meeting of this Committee more detailed statistics for the use of the first floor meeting room.

(Action: Priory House Manager)

## **9 DRAFT BUDGET 2008/2009**

The Committee considered the draft budget for 2008/2009.

**RESOLVED:** that the draft budget be approved and forwarded to Finance and General Purposes Committee.