

**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 14TH MAY 2007**

Present: Councillor Mrs C M Gresham (Town Mayor); Councillor Mrs B M Boatwright (Deputy Town Mayor); Councillors M Tilley (Chairman); , R R Anklesaria, T C Colbourne, A E Green, Mrs S B Littlechild, C E Meakins–Jell, and T A W Stock

In Attendance: Councillors Mrs S A Newton and P Russell, D Ashlee (Town Clerk), Ms M Alexander (Cultural & Regeneration Manager) and J Sutton (Area Manager, National Trust).

Apologies for Absence: Councillor M J P Mullany

**126 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 5th March 2007 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**127 GRANTS SUB-COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the Grants Sub-Committee meeting held 23rd March 2007 (see Appendix 'A') be received.

**128 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following Members declared their interest in the items indicated:

Cllr A E Green	Dunstable Downs Priory House	Personal Interest (Member of National Trust) Personal Interest (Member of English Heritage)
Cllr T A W Stock	Dunstable Downs	Personal Interest (Member of National Trust)
Cllr T Colbourne	Dunstable Downs	Personal Interest (Member of National Trust)

**129 DUNSTABLE LIBRARY**

The Committee received a report of the Library Manager on recent activities and events taking place within the Library since the last meeting of the Committee. Members asked that the library staff be congratulated on their efforts on providing a good and varied programme, but were saddened to hear of the budgetary cuts which would force Dunstable Library to be closed on a Thursday morning. Clarification would be sought as to why Thursday mornings had been chosen.

**(Action: Culture & Regeneration  
Manager)**

### **130 THE BEDFORDSHIRE CHALK DOWNLAND USER GROUP**

The Committee received a letter from the BCDUG requesting a member be appointed from its number to act as a representative on the newly formed group.

**RESOLVED:** that Councillor Green be appointed as the Council's representative to serve on the Bedfordshire Chalk Downland User Group.

### **131 DUNSTABLE DOWNS**

The National Trust's Property Manager for Dunstable Downs submitted a detailed report on recent activities since the last meeting of the Committee, as well as forthcoming events including the official launch of the new Chilterns Gateway Centre to be held on the 23rd May. Almost 200 local dignitaries had been invited to the event which would feature the opening by TV Presenter Michaela Strachan and Roberto Perrone (BBC 3 Counties Radio, Breakfast Show Presenter). The opening would involve the unveiling of an inscribed kite sculpture. The Property Manager was pleased to be able to confirm to Members that concerns raised at the last meeting of this Committee regarding 'operational' issues in the building had in the main been addressed and rectified. Car parking charges were due to commence in the near future (£1 per car) and a number of Members voiced their concerns regarding its implementation.

A bid to EEDA for funding in excess of £600,000 had been awarded, which would enable the interpretation fit-out in the centre and pay for panels and other features outside, as well as the continuation of the full-colour property newsletter, for at least a further 12 months. A formal request was made to the Town Council for support in providing the kite making workshop at this year's forthcoming Kite Festival, to be held on Sunday 29th July 2007.

(Action: Culture & Regeneration  
Manager)

### **132 PROMOTIONS**

Members received a full written report of the Promotions Officer detailing arrangements for forthcoming events planned to take place in the town, including the forthcoming annual Sunday Afternoon Band Concerts, as well as preliminary arrangements for the planned Charity Croquet Competition and the Dunstable Folk and Dance Festival.

### **133 PRIORY HOUSE**

The Priory House Manager had submitted a comprehensive written report regarding recent activities taking place within the House and the Tourist Information Centre. It was noted that both tickets for First Capital Connect and Whipsnade Wild Animal Park, would soon be on sale within the TIC. Both children's and adult events had been well attended which included the Tea Time Tales, and following their success the Town Guides were busy preparing their Town Walks programme for this coming summer, all starting at Priory House instead of a local public house.

Members were pleased to receive information regarding the appointment of a new Senior Tourist Information Assistant who commenced employment on Tuesday 8th May. It was hoped the outstanding position of a Saturday Assistant would be filled in the very near future.

**134 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED:** that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the press and public be excluded from the remainder of meeting.

**135 CATERING ARRANGEMENTS – PRIORY HOUSE**

**RESOLVED:** i) that the termination of the existing catering contractor from 12th May 2007 be noted

ii) that the interim appointment of Karen Graham Catering Ltd (KGCL) to manage the Rose Garden Tearooms and Priory House catering functions on the Council's behalf be approved on the terms now agreed, with a licence to operate/rental agreement for the period 14th May 2007 to 31st March 2008

iii) that the timetable to re-tender the catering contract on a longer term basis be approved as set out at Appendix 'B'.

**(Action: Town Clerk)**

**136 CHANGE OF CHAIRMANSHIP**

The current Chairman of the Committee, Councillor Tilley expressed his personal thanks to all Officers with whom he had worked during his Chairmanship, for their support and co-operation.

In response Councillor Terry Stock thanked Councillor Tilley for his excellent contribution since he first began chairing the Committee in 1990.