

**DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GROUNDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES  
COMMITTEE**

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

**ON MONDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2018**

Present: Councillors John Kane (Town Mayor), Nigel Warren (Deputy Town Mayor)  
Lisa Bird (Vice-Chairman)(In the Chair), Philip Crawley, Peter Hollick, Gloria  
Martin, Gladys Sanders, Ann Sparrow and Johnson Tamara

In Attendance: David Ashlee (Town Clerk and Chief Executive), John Crawley (Head of  
Grounds and Environmental Services), Mary Dobbs (Cemetery Manager),  
Kelley Hallam (Office Administrator), James Slack (Sports and Leisure  
Facilities Manager) and Ian Swinnerton (Grounds Operations Manager)

Apologies: Councillors Liz Jones (Chairman), Sid Abbott and Jeannette Freeman

Public: None

**183 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meetings of Grounds and Environmental Services Committee held  
on 10 September 2018 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Vice-  
Chairman.

**184 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no specific declarations of interest.

**185 PLANS-SUB COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meetings of Plans Sub-Committee held  
on 4 September, 25 September and 16 October 2018 be  
received.

**186 FUTURE PLANS SUB-COMMITTEE ARRANGEMENTS**

Following the matter being raised at Council on 1 October 2018 Members discussed  
whether there was still a need to continue to hold a three-weekly Plans Sub-  
Committee meeting or whether the responsibility could be delegated to officers.

Members agreed that it was important for the Town Council to make their comments  
and observations on local planning applications and to give residents the opportunity  
to make representation. It was noted that no officers were qualified Planning Officers  
and there was too long a gap between the Grounds and Environmental Services  
Committee meetings to incorporate consideration of planning applications.

**RESOLVED:** that no changes be made to the Plans Sub-Committee meetings.

## **187 CREASEY PARK COMMUNITY FOOTBALL CENTRE AND SPLASH PARK**

The Sport and Leisure Facilities Manager presented a detailed report on recent operations at the Centre including pitch and function hire and marketing and trading account figures.

The Grounds Team had been awarded the Bedfordshire FA 'Grounds Team of the Year' award for their high quality maintenance of the main stadium pitch.

CPCFC had hosted the Dunstable Town FC Football Festival, with 160 teams attending over a weekend making this the largest tournament held at Creasey Park to date.

Creasey Park was successful in retaining Quest accreditation for the fifth year running.

It was noted there had been another break in and the intruders had gained entry to the office by removing the office window. Nothing was stolen but the office was completely ransacked and the office door was badly damaged when they tried to gain entry to the main building.

Bennett's Splash was now closed and decommissioned for the winter season. Officers and Members had held review meetings to discuss the service next year. The Committee were presented with the key points from the review meetings including opening dates and times and income generating ideas.

Now the splash park had been open for a full season and true costs were known, these would be taken account of in the budget setting process for 2019/20.

Members asked that their congratulations and thanks were passed on to all members of the grounds team for their hard work and winning the award.

## **188 RECREATION GROUNDS, TOWN CENTRE GARDENS, CEMETERY AND ALLOTMENTS**

The Grounds Operations Manager and Cemetery Manager presented a detailed information report covering all areas of the Council's grounds maintenance responsibilities.

### **a) Recreation Grounds**

The lights at the skate park were now operational again with timers set for the winter.

In conjunction with Bedfordshire FA, a regional pitch advisor attended Creasey Park to carry out in-depth assessments of all the pitches on site. A report of the findings and suggestions for improvements would follow shortly.

### **b) Town Centre Area**

The winter/spring bedding plants were now being planted with Priory Gardens completed first to ensure that it was ready for Armistice Day.

The theme for the 2019 In Bloom campaign would be 'Plants for the Senses'. Individuals and organisations would be encouraged to create displays that stimulate the senses including sight, sound, smell, taste and touch.

Members thanked John Crawley for the incredible amount of work that he had put into the refurbishment of the War Memorial and agreed that it now looked amazing and that the project was a great success.

**c) Town Ranger Service**

The Rangers received good feedback from the open day they held in Grove House Gardens. They used this opportunity to promote the Ranger Service to the public, explaining the type of work they carried out across the town.

**d) Dunstable Cemetery**

Members received the burial figures for August to October 2018 along with the profiled income and expenditure figures as at the end of September 2018.

The Friends of Dunstable Cemetery had hosted an evening in the Cemetery Chapel where the public were invited to listen to a local Town Guide give a talk about some of the notable graves in the Cemetery. The evening was a success with seven new people signing up to join the group.

**e) Allotments**

There were currently 50 people on the waiting list, which was comparable to figures reported to the Committee in September 2018. Members received the detail of the waiting list.

**189 BENNETTS' ADVENTURE PLAY AREA (Minute 116/2018)**

The Head of Grounds and Environmental Services presented a report that sought Member approval to increase the budget allocation for the new Bennett's Adventure Play Area.

Members considered the allocation of a further £26,000 from the Parks and Play reserve to provide a total project budget of £200,000 for the Bennett's Adventure Play Area. This additional funding would allow the designers a greater flexibility and creativity with their designs.

Members noted that the additional funding would increase the scope for play companies to deliver a more dynamic adventure play area including play for children of all abilities.

**RESOLVED:** that the Committee recommend to Finance and General Purposes Committee the release of £26,000 from the allocated Parks and Play reserve.

**190 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS**

CBC Development Management Committee:  
No report received.