

DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

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

ON MONDAY 29 APRIL 2019

Present: Councillors John Kane (Town Mayor), Nigel Warren (Deputy Town Mayor), Sid Abbott, Lisa Bird, John Chatterley, Terry Colbourne, Philip Crawley, Jeannette Freeman, Eugene Ghent, Peter Hollick, Liz Jones, Gloria Martin, Claire Meakins, Patricia Russell, Gladys Sanders, Ann Sparrow, Pat Staples and Johnson Tamara

In Attendance: David Ashlee (Town Clerk and Chief Executive), Rosemary O'Sullivan (Head of Finance and Support Services), John Crawley (Head of Grounds and Environmental Services) and Michele Markus (Mayoral and Democratic Services Officer)

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Mike Mullany, Emma Simmons and Jessica Woodward

Public Attendance: 5

60 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held 4 February 2019 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor.

61 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no specific declarations of interest.

62 TOWN MAYOR'S REMARKS

The Town Mayor referred to the report detailing his attendances at a variety of events since the last meeting of the Council. He reflected on his term of office which he had really enjoyed and thanked everyone for their support during his Mayoral year. As this was the last Council meeting before the elections and many Councillors would be retiring at the end of term of this Council, the Town Mayor thanked them all for their years of service.

63 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions put to the meeting.

64 QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 16

There were no questions put to the meeting.

65 COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 11 March 2019 be received.

66 **GROUNDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

a) **Recreation Grounds (Minute 45c/2019)**

Councillor Sparrow reported that three of the fruit trees planted at Olma Road as part of an In Bloom initiative during National Tree Planting Week last year had been vandalised. She was hoping that a forthcoming meeting of Dunstable in Bloom would be able to resolve the matter.

b) **Town Centre Area (Minute 45d/2019)**

In answer to a question from Councillor Abbott, Councillor Jones advised that the Head of Grounds and Environmental Services was in discussion with Central Bedfordshire Council regarding improving the planting in the new containers and ongoing maintenance.

In answer to a question from Councillor Martin, Councillors Ghent and Hollick both advised that he had taken up the issue of parking enforcement with Central Bedfordshire Council and suggested that the shift pattern for parking enforcement officers be altered to provide some night time cover.

Councillor Crawley congratulated the Grounds team for their work on planting up the roundabout at Southwood Road.

c) **Town Ranger Service (Minute 45f/2019)**

Councillors Staples and Ghent praised the work of the Town Rangers, which was much appreciated by residents.

d) **Bennett's Adventure Play**

Councillor Jones had been pleased with the favourable comments on social media on the opening of Bennett's Adventure Play, whilst noting the questions raised regarding fencing and car parking. She asked that if Members were talking to residents about the facility they encourage people to make use of town centre car parks.

e) **Minutes**

RESOLVED: that, subject to the foregoing, the Minutes of the meeting of the Grounds and Environmental Services Committee held on 18 March 2019 be received.

67 **FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

a) **Police and Crime Commissioner's Request for Funding (Minute 56/2019)**

In answer to a question from Councillor Abbott, the Town Clerk and Chief Executive advised that there had been no response from the Commissioner following his e-mail advising of the decision that Dunstable Town Council would not provide funding at this time.

b) **DITA (Minute 57b/2019)**

Councillor Colbourne advised that DITA were putting together a booklet to mark 60 years of twinning and asked that if anyone had any relevant photographs they be forwarded to John Chatterley for inclusion.

c) **Minutes**

RESOLVED: that, subject to the foregoing, the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 25 March 2019 be received.

68 TOWN MEETING

The Council noted the minutes of the Town Meeting held on 4 March 2019.

69 PROVISION OF IT DEVICES FOR MEMBERS

As requested by the Chairman of the Council and the Chairman of Finance and General Purposes Committee, the Council considered a report setting out the agreed business specification for the provision of IT devices for Members and the costs thereof. It was anticipated that the devices would be issued to Members in time for use at the September cycle of meetings.

RESOLVED: i) that the sum of £16,643 be released from allocated reserve funds for the provision of Microsoft Surface Go Tablets for all Members, as detailed in the report

ii) that the unbudgeted revenue cost of £7,603 for licences, service costs and security software be met from the General Reserve

70 END OF COUNCIL TERM

As this was the last meeting of the Council before the elections, Councillor Hollick took the opportunity to reflect on the Council membership, noting that 11 members were retiring at the end of the term of this Council, including 6 former Mayors and one Mayoress and he thanked them all for their years of service.

He also thanked those Members who were standing for re-election for their service, and the Council officers for their work, over the past 4 years.