

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 10 JUNE 2019

Present: Councillors Liz Jones (Deputy Town Mayor & Chairman), Lisa Bird (Vice-Chairman), Matthew Brennan, Mark Cant, Philip Crawley, Greg George, Pamela Ghent, Kenson Gurney, Johnson Tamara

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

Apologies: Councillors Sid Abbott (Town Mayor) and Gladys Sanders

Public: None

96 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meetings of Grounds and Environmental Services Committee held on 18 March 2019 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

97 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no specific declarations of interest.

98 PLANS-SUB COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meetings of Plans Sub-Committee held on 12 March, 9 April, 30 April and 21 May 2019 be received.

99 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) Dunstable Cemetery

Members received the burial figures for March to May 2019 along with the profiled income and expenditure figures as at the end of March 2019. These indicated a positive variance of £29,834. Members noted that the figures are subject to audit and final checks.

The Green Flag judges had visited the Cemetery to assess the site in early May. The judge's decision on retaining the Green Flag would be announced at the end of June with an award ceremony taking place on 18 July.

b) Allotments

There were currently 68 people on the waiting list. Members received the detail of the waiting list. There were currently only 4 vacant plots, which were in the process of being let.

c) Recreation Grounds

Since the last report there had been four incidents of vandalism within the recreation grounds, three of which were at the new adventure play area at Bennett Memorial Recreation Ground.

Installation of the new adventure play area was completed on budget and schedule and had been very well received by the public. Members applauded the work by officers to complete the project.

The Head of Grounds and Environmental Services gave an update on a recent meeting with the Police and Central Bedfordshire Council officers regarding recent antisocial behaviour at Bennett's, confirming that the matter was a priority for the Police. Officers will also be looking at options to improve CCTV coverage of the play area from the Splashside Café.

With the exception of Mentmore Recreation Ground, all height restriction barriers, lock shrouds, bollards and fencing, which were agreed as part of the recreation ground security improvements, had been completed.

d) Town Centre Area

The grounds team had been preparing the beds for the summer bedding displays and floral planters, baskets and troughs had been installed at various locations around the town.

In Bloom judging would be taking place in July. New initiatives they would visit include a gardening project at Westfield Nursery, the Old Palace Lodge Tudor Garden and a sensory garden at Chiltern View Care Home.

e) Town Ranger Service

The Town Rangers were now using the hot water system of weed control across the Town Centre to reduce the amount of herbicide used.

A new contract to periodically clean Maypole Yard has been secured by the Town Ranger team.

100 CREASEY PARK COMMUNITY FOOTBALL CENTRE AND SPLASH PARK

The Sports 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 main pitch was now closed for renovations but had been used for eight cup or league finals from various leagues including Bedfordshire FA.

Creasey Park had hosted the inaugural Luton Town International Youth Cup. 40 teams competed with 2500 spectators. The weekend had been very lucrative for both pitch and catering income. Luton Town had already booked for next year.

A 3-year agreement had been signed with Central Bedfordshire College for ATP use and room hire.

A 12-week art class was being held at CPCFC, with the hirer already looking to book additional classes on Monday evenings.

Members agreed to form a focus group of Councillors and Officers to review financial and contractual arrangements at Creasey Park. Councillors Liz Jones (Chairman), Mathew Brennan, Greg George and Kenson Gurney agreed to participate in the group.

Bennett's Splash and the Splashside Café were now open. The indifferent weather had brought mixed usage, but the addition of Bennett's Adventure Play was a key addition to boost café income.

Members raised concerns about parking problems in local roads around Bennett's and noted that Central Bedfordshire Council were working on a parking strategy which would be consulted on later in the year.

101 BENNETT'S ADVENTURE PLAY FENCING

The Head of Grounds and Environmental Services presented a detailed report that asked Members to consider if they wished to fence the new adventure play area at Bennett Memorial Recreation Ground, to review the options available for fencing and to authorise spending.

Members debated the issue and discussed the advantages and disadvantages for fencing and the options proposed. Members decided that it would be appropriate to consult with park users and concluded that if a fence was required, they would prefer to use metal bow top fencing in green or brown colours.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) that Officers undertake an on-site consultation with visitors to the play area, during the summer, to determine peoples view on the need for a fence.
 - (ii) that, subject to the outcome of the consultation, the Head of Grounds and Environmental Services, in consultation with the Chairman of Grounds and Environmental Services, be authorised to determine whether to proceed with a fence.
 - (iii) that the Committee recommend to Finance and General Purposes Committee the release of £22,000 from the Open Spaces Improvement Plan reserve to provide a dog proof fence.

102 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

CBC Development Management Committee:
No updates.