

DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

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

ON MONDAY 7 OCTOBER 2019

Present: Councillors Sid Abbott (Town Mayor), Liz Jones (Deputy Town Mayor), Wendy Bater, Lisa Bird, Matthew Brennan, Mark Cant, Alan Corkhill, Philip Crawley, Greg George, Pamela Ghent, John Gurney, Kenson Gurney, Peter Hollick, Gloria Martin, Cameron Restall, Lee Roberts, Gladys Saunders and Johnson Tamara

In Attendance: David Ashlee (Town Clerk and Chief Executive), James Slack (acting Head of Community Services), John Crawley (Head of Grounds and Environmental Services), Michele Markus (Mayoral and Democratic Services Officer) and Lucy Salim (Head of Finance and Support Services)

Public: 5

153 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held 24 June 2019 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor.

154 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no specific declarations of interest.

155 TOWN MAYOR'S REMARKS

a) Conclusion of Audit of Accounts 2018/19

The Town Mayor reported that the Council's external auditor, Mazars, have completed the audit for the year ending 31 March 2019. He was pleased to report that there were no matters arising or minor issues identified.

b) Mayoral Engagements

The Town Mayor referred to the report detailing his attendances at a variety of events since being elected up to 10 September 2019.

The Mayor also followed up regarding remarks made by Councillors at the last Full Council with regards to inappropriate dress code when attending Council meetings. The Mayor remarked that he did not believe this to be the case and appreciated that most Councillors are working. However, the Mayor did request that Councillors did dress smartly for their professional role as Councillor especially at Full Council where he must robe up. Ties are optional and thanked the Councillors for their cooperation.

The Mayor also requested Councillors to attend and support the towns and Mayoral events where possible.

156 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions put to the meeting.

157 QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 16

There were no questions put to the meeting.

158 COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Councillor John Gurney questioned the accuracy of the minutes in respect of minute 131 - Grove Corner and Community Engagement. He queried the absence of any mention of a debate regarding paragraphs 7.1 and 7.2 of the associated Committee information report on Grove Corner and Community Engagement. It was agreed that the minutes should be updated to reflect the reporting of activity listed under the heading *Community Safety Partnership Working*. The minutes of the Community Services Committee are to be updated accordingly and presented to the 4 November Community Services Committee.

RESOLVED: that subject to the foregoing the Minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 2 September 2019 be received.

Councillors John Gurney, Mark Cant and Matthew Brennan requested that their votes against adopting the minutes be recorded.

159 GROUND AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Members received an update from Councillor Liz Jones on the replacement options for the fire damaged climbing boulder at Bennett's Adventure Play. Members agreed that the natural stone play stack option was their preferred choice.

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting of the Grounds and Environmental Services Committee held on 9 September 2019 be received.

160 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Councillor Hollick made reference to the recommendation to Council from the Finance and General Purposes Committee concerning the dissolution of the Accounts Sub-Committee. Members agreed with the rationale for dissolving this Sub-Committee and it was;

RESOLVED: that Members of the Council agree to the dissolution of the Accounts Sub-Committee as detailed in the appendix to the report presented to the Finance and General Purposes Committee and that the Council's Constitution and Standing Orders be amended accordingly.

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 16 September 2019 be received.