

DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

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

ON MONDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2019

Present: Councillors Gloria Martin (Chairman), Gladys Sanders (Vice-Chairman), Wendy Bater, Lisa Bird, Gregory George, Pamela Ghent and John Gurney

In Attendance: David Ashlee (Town Clerk and Chief Executive), James Slack (Head of Community Services), Kelley Hallam (Business Support Manager), Sandy Coyle (Community and Young People's Services Manager) and Gina Thanky (Events Officer)

Apologies: Councillors Sid Abbott (Town Mayor), Liz Jones (Deputy Town Mayor), Peter Hollick, Cameron Restall and Lee Roberts

Public: Two

161 FRIENDS OF PRIORY HOUSE AND GARDENS AND DUNSTABLE TOWN GUIDES

Members of both groups attended the meeting and gave the Committee a short presentation about their groups. Friends of Priory House and Gardens explained how their group was formed to help promote the House and Gardens and gave some examples of some of the projects that they had helped to fundraise for. The Dunstable Town Guides promote the whole town by giving guided walks and history talks.

162 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 2 September 2019 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

163 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no specific declarations of interest.

164 EVENTS AND MARKETING

The Head of Community Services presented an update report on the 2019/2020 events programme and also updated members on the usage of the Council's website and social media.

All plans were in place for the Fireworks event tomorrow. Road closure signs were in place and local residents had been notified.

To date, 11 schools had confirmed their attendance at the Christmas Carols and Torchlight Procession. The pantomime cast from the Grove Theatre had also confirmed their attendance.

Members received the results from the events survey. It was noted that 99% of residents were satisfied or very satisfied with the Town Council's events programme.

165 GROVE CORNER AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Community and Young People's Services Manager reported on recent attendance figures and activities at Grove Corner and reported on recent community engagement activities.

The Committee were informed that a young person who volunteered at Grove Corner had been nominated for the Youth Awards Ceremony being held this evening. The awards, organised by the Central Beds Youth Forum, acknowledged achievements young people had made to; overcome barriers, assist their peer group or played an active role in their communities.

Friends of Dunstable Cemetery continued to grow with approximately 15 members and had held a second Headlines behind the Headstones which 30 people attended.

166 OLDER PEOPLE'S DAY CARE SERVICES

The Community and Young People's Services Manager reported on attendances, activities and outings for the Good Companions Club and the Creasey Park Community Football Centre over 55s Lunch Club.

The GCC day trip to the seaside was cancelled due to many of the members being unwell so officers arranged for the seaside to come to them. They had fish and chips, played fair ground games and bingo and was generously given free doughnuts and candy floss by Craig Lithgo and a free ice cream by Lou Mancinelli.

The pilot event of Rock and a Roll was held at CPCFC and was a great success. The feedback was excellent, and a second event was being planned for February 2020.

167 PRIORY HOUSE

The Head of Community Services presented a report on recent operations and activities at Priory House, including trading account figures and Priory House maintenance.

The Jacobean Room was continuing to be used to its full advantage, being booked for funeral teas, baby showers and coach trip visitors. It was also being marketed for Christmas gatherings and Pudding Nights.

The Tea Rooms would again be supporting the Torchlight event by remaining open to serve hot and cold beverages and festive cakes.

168 DUNSTABLE TOWN CENTRE SERVICES

The Head of Community Services updated the Committee on Town Centre Services including Ashton Square Toilets and the themed and craft market trader figures.

Work had started on the refurbishment of the Ashton Square Toilets and were due to be finished mid-November.

The Weird and Wonderful event organised by the Town Centre Services Officer and the events team had been positively received on both days, with Sunday having the largest attendance. Ten community groups, local businesses and the Grove Corner team all supported the event over the two days.

Seven expressions of interest had been received for the Dunstable Joint Committee Shop Front Improvement Scheme but only four had submitted successful applications. Members were disappointed with the response and would discuss this at the next Dunstable Joint Committee.

The businesses of Dunstable would again be invited to enter the Christmas Window Competition. This year there would be two categories; Shops and Businesses and Cafés and Restaurants.

169 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

South Bedfordshire Dial-a-Ride:

There had not been any meetings recently, but the Chairman reported that they were doing well and maintaining good customer numbers.

Dunstable Town Band:

No report

170 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 the meeting.

171 REVIEW OF YOUNG PEOPLES SERVICES

The Town Clerk and Chief Executive presented a detailed report that provided an update on the review of youth services and recommendations from the 'Youth Review Group'.

The Youth Review Group had tasked Groundwork to survey young people and adults/parents to understand young people's needs in the area. The survey only yielded a small sample of responses, but the key activities people thought were missing were; sports, media and film, trips, gaming and socialising.

The Committee noted that Groundwork would continue to deliver as per project programme and SLA until Saturday 21 December 2019 and that that from 6 January 2020 to the end of March 2020 DTC would deliver a reduced youth service which would include the current Friday night drop-in sessions for 10-13 year old's followed by a session for 13+ year old's.

A recommendation report proposing new staffing arrangements, budget and future youth delivery will be provided at the Community Services Committee meeting in January 2020.