

DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

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

ON MONDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2019

Present: Councillor Sid Abbott (Town Mayor), Liz Jones (Deputy Town Mayor), Peter Hollick (Chairman), Philip Crawley (Vice-Chairman), Wendy Bater, Matthew Brennan, Mark Cant, Alan Corkhill, John Gurney, Kenson Gurney, Gloria Martin, Cameron Restall, Lee Roberts and Johnson Tamara

In Attendance: David Ashlee (Town Clerk and Chief Executive), Lucy Salim (Head of Finance and Support Services) and Lisa Scheder (Finance & Procurement Manager)

Apologies for Absence: None

Public Attendance: Two

179 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 16 September 2019 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

180 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no specific declarations of interest.

181 HIGH STREET HERITAGE ACTION ZONE (HSHAZ) FUNDING AWARD

The Town Clerk & Chief Executive presented an information report and presentation providing members with details regarding the Council's recently announced 'in principle' HSHAZ award. An updated draft budget funding profile was circulated at the meeting detailing the funding 'in principle' reduction of 12% to £1,144,000.

The Committee discussed the award in detail during the presentation and it was resolved that.

RESOLVED: (i) Members approve the allocation of up to £300,000 from the Council's earmarked allocated building reserve fund to contribute specifically to the Priory House restoration element of the overall HSHAZ scheme as set out in paragraph 3.8c and 4 in the covering report.

(ii) Members approve the allocation of an additional £200,000 of the Town Council funding to the HSHAZ programme to be expended over four years from April 2020 as per details set out in paragraphs 3.8.a,d&f and 4 in the covering report.

(iii) Members approve the creation of a new 4-year, fixed term post of High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ) Programme

Manager and agree the associated job description given in the covering report.

(iv) Members identified 5 representatives from this Committee to serve as a Committee Working Group that will oversee the implementation of the HSHAZ project over the next 4 years. They were Councillors Sid Abbott, Wendy Bater, Alan Corkhill, Peter Hollick and Gloria Martin

v) Members delegate authority to the Town Clerk and Chief Executive to negotiate terms to lease a property along Middle Row to serve as a Programme Hub if the opportunity presents itself.

182 FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT

The Head of Finance and Support Services presented a revenue budgetary control report and detail of the Council's earmarked reserves for the period ending 30 September 2019. The summary of outturn position (Appendix 1) shows a potential overall underspend at the end of the financial year, taking account of seasonal variances and known commitments for the remainder of the financial year. The Head of Finance and Support Services also provided detail of the Council's earmarked reserves at 31 October 2019.

Members noted that the Chairman of Finance and General Purposes Committee and the Town Mayor attended Grove House on 1 November 2019 to view the accounts relating to July, August and September 2019 and carried out a 'mini audit' of payments, invoices and the bank statements in place of the recently disbanded Accounts Sub-Committee. No issues or discrepancies, material or otherwise, were raised.

183 GROVE HOUSE BUILDING RESERVE

Members received a report to request authorisation from this Committee to provide additional funding for the Grove House car park extension.

RESOLVED: that Members approve the release of up to £12,000 from the Grove House building reserve in order to complete the Grove House car park extension.

184 ARRANGEMENTS FOR ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING 2020

Members considered and agreed the venue for the Annual Council Meeting to be held on 18 May 2020.

RESOLVED: that the Annual Council Meeting be held at All Saints Academy and the facility booking and cost be confirmed accordingly.

Action: Head of Finance and Support Services

185 REFERENCE FROM GROUNDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Members received a report to consider and approve a recommendation made from Grounds and Environmental Services Committee on 11 November 2019.

RESOLVED: that Members approve the release of up to £10,000 from the Vehicles Reserve for the purchase of an additional utility vehicle.

186 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

- a) CAB Management Committee – Councillor Bater attended the CAB Annual General Meeting recently where Andrew Selous MP spoke about homelessness. She also advised that the CAB team were happy in their new premises and were settling in nicely.
- b) DITA – Councillor Hollick reported that the next meeting is on 26 November 2019 and on the agenda included discussions to be had regarding the 50th Anniversary of DITA as well as the forthcoming anniversaries of both of the twin towns.
- c) Hospice at Home Management Committee – Councillor Jones reported that the next meeting is on 27 November 2019. They were continuing to fundraise and would welcome any Members that wished to volunteer to assist on Santa’s float on 13 December to let her know.
- d) Ashton Almshouses Charity – Councillor Hollick reported that the next meeting is on 28 November 2019.