

DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY 25 APRIL 2022 COMMENCING AT 7.00 P.M.

Present: Councillor Gloria Martin (Town Mayor); Councillor Liz Jones (Deputy Town Mayor); Councillors Sid Abbott, Lisa Bird, Greg George, Pamela Ghent, Kenson Gurney, Peter Hollick, and Johnson Tamara, with Councillor John Gurney (remotely), David Ashlee (Town Clerk and Chief Executive), John Crawley (Head of Grounds and Environmental Services - remotely), Becky Wisbey (Head of Community Services - remotely), Lisa Scheder (Finance and Procurement Manager - remotely) and Ian Reed (Democratic Services Manager).

Apologies: Councillors Phillip Crawley, John Gurney, Cameron Restall, Lee Roberts, Gladys Sanders

Members of the public; One (remotely)

65 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 7 February 2022 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor.

66 DECLARATIONS

There were no specific declarations of interest.

67 CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The Town Mayor spoke in support of a report relating to her activities up to the beginning of April 2022. The Mayor thanked the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Liz Jones, and Past Mayor, Peter Hollick, for attending some events on her behalf. The Mayor reported on the planting of the Green Canopy on the seventieth day of the Year (11 March 2022) to signify Her Majesty the Queen had been on the throne for 70 years. The Mayor, with voluntary organisations and schools, had undertaken the planting of a large number of trees at Mentmore Recreation Ground. The Mayor also advised the Council meeting that she thoroughly enjoyed attending the Lord Lieutenants Honours Reception Gathering and Presentation Ceremony at Putteridge Bury on 14 March 2022. She particularly enjoyed seeing a Dunstable resident receive an award. The Council was also advised that the charity Race Night held at Creasey Park had raised £630.

68 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions put to the meeting

69 TO ANSWER QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 16

There were no questions put to the meeting.

70 COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 7 March 2022 be received.

71 GROUNDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Grounds and Environmental Services Committee held on 14 March 2022 be received.

72 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 21 March 2022 be received.

73 DUNSTABLE JOINT COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Dunstable Joint Committee held on 10 March be received.

74 APPEALS AND APPOINTMENTS SUB-COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: that the recommendations of the Sub-Committee held on 13 April be approved as follows; Paul Hodson, currently serving as Town Clerk to Buckingham Town Council be appointed as the Town Clerk and Chief Executive of Dunstable Town Council at spinal column point 60 of the agreed salary band.

75 UPDATES TO THE COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT, FINANCIAL REGULATIONS AND STANDING ORDERS

The Council discussed a report from the Town Clerk and Chief Executive that put forward amendments to the Financial Regulations and Standing Orders of the Town Council. The Council had also been circulated with a copy of a new model Councillor Code of Conduct prepared by the Local Government Association that was being promoted by the National Association of Local Councils.

RESOLVED: that the Council agrees to the amendments made to the Financial Regulations and Standing Orders and also adopts the new model Councillors Code of Conduct as set out in the report.

76 REPORTS/UPDATES BY MEMBERS OF CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL ON MATTERS OF INTEREST TO THE TOWN COUNCIL

No update was given. Councillor Tamara directed members to the minutes of the Joint Committee for any Central Bedfordshire Council updates. Central Bedfordshire Councillors were encouraged to be more proactive in giving their Council updates.

The meeting closed at 7.45 p.m.