

DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY 3 OCTOBER 2022 COMMENCING AT 7.00 P.M.

Present: Councillors Liz Jones (Town Mayor), Lisa Bird (Deputy Town Mayor), Sid Abbott, Alan Corkhill, Phil Crawley, Greg George, Pamela Ghent, John Gurney, Kenson Gurney, Gloria Martin and Johnson Tamara.

In attendance: Major Stephen Brevitt (The Mayor's Chaplain), Paul Hodson (Town Clerk and Chief Executive), Ian Reed (Democratic Services Manager) and Jemma Candy (Corporate Marketing & Communications Officer). Via Teams: John Crawley (Head of Grounds & Environmental Services), Lisa Scheder (RFO & Head of Finance), Becky Wisbey (Head of Community Services).

Members of the public: Nil

155 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Matt Brennan, Mark Cant, Peter Hollick, Cameron Restall, Lee Roberts and Gladys Sanders.

156 MINUTES

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 27 June 2022 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor.

157 DECLARATIONS

There were no specific declarations of interest.

158 CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The Town Mayor spoke in support of a report relating to her activities from 19 June to the end of September 2022. She was particularly pleased with the following:

- the local proclamation of King Charles III held in Grove House Gardens on Sunday 11 September
- the service of Remembrance for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in Priory Church on Friday 16 September
- Anglia in Bloom – 11 Gold Awards
- Britain in Bloom – great anticipation of the results following the Council's entry in the Britain in Bloom Awards
- Charity Golf Day at Dunstable Downs Golf Club had raised about £2,500 for the Mayor's charities

The Mayor also commented on the popularity of the town with local businesses. Members were reminded of the charity Swing n' Soul evening at Peter Newton Pavilion on Saturday 22 October and were encouraged to attend.

159 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions put to the meeting.

160 TO ANSWER QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 16

There were no questions put to the meeting.

161 COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 5 September 2022 be received.

162 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: i) that the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 12 September be received.
ii) that the Council receives and notes the outcome of the External Audit for financial year 2021/22.

163 DUNSTABLE JOINT COMMITTEE

The meeting requested clarification on the facilities that would be available at the Health and Care Hub.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Dunstable Joint Committee held on 9 June be received.

164 OPERATION LONDON BRIDGE

The Council received a report on Operation London Bridge. The Council particularly commented on the local proclamation of King Charles III held in Grove House Gardens on Sunday 11 September and the service of Remembrance in Priory Church on Friday 16 September. The Lord Lieutenant of Bedfordshire, the High Sheriff and the Vice-Chairman of Central Bedfordshire Council had attended. The Mayor had received a personal note from the Lord Lieutenant thanking the Town Council for its involvement in arranging the service.

RESOLVED: that the report on Operation London Bridge be noted and all the Town Council staff involved in the arrangement for Operation London Bridge be thanked for their work

165 REPORTS/UPDATES BY MEMBERS OF CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL(CBC) ON MATTERS OF INTEREST TO THE TOWN COUNCIL

The Council discussed the following questions and statements summarised below with Central Bedfordshire Councillors Crawley and Tamara:

- a. Any news on the CBC consultation about on-street parking? The consultation period ended recently. Please advise us when CBC can report on this.

- b. Councillor Crawley updated the meeting on developments in the Manshead Ward. It was noted CBC were redeveloping two of its play areas in the ward.
- c. Councillor Tamara reported on the redevelopment of Northfields Ward.

166 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: In terms of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the public and press in accordance with Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1961 S1.2 to allow discussion on contractual matters.

167 UTILITIES CONTRACT RENEWAL

The Council meeting had received a report setting out options for securing a new contract for the supply of Gas and Electricity to the Council from April / June 2023. Members considered options for a one or three-year deal, and whether or not to postpone a decision until the November committee meeting in the hope that a better price would be available.

RESOLVED: That this Council supports the option to delay securing a deal until the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting to be held in November subject to a caveat that if in the meantime it rapidly transpires that it would be in the Council's best interests to sign up to an immediately available deal, the Town Clerk and Chief Executive be granted the delegated power to secure the most advantageous deal in liaison with the Town Mayor and Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

The meeting closed at 8.10 p.m.