

## **DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

#### **HELD ON MONDAY 5 DECEMBER 2022 COMMENCING AT 7.00 PM**

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

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

Members of the public: Nil

#### **202 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Gloria Martin, Mark Cant, Cameron Restall and Gladys Sanders.

#### **203 MINUTES**

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 3 October 2022 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor.

#### **204 DECLARATIONS**

There were no specific declarations of interest.

#### **205 CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

The Town Mayor spoke in support of a report relating to her activities since the last Full Council meeting, having attended in excess of 30 further events. She was particularly pleased with the Britain in Bloom Awards where Dunstable won Gold and best Large Town in the UK. The Mayor's Swing, Soul 'n' Supper charity event was also a fantastic success raising over £800 for her charities.

The Town Mayor reminded Members of the importance of attending events in the town and reminded all the dates of her next charity events; Carols around the Tree on 10 December; Efes Lunch on 29 January and the 24 hour 'Dart-a-thon' on 3 February.

#### **206 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no questions put to the meeting.

#### **207 TO ANSWER QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 16**

There were no questions put to the meeting.

## **208 COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 31 October 2022 be received.

Councillor Hollick gave a verbal update on Minute 173, High Street Heritage Action Zone;

- Number 7 High Street South owners were not prepared to contribute
- Number 21-23 High Street South owners have signed and accepted the grant offer

## **209 GROUNDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

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

Councillor Bird gave a verbal update on Minute 185, Recreation Grounds – play areas; noting that Central Bedfordshire Council Estate Regeneration funding has been agreed with CBC Ward Councillors for use at Frenchs Avenue POS and Officers are meeting with CBC to agree the procurement arrangements.

## **210 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED:**

- i. that the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 14 November 2022 be received
- ii. that the Council sign the Civility and Respect Pledge
- iii. that the Council approve the creation of ear-marked reserves from the £500,000 capital receipt as follows:
  - a. White Lion land landscaping this allocation subject to the free transfer of land from Luton Borough Council - £10,000
  - b. Luton Road Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) as detailed in the recommendation from the GES Committee and would be undertaken alongside a refurbishment of the play area - £100,000.
  - c. New cemetery design and development and creation of a Cemetery Development Reserve - £75,000
  - d. Street Dressing re-usable banners etc for use such as for the Coronation - £18,000
  - e. Depot extension (Additional floor to be added to the current staff facility) £100,000 earmarked reserve – implementation subject to the results of the long-term management of Creasey Park Community Football Club
- iv. that the Council approve the creation of an ear-marked reserve of £74,000 for the repair of Downside Community Roof, using funds from the General Reserve
- v. that Councillor Bater be appointed as an additional Member of the Constitution Working Group

With reference to Minute 198, Marketing and Communications; Members noted that the Corporate Marketing and Communications Officer was leaving the Council and the Chairman, Councillor Liz Jones along with other Members, thanked Jemma for all of her hard work over the past year and wished her every success in her future career.

## **211 PERSONNEL SUB-COMMITTEE**

- RESOLVED:**
- i) that the minutes of the meeting of the Personnel Sub-Committee held on 24 November be received
  - ii) that the Council approve the increase of hours for the Corporate

Marketing and Communications Officer post to 37 per week.

**213 CHANGES TO COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP AND OUTSIDE BODIES REPRESENTATION**

- RESOLVED:** i) That Councillor Sid Abbott ceases to be a member of the Community Services Committee  
ii) That Councillor Sid Abbott becomes a member of the Grounds and Environmental Services Committee

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

Councillor Tamara took the opportunity to pass on the appreciation from Central Bedfordshire Councillors of everything the Town Council do for the town and for the continued efforts of all Members, officers and the Mayor.

**The meeting closed at 7.35 p.m.**