

DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY 6 FEBRUARY 2023 COMMENCING AT 7.00 P.M.

Present: Councillors Liz Jones (Town Mayor), Lisa Bird (Deputy Town Mayor), Sid Abbott, Wendy Bater, Matt Brennan, Philip Crawley, Alan Corkhill, Greg George, Pamela Ghent, John Gurney, Kenson Gurney, Peter Hollick, Gladys Sanders and Johnson Tamara, with Paul Hodson (Town Clerk and Chief Executive), Lisa Scheder (Head of Finance and Responsible Finance Officer) and Becky Wisbey (Head of Community Services – via Teams)

Apologies: Councillors Gloria Martin, Mark Cant and Cameron Restall

Members of the public; four in person, twenty via Teams

A minute's silence was held to mark the death of former Town Mayor Terry Colbourne.

48/23 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 5 December 2022 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor.

49/23 DECLARATIONS

There were no specific declarations of interest.

50/23 CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The Town Mayor spoke in support of a report relating to her activities up to the beginning of January 2023. The Mayor particularly noted that the last month had been a busy time for herself and Councillor Lisa Bird, Deputy Mayor. The dart-a-thon held over 24 hours beginning on 3 February was a great success, raising over £3,000 for the Mayor's charities.

The date of the Civic Service was to be changed in light of the pre-election period, along with the coffee morning originally arranged before the beginning of the pre-election period.

51/23 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions put to the meeting.

52/23 TO ANSWER QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 16

There were no questions put to the meeting.

53/23 OLD PALACE LODGE (agenda item brought forward in the agenda)

Councillor John Gurney and Councillor Liz Jones proposed motions. Members discussed the motions.

Councillor John Gurney proposed, it was seconded and

NOT RESOLVED:

1.1 *That, in light of a town centre hotel recently preventing any member of the general public from booking or casually using any of its rooms or other facilities for at least the next 6 months; the Council contact all hotels and guest houses in Dunstable to ask they do not accept a block booking for all of their rooms for a period lasting more than 3 months, nor prevent the general public from using any of their facilities such as a bar, restaurant or meeting rooms.*

Councillor Jones proposed, it was seconded and

RESOLVED:

2.2 *That, being located on the crossing of two main historic routes, Dunstable has a proud history of welcoming people from far and wide. This Council values all of its residents. We welcome all new residents and will encourage and support them to become active members of the community wherever possible.*

2.3 *The Council is committed to supporting local businesses and developing a thriving high street. The Council hopes that the Old Palace Lodge will be returned to its normal use once it is economically viable to do so.*

54/23 COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 9 January 2023 be received.

55/23 GROUNDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Grounds and Environmental Services Committee held on 16 January 2023 be received.

56/23 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 23 January 2023 be received.

57/23 BUDGET, PRECEPT AND RESERVES 2023/24

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED:

1.1 That the proposed budget and fees and charges for 2023/24 be approved (enclosed at Appendix 1), as recommended by Community Services Committee on 9 January 2023, Grounds and Environmental Services Committee on 16 January 2023 and Finance and General Purposes Committee on 23 January 2023.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED:

1.2 That the proposed ear marked reserves for 2023/24 (enclosed at Appendix 2) be approved.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED:

1.3 That, in consequence of the foregoing recommendations, the Town Council issue a precept upon Central Bedfordshire Council of £2,791,245, resulting in a Dunstable Town Council Tax change (Band D) at the rate of £209.49, being an increase of 12.53% which equates to an increase of £21.83 per year, or 42p per week.

58/23 REPORTS/UPDATES BY MEMBERS OF CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL ON MATTERS OF INTEREST TO THE TOWN COUNCIL

No report received.

The meeting closed at 8:09pm