

DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE TOWN MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 27 MARCH 2023 FROM 19:30

Present: Councillor Liz Jones (Town Mayor) (in the Chair); Councillor Lisa Bird (Deputy Town Mayor); Mr P Hodson (Town Clerk and Chief Executive) Chief Inspector Jim Goldsmith and 15 electors of the Parish of Dunstable, 9 of whom were elected representatives of the Town Council.

1. WELCOME

The Town Mayor welcomed electors to the 38th Dunstable Town Meeting and explained its purpose.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mr Andrew Selous MP and Inspector Stephanie Hurley.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Town Meeting held on 28 March 2022 were approved as an accurate record and the Town Mayor signed the minutes as a correct record.

4. QUESTIONS FROM ELECTORS

1. A member of the public asked a question regarding concerns about the traffic systems in the town centre. It was apparent that the system in Church Street was to be changed, but asked what could be done to address the other three streets. The Town Mayor agreed to pass the concerns on to Central Bedfordshire Council.
2. Chief Inspector Goldsmith introduced himself as the new Chief Inspector of the area and encouraged residents to contact him or one of his team directly if they had any queries.
3. A member of the public asked whether meetings with the Town Council would resume. Chief Inspector Goldsmith informed the meeting that either he or one of his team would attend Town Council meetings when they are invited and that Police Priority setting meetings would recommence.
4. A member of the public mentioned the difficulties of inappropriate parking, including on pavements, and asked what the police could do about this. There are seven officers covering Dunstable and Houghton Regis on the community team. Their work will focus on the priorities agreed with the public. Central Bedfordshire Council have powers to address parking, and their team are resourced to focus on parking infringements. Parking blocking a business or fire exit can be addressed by the police who have the power to remove vehicles if necessary.
5. A member of the public reflected that the Joint Committee used to receive a quarterly crime report which showed that few prosecutions followed the use of

CCTV. The Chief Inspector was not aware of this issue and undertook to review any information provided.

The Town Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance and participation and closed the meeting at 19:45 pm.