**DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL**

 **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

**HELD AT THE COMMUNITY CHURCH, 51 HIGH STREET NORTH, DUNSTABLE LU6 1JF**

 **ON MONDAY 15 MAY 2023**

Present: Liz Jones (Retiring Town Mayor); Lisa Bird (Retiring Deputy Town Mayor); Councillors Trevor Adams; Gregory Alderman; Richard Attwell; Wendy Bater; Robert Blennerhassett; Matthew Brennan; Alex Butler; Philip Crawley; Mark Davis; John Gurney; Kenson Gurney; Michelle Henderson; Peter Hollick; Nicholas Kotarski; Matthew Neall; Louise O'Riordan and Johnson Tamara with Paul Hodson (Town Clerk and Chief Executive)

Before the commencement of the meeting Major Steven Brevitt led the Council in prayer.

1. **ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR**

 It was proposed by Councillor Tamara, and seconded by Councillor Brennan

 **RESOLVED:** That Councillor Liz Jones be hereby elected Town Mayor of Dunstable for the ensuing Municipal Year.

 The newly elected Town Mayor thereupon made the statutory Declaration of Acceptance of Office and made a short address to the Council.

1. **VOTE OF THANKS FOR THE RETIRING MAYOR**

It was proposed by Councillor Hollick and seconded by Councillor Kenson Gurney and

 **RESOLVED:** That Councillor Liz Jones be in receipt of the sincere thanks of the

Council for the courteous, efficient, and admirable manner in which she

 has discharged the important and exacting duties of the Office of Town

 Mayor of Dunstable during the Municipal year ended 15 May 2023.

1. **SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS**

There were no specific declarations of interest.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Councillor Kenson Gurney
2. **APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR**

 It was proposed by Councillor Butler, seconded by Councillor Blennerhassett, and

 **RESOLVED:** that Councillor Louise O’Riordan be hereby elected Deputy Town Mayor of Dunstable for the ensuing Municipal Year.

The newly appointed Deputy Town Mayor thereupon made the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

1. **TOWN MAYOR'S CHAPLAIN**

The Town Mayor was pleased to report that Reverend Rachel Phillips, Team Rector of Dunstable had agreed to be the Town Mayor's Chaplain for the ensuing Municipal Year.

1. **APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

 **RESOLVED:** that the following Committees be appointed for the ensuing Municipal Year 2023/24 and associated Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen as set out below:

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| --- | --- |
| **Finance and General Purposes Committee**  | Liz Jones, Louise O’Riordan, Peter Hollick (Chairman), Gregory Alderman (Vice-Chairman), Nick Kotarski, Mark Davis, Richard Attwell, Michelle Henderson, John Gurney, Matthew Brennan, Wendy Bater, Philip Crawley, Robert Blennerhassett, Johnson Tamara |
| **Community Services Committee**  | Liz Jones, Louise O’Riordan, John Gurney (Chairman), Robert Blennerhasset (Vice-Chairman), Wendy Bater, Nick Kotarski, Kenson Gurney, Gregory Alderman, Matthew Neall, Trevor Adams, Peter Hollick, Alex Butler |
| **Grounds and Environmental Services Committee** | Liz Jones, Louise O’Riordan, Matthew Brennan (Chairman), Richard Attwell (Vice-Chairman), Philip Crawley, Trevor Adams, Michelle Henderson, Alex Butler, Mark Davis, Kenson Gurney, Matthew Neall, Johnson Tamara |
| **Personnel Sub-Committee** | Liz Jones, Louise O’Riordan, Peter Hollick, John Gurney, Matthew Brennan, Michelle Henderson, Nick Kotarski |
| **Dunstable Joint Committee** | Liz Jones, Louise O’Riordan, Peter Hollick, John Gurney, Matthew Brennan(Named substitutes: Remaining Vice-Chairs of the three Standing Committees) |
| **Plans Sub-Committee** | Matthew Brennan, Richard Attwell, Robert Blennerhassett, Louise O’Riordan, Nick Kotarski, Trevor Adams, Liz Jones |
| **Appeals and Appointments Committee** | Liz Jones, Louise O’Riordan, Peter Hollick, John Gurney, Matthew Brennan, Gregory Alderman, Richard Attwell |

1. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 16 May 2022 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

1. **REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS, ETC**

It was moved by Councillor Neall seconded by Councillor Adams, and

 **RESOLVED:** that the representatives to serve on outside organisations be as follows:

**Body Representative**

Observer at Development Committee Nick Kotarski

(Central Beds)

Dunstable International Town Twinning Assoc. Liz Jones, Peter Hollick and Kenson Gurney

South Beds Dial-a-Ride Management Cttee John Gurney

Citizens Advice Management Committee Richard Attwell

Hospice at Home Management Cttee Liz Jones

Dunstable Town Band Robert Blennerhassett

Dunstable District Scout Council Executive Nick Kotarski

Ashton Schools Foundation Gregory Alderman, Peter Hollick

Ashton Almshouses Charity Louise O’Riordan, Gregory Alderman

Chews Foundation Kenson Gurney, Matthew Brennam

Poor’s Lands Charity Liz Jones, Peter Hollick

Lockington Charity Liz Jones, Kenson Gurney

Marshe Charity Liz Jones, Kenson Gurney

Dunstable Men in Sheds Richard Attwell

1. **DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS – DISPENSATION**

 **RESOLVED:** Thatfor the four year term until May 2027:

1. the Council grants all members a dispensation from any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) relating to decision making when setting the annual revenue and capital budget and associated precept and council tax charge;
2. the Council grants all Councillors who are also Central Bedfordshire Councillors a dispensation from any DPI relating to decision making on matters that are associated with Central Bedfordshire Council.
3. **GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE**

 **RESOLVED:** Thatthe Council adopts the General Power of Competence for the four

 year term until May 2027.

1. **QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 16**

There were no questions

 The Meeting ended at 7.40 p.m.