

DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2024 COMMENCING AT 7 pm.

Present: Councillors Liz Jones (Town Mayor), Louise O’Riordan (Deputy Mayor) Trevor Adams; Gregory Alderman; Richard Attwell; Wendy Bater; Robert Blennerhassett; Matthew Brennan; Phillip Crawley; John Gurney; Kenson Gurney; Michelle Henderson; Peter Hollick; Sally Kimondo; Nicholas Kotarski; Matthew Neall and Johnson Tamara with John Crawley (Head of Grounds and Environmental Services), Paul Hodson (Town Clerk and Chief Executive), Georgia Pearson (Democratic Services Manager) and Lisa Scheder (Head of Finance and Responsible Financial Officer)

Present: Becky Wisbey (Head of Community Services)
(Via Teams)

Apologies: Councillor Mark Davis

Public Attendance: Nil

39/24 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 4 December 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor.

40/24 DECLARATIONS

There were no specific declarations of interest.

41/24 CHAIR’S REMARKS

The Town Mayor welcomed new Councillor Sally Kimondo to the Council for her first meeting. The Town Mayor spoke in support of a report relating to her activities up to January 2024.

It was announced that for her last charity event on 27 April, with the help of Central Bedfordshire Councillor Carole Hegley, the Mayor will be hosting a coffee morning at Priory View on the first floor, details to be announced in due course.

42/24 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions put to the meeting.

43/24 COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 8 January 2024 be received.

44/24 GROUNDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Grounds and Environmental Services Committee held on 15 January 2024 be received.

45/24 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 22 January 2024 be received.

46/24 ACTION TRACKER

The action tracker was noted.

47/24 BUDGET, PRECEPT AND RESERVES 2024/25

Councillor Hollick presented a report to members. Councillor Hollick passed along thanks to the Senior management team for all their support this year.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: That the proposed budget and fees and charges for 2024/25, which included the changes recommended by the Finance and General Purposes Committee on 22 January 2024, be approved.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: That the proposed ear marked reserves for 2024/25 be approved.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: That in consequence of the foregoing recommendations, the Town Council issue a precept upon Central Bedfordshire Council of £2,933,469, resulting in a Dunstable Town Council Tax charge (Band D) at the rate of £219.93, being an increase of 4.98% which equates to an increase of £10.44 per year, or 20p per week.

48/24 NEW CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2024/25

The Town Mayor summarised the report provided to members.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: That the new calendar of meetings for the year 2024/25 be approved.

49/24 CHANGE OF COUNCILLOR ON PLANS-SUB COMMITTEE; PROPOSAL TO REPLACE COUNCILLOR BRENNAN WITH COUNCILLOR BATER

The Town Mayor advised members it has been proposed that Councillor Bater replace Councillor Brennan as a permanent member of the Plans-Sub Committee.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: That Councillor Bater become a permanent member of the Plans-Sub Committee in replacement of Councillor Brennan.

50/24 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

The Town Clerk and Chief Executive summarised the report provided to members.

51/24 CORPORATE PLAN 2024-28 – TO COMMEND ON THE DRAFT VERSION AND AGREE NEXT STEPS

The Town Clerk and Chief Executive advised members that the draft Corporate Plan has been delayed, not least awaiting the outcome of the decision on Creasey Park and the additional works that will now be required to Priory House. The final plan will be presented to the next meeting of the Council for discussion and decision. The budget set this evening will enable the direction set by Members earlier this year to be followed through.

52/24 TO RECEIVE REPORTS/UPDATES BY MEMBERS OF CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL ON MATTERS OF INTEREST TO THE TOWN COUNCIL

Councillor John Gurney updated members that there will be a meeting held on 6 February 2024 with the Central Bedfordshire Council Executive Committee to discuss the budgets for the forthcoming year. CBC are going to be discussing the future of Houghton Regis Day Centre which although in Houghton Regis would have some effect on the residents in Dunstable.

Councillor John Gurney has been in contact with a senior officer at CBC Highways and it has been agreed that he is able to report recurring potholes, these are potholes which have been filled at least twice already but continue to open up or in areas where there are several potholes, for example, in Brandreth Avenue where there are multiple potholes.

CBC councillors last week had the opportunity to start looking at the forthcoming local plan which is currently under review. The Town Mayor and Head of Community Services have been asked to attend a workshop regarding the local plan.

The meeting closed at 19:29