

DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY 15 APRIL 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; Mark Davis; John Gurney; Peter Hollick; Sally Kimondo; Nicholas Kotarski and Matthew Neall with Becky Wisbey (Head of Community Services), 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 Corporate Services)

Apologies: Councillors Michelle Henderson and Kenson Gurney

Public Attendance: Nil

A minute’s silence was held to mark the death of former Town Mayor Brenda Boatwright.

91/24 MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 5 February 2024, 4 March 2024 and 26 March 2024 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor.

92/24 DECLARATIONS

Councillor Jones declared an interest in item 3 of the agenda due to being a member of the pickleball team who are listed in the Corporate Plan. Councillors Crawley and Gurney also declared an interest in the same item on the agenda as they both donated monies from their Central Bedfordshire Council ward councillor grant scheme to the pickleball team.

93/24 CHAIR’S REMARKS

The Town Mayor presented her final report to Members for her Mayoral Year. Councillor Jones thanked and expressed her gratitude to all officers at Dunstable Town Council especially the Senior Management Team and the Democratic Services Manager and to the Councillors for their ongoing support.

94/24 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions put to the meeting.

95/24 COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 4 March 2024 be received.

96/24 GROUNDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Grounds and Environmental

Services Committee held on 11 March 2024 be received.

97/24 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Councillor Hollick asked if the mobile sign is something which can be looked at for use in the winter months. The Town Clerk and Chief Executive advised that the sign was put away during the extremely cold weather but is now in use again.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 18 March 2024 be received.

98/24 ACTION TRACKER

The action tracker was noted.

99/24 RESERVES 2024/25

The Head of Corporate Services summarised the key areas of the report to members.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: To release the ear-marked reserves listed for expenditure due to be incurred specifically for their purposes.

100/24 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

The key parts of the report were summarised by the Head of Community Services.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: That members agree to spend the £7,000 in the allocated reserve for the scoping exercise to be carried out for the possibility of a Neighbourhood Plan for Dunstable.

101/24 UPDATED CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2024/25

The Town Mayor summarised the report to members.

Councillor O’Riordan advised members that the Dunstable Joint Committee Venue is confirmed as being at the Hub in Dunstable, and if the calendar can be amended to reflect this.

ACTION: Democratic Services Manager

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: That members approve to adopt the updated calendar of meetings as presented in Appendix 1.

102/24 TO RECEIVE AND NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD ON

25 MARCH 2024

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Annual Town Meeting held on 25 March 2024 be received.

103/24 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE DUNSTABLE JOINT COMMITTEE HELD ON 14 DECEMBER 2023

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Dunstable Joint Committee held on 14 December 2023 be received.

104/24 CORPORATE PLAN 2024-27 – TO COMMENT ON THE DRAFT VERSION AND AGREE NEXT STEPS

The Town Clerk and Chief Executive Officer summarised the report to Members.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: to amend Action 6 to say, *“to work towards making Dunstable Town Council a carbon neutral organisation by 2030, including by investigating the possibility of installing solar panels on suitable Council venues, beginning with the Cemetery.”*

105/24 HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

The Head of Corporate Services summarised the report to members.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: the approval of the Health and Safety Policy and permission be given to the Chairman and Town Clerk and Chief Executive to sign the Policy.

106/24 REPORTS/UPDATES BY MEMBERS OF CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL ON MATTERS OF INTEREST TO THE TOWN COUNCIL

No update.

107/24 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE AND MAKE ANY RELEVANT DECISIONS REGARDING THE COUNCILS DEPOT

The Town Clerk and Chief Executive informed Members that the Council was continuing to use the depot at Creasey Park and the details of the lease with Central Bedfordshire Council for long term use were being clarified.

The meeting closed at 8:04 pm.