

DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY 7 APRIL 2025 FROM 7 PM

Present: Councillors Louise O’Riordan (Town Mayor), Sally Kimondo (Deputy Town Mayor), Gregory Alderman, Wendy Bater, Matthew Brennan, Philip Crawley, John Gurney, Michelle Henderson, Peter Hollick, Liz Jones, Matthew Neale and Johnson Tamara

In Attendance: Kelley Hallam (HR & Payroll Manager), Paul Hodson (Town Clerk and Chief Executive), and Lisa Scheder (Head of Corporate Services and Responsible Finance Officer)

In Attendance: John Crawley (Head of Grounds and Environmental Services) (Remotely)
Public: None

101/25 - Apologies for Absence

Councillors Trevor Adams, Richard Attwell, Rob Blennerhassett, Mark Davis, Kenson Gurney and Nicholas Kotarski

It was proposed and

RESOLVED: to accept Councillor Kenson Gurney’s apologies for absence until the next meeting of the Council, to be held on 19 May 2025.

102/25 - Declarations of Interest

There were no specific declarations of interest

103/25 - Public Question Time

There were no questions put to the meeting.

104/25 - To agree as a correct record the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 3 February 2025

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 3 February 2025 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor.

105/25 - Town Mayor's Remarks including Civic Events and Mayoral Activities

The Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor updated members on events attended since the last meeting.

106/25 - To receive reports of the following Committees:

106.1/25 - Community Services 3 March 2025

Councillor Jones requested that the minutes be amended to show that Councillor John Gurney was in attendance.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 3 March 2025 be received

106.2/25 - Grounds and Environmental Services 10 March 2025

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Grounds and Environmental Services Committee held on 10 March 2025 be received

106.3/25 - Finance and General Purposes 17 March 2025

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 17 March 2025 be received

107/25 - Action Tracker – to review progress of previously agreed actions

Members received an update on the outstanding action.

108/25 – To receive the minutes of the Dunstable Joint Committee meetings

Members were informed that Central Bedfordshire Council had not yet completed the minutes for the meetings held on 12 December 2024 and 27 March 2025.

The Town Mayor updated the Council on the discussions had at the meeting on 27 March and confirmed that the purchase of an electronic sign had been agreed.

109/25 – To receive reports/updates by Members of Central Bedfordshire Council

Councillor Gurney updated the Council on the new booking system for HWRC (Tidy Tips) and that he had complained to officers in regard to the short notice informing the public of its implementation.

Cllr Brennan informed Members that Central Bedfordshire Council were currently working on a new local plan that covered the whole of Central Bedfordshire. Areas that had a neighbourhood plan would receive 25% of the Community Infrastructure Levy compared to the 15% received for those areas that didn't, if this was introduced.

110/25 – To consider a motion by Councillor Alderman

Councillor Alderman asked Members to consider the following motion: *To ask that*

officers investigate comparable councils to produce a range of potential models that Dunstable Town Council might consider for new substitute arrangements on our committees and sub-committees. These potential models would be presented to members to consider and vote on at the next most convenient Full Council meeting.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: That the motion be amended to provide that two substitutes can be made per Committee with immediate effect.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: to adopt the motion as amended.

111/25 – Internal Audit

The Head of Corporate Services and Responsible Finance Officer summarised the report provided to Members. The Council noted the findings of the Internal Audit Report.

112/25 – Reference Up Report

Members received a referral report from the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 17 March 2025.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: That Auditing Solutions be appointed as the Council's Internal Auditor for the financial year 2025/2026

113/25 – Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED: In terms of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972, the following item will be likely to disclose exempt information relating to establishment and contractual matters and it is, therefore, AGREED that pursuant to the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 the public and press be excluded.

114/25 – Freedom Awards

Members received a list of the nominations made for Freeman or Freewoman of Dunstable.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: That the persons as agreed by the Council be invited to accept the Honorary Freeman

or Freewoman of the Town award at the Annual Council Meeting on 19 May 2025

115/25 – Priory House Exhibition Tender

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: That bidder A be approved to design and build the exhibition area in Priory House

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: To release funds from the following Priory House reserves: £29,864 from the Priory House Works Contingency, £120,000 from the Priory House Building Maintenance Reserve, and £11,149 from the Priory House exhibition reserve, totaling £161,013 to enable the works.

116/25 – Community Governance Review

Members considered options for a formal response to the consultation.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: That Councillors Alderman, Brennan, Henderson, Hollick, Neale and O’Riordon form a working group to prepare a formal response from the Town Council on Central Bedfordshire Council’s Governance Review consultation.

117/25 - Date of the next meeting – 19 May 2025 at 7 pm

The meeting closed at 9.28 pm