

DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Grounds and Environmental Services Committee

held on Monday 9 June 2025 from 7:00 PM

Present: Councillors Peter Hollick (Chair), Sally Kimondo (Town Mayor), Richard Attwell (Deputy Town Mayor), Robert Blennerhassett, Matthew Brennan, Liz Jones

In Attendance: Paul Hodson (Town Clerk and Chief Executive), John Crawley (Head of Grounds and Environmental Services), Jackie Carington (Democratic Services Manager), Mary Dobbs (Cemetery Manager), Katherine Doyle (Parks and Green Spaces Development Officer) and Daniel Mott (Grounds Operations Manager)

In Attendance: Councillors Nicholas Kotarski, Johnson Tamara
(Remotely)

Public: 1

143/25 - Apologies for Absence

Councillors Michelle Henderson, John Gurney, Trevor Adams, Mark Davis and Wendy Bater

144/25 - Declarations of Interest

There were no specific declarations or interest

145/25 - Public Question Time

A member of the public raised concerns to Members and Officers regarding the lack of marketing materials available at the Cemetery.

146/25 - To agree the minutes of the meeting of 10 March 2025 as a true record

The minutes of the meeting of the Grounds and Environmental Services Committee held on 10 March 2025 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

147/25 - To receive the minutes of the Meetings of Plans Sub-Committee meetings held on 17 March, 7 April, 28 April, and 12 May 2025.

It was **RESOLVED:** that the Minutes of the meetings of the Plans Sub—Committee held on 17 March, 7 April, 28 April and 12 May 2025 be received.

148/25 - Action Tracker – to receive updates on previous actions

Members noted the Action Tracker provided.

The Head of Grounds and Environmental Services informed members that CCTV had not captured any footage of the fire damage being caused at Bennett's Café. This was because the CCTV cameras were intended for internal use and the periphery of the site. The Head of Grounds and Environmental Services also informed members that Bennetts Splash Park now reported to the Community Services Committee, who would receive future updates.

Grounds Information Report

Cemetery

The Cemetery Manager summarised the report

Allotments

The Cemetery Manager summarised the report

Recreation Grounds – Play Areas

The Head of Grounds and Environmental Services summarised the report

Sports Pitches and General Grounds Maintenance

The Head of Grounds and Environmental Services summarised the report.

Officers reported that a SKAG Mower had been purchased; this was a stand on mower which would be mainly used at the Cemetery.

Recreational Ground Management Plans

The Head of Grounds and Environmental Services summarised the report.

The Head of Grounds and Environmental Services reported that some Stress Testing had taken place on some of the larger trees in a couple of locations and following the assessments officers were looking at the options for removing them. It was noted that two of these trees were in a Conservation Area and permission will be needed to remove them from the Local Planning Authority.

Town Gardens and Town Centre

The Head of Grounds and Environmental Services reported that 120 units of baskets, planters and troughs would be delivered on Wednesday evening. All new bedding would be installed in the coming week.

Councillor Brennan asked for an explanation of the Living Pillars on display in High Street North and this was provided by the Head of Grounds and Environmental Services.

Town Rangers

The Head of Grounds and Environmental Services reported that the Town Rangers had received many requests for work and their responses had been welcomed by residents.

Green Spaces Projects

The Parks and Green Spaces Development Officer updated Members that the new pergola had been installed in Priory Gardens and beds were being prepared ready to receive the roses which would ultimately grow over the pergola.

The restoration of the Church St phone box was nearly complete, and the adjacent post box had been repainted by Royal Mail.

The 40th Anniversary seed packets would be distributed at Dunstable Town Councils events over the summer.

Anglia in Bloom

The Head of Grounds and Environmental Services reported that preparations were well under way for Dunstable's entry this year.

150/25 - Cemetery Reserve Spending

The Head of Grounds and Environmental Services summarised the report and asked members to approve the release of all available funds from the Cemetery Building Maintenance Reserve and to recommend to Finance and General Purposes Committee to release funding from the General Reserve.

It was

RESOLVED:

The release of money from the Cemetery Building Maintenance Reserve, totaling £27,281, to undertake the works detailed in the report.

To recommend to Finance and General Purposes Committee the release of £27,492 from the General Reserve.

151/25 - Reports from Outside Organisations:

CBC Development Committee – Cllr Nicholas Kotarski

No update

152/25 - Date of the next meeting – Monday 15 September 2025 at 7.00 pm

The meeting closed at 8.15 PM