

DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee

held on Monday 2 March 2026 from 19:00

- Present:** Councillors Matthew Neall (Chair), Sally Kimondo (Town Mayor), Richard Attwell (Deputy Town Mayor), Trevor Adams, Robert Blennerhassett and Gregory Alderman
- In attendance:** Councillors Peter Hollick and Shaun Moulster, Paul Hodson (Town Clerk & Chief Executive), Becky Wisbey (Head of Community Services), Gill Peck (Youth and Community Manager and Gina Thanky (Events Officer)
- In attendance: (remotely)** Councillor Nicholas Kotarski and Annette Clynes (Town Centre Manager)
- Public:** One

071/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors Nicholas Kotarski, Wendy Bater, John Gurney, and Mark Davies

072/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

073/26 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

None

074/26 TO AGREE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 12 JANUARY 2026 AS AN ACCURATE RECORD

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2026 were agreed upon as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

075/26 ACTION TRACKER

The action tracker was reviewed, and Members noted the updates provided.

076/26 EVENTS

The Events Manager summarised the report. 13 teams had enquired about the Soapbox Derby and two applications had already been submitted. It was explained that no maximum number of teams had been set, and more applications would be welcome.

Councillor Hollick declared a non-pecuniary interest as President of the Dunstable Musical Theatre Company and did not take part in the vote.

RESOLVED to provide one of the Council's two free uses of the Grove Theatre to the Dunstable Musical Theatre Company for a performance of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang on Friday 16 October 2026.

- 077/26 TOWN CENTRE SERVICES**
The Town Centre Manager updated Members that the markets planned for both 14 and 21 March had 31 stalls booked already. The premises of concern tasking group was addressing shops suspected of selling illegal products, working in partnership to ensure appropriate action was taken.
- 078/26 PRIORY HOUSE**
The Head of Community Services summarised the report. Members discussed the logistics of hosting weddings at Grove House during major events; it was noted that events are planned a year in advance and anyone seeking to arrange a wedding would be informed of event dates before making a booking.
- 079/26 GROVE CORNER AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**
The Community Engagement Manager summarised the report. Members acknowledged the positive impact of youth engagement efforts and encouraged councillors to visit sessions to see the work firsthand.
- 080/26 OLDER PEOPLE'S SERVICES**
The Good Companions Club had expressed interest in a seaside trip, and efforts were underway to explore how this could be facilitated.
- The upcoming Big Lunch event would be advertised in "Talk of the Town," with tickets available via telephone only to ensure fairness. Members expressed appreciation for the team's efforts to continue to develop services to support older people.
- 081/26 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES**
- South Beds Dial-a-Ride Management Committee**
Councillor Peter Hollick reported concerns over the issue of blue badges for the organisation's buses. Discussions with Dial A Ride were ongoing. A new second hand bus was to be purchased in line with the Dial-a-Ride's vehicle replacement policy.
- Dunstable Town Band**
Councillor Robert Blennerhassett reported no update.
- Men in Sheds** - Councillor Richard Attwell noted that the group is taking on new members and settling down with a new secretary and chair.
- 082/26 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**
Monday 1 June 2026 at 7.00 pm.

The meeting closed at 7.38 pm