

DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY 30 MARCH 2026 FROM 7 PM

Present: Councillors Sally Kimondo (Town Mayor), Richard Attwell (Deputy Town Mayor), Trevor Adams, Robert Blennerhassett, Matthew Brennan, Phillip Crawley, Mark Davis, Kenson Gurney, Michelle Henderson, Nicholas Kotarski, Shaun Moulster, Matthew Neall and Johnson Tamara

In Attendance: Paul Hodson (Town Clerk and Chief Executive) and Jackie Carrington (Democratic Services Manager)

In Attendance: Peter Hollick
(Remotely)

Public: One

The meeting commenced with a minute's silence to honour the passing of former Town Mayor Wendy Mills. Pastor Julian Richards led the council in prayer.

121/26 - Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Gregory Alderman, Wendy Bater and John Gurney.

122/26 - Declarations of Interest

No specific declarations were made.

123/26 - Public Question Time

None

124/26 - To agree as a correct record the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 9 February 2026

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Full Council held on Monday 9 February 2026 be signed as a correct record

125/26 - Town Mayor's Remarks including Civic Events and Mayoral Activities

The Mayor expressed gratitude to everyone who recently attended the Civic Service and thanked Members for their continued support. Members were invited to attend the Mayor's final fund-raising event to help boost her Charity total. The Deputy Town Mayor, Councillor Richard Attwell thanked the mayor for the opportunity to attend events on behalf of the Mayor and expressed that he had enjoyed his year as Deputy Mayor.

126/26 - To receive reports of the following Committees:

126.1/26 - Community Services 3 March 2026

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Community Services Committee held on 3 March 2026 be received

126.2/26 - Grounds and Environmental Services 9 March 2026

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Grounds and Environmental Services Committee held on 9 March 2026 be received

126.3/26 - Finance and General Purposes 16 March 2026

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 21 March 2026 be received

127/26 - Action Tracker

Members noted the Action Tracker which consisted of items which had been discussed by the relevant committees.

128/26 - To receive the Minutes from the meeting of the Dunstable Joint Committee held on 27 November 2025 and a verbal update from the meeting held on 19 March 2026

Councillor Brennan provided a verbal update. At the March meeting Dunstable Joint Committee asked Central Bedfordshire Council to assist them in the formalisation and restructuring of the Dunstable CERT the Community Emergency Response Team. Future meetings would discuss this further.

129/26 - To receive reports/updates by Members of Central Bedfordshire Council on matters of interest to the Town Council

Councillor Brennan reported that a Bicycle path was currently being installed in his ward without recent consultation from Central Bedfordshire Council following the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) that was agreed by Central Bedfordshire Council in 2023 following consultation in 2022.

130/26 - Annual Town Meeting – For Members to elect a Mayor Elect and Deputy Mayor Elect for the civic year May 2026 to May 2027 and to note plans for the Annual Town Meeting to be held on Monday 18 May 2026

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED:

To appoint Councillor Richard Attwell as Mayor Elect for the civic year May 2026 to May 2027

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED:

To appoint Councillor Robert Blennerhassett as Deputy Mayor Elect for the civic year May 2026 to May 2027

The details of the Annual Town Meeting to be held on Monday 18 May 2026 were noted.

131/26 - Referral Reports from the Personnel Sub-Committee and the Finance and General Purposes Committee

There were three recommendations from the Finance and General Purposes Committee. It was:

RESOLVED:

1.6 that Bidder A be appointed as the Council's Internal Auditor for the financial year 2026/27

1.7 that the Council adopt the amended Financial Regulations

1.2 that the Council adopt the Corporate and Financial Risk Assessment as presented

There was one recommendation from the Personnel Committee:

RESOLVED:

that where possible membership of the Personnel Committee remains constant for the whole of the elected term

132/26 - Constitution and Standing Orders

The Town Clerk and Chief Executive presented the report. It was

RESOLVED:

that the Council adopt the amended Constitution and Standing Orders

133/26 - Exclusion of Public and Press

RESOLVED:

In terms of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972, the following items would be likely to disclose exempt information relating to establishment and contractual matters and it was, therefore, **RESOLVED** that pursuant to the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admissions to meetings) Act 1960 the public and the press be excluded

The public and press were asked to leave the meeting, and the live stream was ended

134/26 - To receive a verbal report from the Town Clerk and Chief Executive on recent issues

The Town Clerk and Chief Executive updated Members on matters that would be brought before the Council in future meetings.

135/26 - Date of the next meeting Monday 18 May 2026 at 7pm

The meeting closed at 8:00 PM