

DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GROUNDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, GROVE HOUSE, HIGH STREET NORTH, DUNSTABLE

ON MONDAY 11 MARCH 2024 FROM 7 pm

Present: Councillors Liz Jones (Town Mayor), Louise O’Riordan (Deputy Town Mayor), Matthew Brennan (Chairman), Richard Attwell (Vice-Chairman), Trevor Adams, Phillip Crawley, Kenson Gurney and Michelle Henderson

In Attendance: Councillors John Gurney and Sally Kimondo with Paul Hodson (Town Clerk and Chief Executive), John Crawley (Head of Grounds and Environmental Services), Dimitrisz Sopsis (Grounds Operations Manager), James Slack (Sports and Leisure Facilities Manager), Mary Dobbs (Cemetery Manager), Katherine Doyle (Parks and Green Space Development Officer) and Georgia Pearson (Democratic Services Manager)

Apologies: Councillor Mark Davis, Matthew Neall

Public: Nil.

68/24 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no specific declarations of interest.

69/24 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of Grounds and Environmental Services Committee held on 15 January 2024 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

70/24 PLANS-SUB COMMITTEE

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meetings of the Plans Sub-Committee held on 22 January 2024, 5 February 2024 and 12 February be approved.

Councillor John Gurney advised members on the application discussed at the Plans-Sub meeting on 12 February, for the site of former Dunstable Library at Vernon Place, that it would be beneficial for members to attend the Development Management Committee meeting as residents of Dunstable to support their objection towards the application. Madam Mayor, Councillor Jones has offered to reach out to members to attend the DMC as residents of Dunstable once dates and times have been confirmed.

ACTION: Madam Mayor, Councillor Jones

71/24 ACTION TRACKER

Members received the Action tracker provided.

72/24 CREASEY PARK COMMUNITY FOOTBALL CENTRE AND SPLASH PARK

The Sports and Leisure Facilities Manager summarised the report to members.

Members thanked the Sports and Leisure Facilities Manager, all the team members at Creasey Park and the grounds team for their hard work over the years, in managing the centre.

73/24 GROUNDS – INFORMATION REPORT

Members received the report circulated.

Cemetery

The Cemetery Manager updated members on the key parts of the report. Members requested a future report on the closed cemetery churchyard at Priory Church which Dunstable Town Council maintain.

ACTION: Head of Grounds and Environmental Services

Allotments

The Cemetery Manager updated members on the key parts of the report.

Recreation Grounds – Play Areas

The Grounds Operations Manager summarised the report given to Members. Fortunately, there have been no incidents of vandalism to the play areas.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: That officers provide a further report to the June committee detailing the various options and breakdown of costs for creating a link pathway from the motorcycle barrier to the existing circular stone path and for resurfacing the entire stone pathway.

Sports Pitches and General Grounds Maintenance

The Grounds Operations Manager updated members on the key parts of the report.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)

The Grounds Operations Manager updated members on the key parts of the report.

Members were advised that the new inclusive play equipment works in Grove House have commenced and are due to be completed at the end of March.

Town Rangers

The Grounds Operations Manager updated members on the key parts of the report.

Green Space Projects

The Parks and Green Space Development Officer updated members on the key parts of the report.

Members were advised that the next step in the Pergola project is for officers to appoint a preferred design fabricator and then prepare designs which will be brought to the next committee meeting for approval.

On 7 March 2024, 30 new trees were successfully planted at Mentmore Recreation Ground by many volunteers and staff including Dunstable and Central Bedfordshire Councillors, Dunstable Town Council Officers, and residents. Councillor Attwell asked officers to look at the possibility of using any spare matting from Frenchs Avenue at the entrance to Mentmore Recreation Ground.

ACTION: Parks and Green Space Development Officer

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: That officers explore the option to install a defibrillator in the red K6 phone kiosk on Church Street, now adopted by the Council, along with an interpretation panel and additional containerised flower displays.

74/24 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

CBC Development Committee – Cllr Nicholas Kotarski

Nothing to report.

75/24 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was proposed, seconded and

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 therefore, pursuant to the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 the public and press be excluded.

76/24 TO DISCUSS ISSUES ARISING FROM THE LOSS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL'S MANAGEMENT OF THE CREASEY PARK COMMUNITY FOOTBALL CENTRE

The Town Clerk and Chief Executive gave a verbal update to members.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: To defer the matter to the Finance and General Purposes Committee pending a revised report to be provided once additional information is available.

77/24 TO DISCUSS OPTIONS FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE SPLASH PARK AND SPLASH CAFE

The Town Clerk and Chief Executive gave a verbal update to members.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: To defer the matter to the Finance and General Purposes Committee pending a revised report to be provided once additional information is available.

The meeting closed at 8:35 pm