

## **DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL**

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

**ON MONDAY 23 JUNE 2025 FROM 7 PM**

**Present:** Councillors Sally Kimondo (Town Mayor), Richard Attwell (Deputy Town Mayor), Gregory Alderman, Wendy Bater, Matthew Brennan, Mark Davis, Michelle Henderson, Peter Hollick, Nicholas Kotarski, Liz Jones, Matthew Neall and Johnson Tamara

**In Attendance:** Paul Hodson (Town Clerk and Chief Executive), Lisa Scheder (Head of Corporate Services and Responsible Finance Officer), Becky Wisbey (Head of Community Services) and Jackie Carrington (Democratic Services Manager)

**In Attendance (Remotely):** Councillor Trevor Adams.

**Public Attendance:** One

#### **161/25 - Apologies for Absence**

Councillors Trevor Adams, Robert Blennerhassett, John Gurney and Louise O'Riordan

#### **162/25 - Declarations of Interest**

There were no specific declarations of interest

#### **163/25 - Update from the Police and Crime Commissioner, John Tizzard**

The Police and Crime Commissioner John Tizzard was welcomed to the meeting. Mr. Tizzard committed to all Town Council's in Bedfordshire that he would attend a Council Meeting at least once annually, this being the second time he had attended a Dunstable Town Council meeting since his election in May the previous year.

He emphasised his role as the voice of the public to the police, not the other way around, and highlighted his lack of operational responsibility, focusing instead on setting strategy and budget and holding the Chief Constable accountable.

Dunstable would benefit from the Home Office's Safer Town Centres programme beginning on Monday 30 June, with additional police officers focusing on retail crime and antisocial behaviour, including in Dunstable Town Centre. He expressed his hope for the programme to be a long-term initiative rather than a short-term fix.

Councillors raised concerns about the redeployment of officers and the continuity of the initiative. Mr Tizzard clarified that officers would be redeployed from other parts of the police service and assured that critical areas would not be affected. Mr. Tizzard asked for feedback from Members on how this Strategy works over the coming months.

## **164/25 - Public Question Time**

There were no questions put to the meeting.

## **165/25 - Town Mayor's Remarks**

The Town Mayor expressed gratitude to everyone who helped her through her first month in office. She highlighted her visit to Saint Christopher's Academy, which received a good Ofsted rating, and shared a memorable interaction with a young boy who expressed a desire to become a councillor or mayor.

The Mayor also mentioned her visit to the Dunstable Community Halls to see the Wellbeing Café, which she found particularly meaningful.

## **166/25 - Previous Minutes**

### **166.1/25 - To agree as a correct record the Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on Monday 19 May 2025**

The minutes of the meeting of the Annual Council Meeting held on Monday 19 May 2025 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor.

### **166.2/25 - To agree as a correct record the Minutes of the Freedom Award Meeting held on Monday 19 May 2025**

The minutes of the meeting of the Freedom Award Meeting held on Monday 19 May 2025 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor.

## **167/25 - To receive reports of the following Committees:**

### **167.1/25 - Community Services 2 June 2025**

It was proposed, seconded and

**RESOLVED:** to amend the Plans Sub Committee Membership to replace Councillor Alderman with Councillor James Councillor

Brennan queried what the impact of waiting for planning consents for Priory House would be on the building programme. Officers clarified that the increasing costs could at present be met from contingencies but that it was not clear what the final situation would be. It was noted that there would be a meeting of the project board the following day and that Members would be updated when the likely impact had been clarified.

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 2 June 2025 be received

**167.2/25 - Grounds and Environmental Services 9 June 2025**

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting of the Grounds and Environmental Services Committee held on 9 June 2025 be received

**167.3/25 - Finance and General Purposes 16 June 2025**

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 16 June 2025 be received

**168/25 - Annual Governance Statement and Internal Audit Report**

The Head of Corporate Services and RFO presented the report on the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the financial year 2024/25.

**168.1/25 - To receive the final internal audit report for 2024/25**

**RESOLVED:** To receive and note the Internal Audit Report (final) for 2024/2025 at Appendix 1, also presented to the Finance and General Purposes Committee on 16 June 2025

**168.2.1/25 - To approve the Annual Governance Statement and the Accounting Statements in the Annual Governance Return for 2024/25**

**RESOLVED:** To approve the Annual Governance Statement and the Accounting Statements as part of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the year ended 31 March 2025, for submission to the Council's external auditor, in compliance with the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (S1 2015/234).

**168.2.2/25 - To authorise the Chair and Clerk to sign the Annual Governance Statement**

**RESOLVED:** To authorise the Chair and Clerk to sign the Annual Governance Statement.

**168.2.3/25 - To authorise the Chair to sign the Accounting Statements.**

**RESOLVED:** To authorise the Chair to sign the Accounting Statements.

## 168.3/25 - Loans and Long Term Liabilities

**RESOLVED:** To note the Council's loans and long-

term liabilities as at 31 March 2025 as presented at Appendix 3.

## 169/25 - Governance Review Report

The Town Clerk & Chief Executive presented the recommendations from the working group on the governance review. A recorded vote was called for and it was

**RESOLVED:**

- i. To request that CBC include the proposal to amend Dunstable's parish boundary with Caddington Parish Council by incorporating land forming part of and also adjacent to the Downside Recreation Ground as laid out in Appendix 1
- ii. To request that CBC include the proposal to amend the boundary with Caddington Parish Council by incorporating the land occupied by St Mary's and Manshead Schools as laid out in Appendix 1
- iii. To oppose the changed suggested by Totternhoe Parish Council to move the land depicted in Appendix 4 into Totternhoe's parish boundary

with the vote recorded as follows:

In Favour	Abstained
Councillors:	Councillors:
Richard Attwell	Mark Davies
Gregory Alderman	Liz Jones
Wendy Bater	
Matthew Brennan	
Mark Davis	
Michelle Henderson	
Peter Hollick	
Nicholas Kotarski	
Matthew Neall	
Johnson Tamara	

**Action: Town Clerk and Chief Executive**

**170/25 - Appointment of second representative for Dunstable Charities due to Councillor Kenson Gurney standing down because of daytime commitments**

**RESOLVED:** to make the following appointments in replacement

of Councillor Kenson Gurney:

Lockington and Marshe Charities	Councillor Sally Kimondo
Poors Lands Charity	Councillor Wendy Bater
Chews Foundation	Councillor Wendy Bater

**171/25 - To receive reports/updates by Members of Central Bedfordshire Council on matters of interest to the Town Council**

Councillor Brennan emphasised the importance of responding to the Governance Review consultation, noting discrepancies in the number of councillors across different wards and the possible number of Dunstable councillors based on the ratio of councillors to residents compared to other parishes.

**The meeting closed at 21:00**