

DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES
COMMITTEE**

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

ON MONDAY 16 JUNE 2025 FROM 7:00 PM

Present: Councillors Nicholas Kotarski (Chair), Johnson Tamara (Vice-Chair), Sally Kimondo (Mayor), Richard Attwell (Deputy Mayor), Peter Hollick, Liz Jones, Gregory Alderman, Matthew Neall and Matthew Brennan.

In Attendance: Paul Hodson (Town Clerk and Chief Executive), Lisa Scheder (Head of Corporate Services and Responsible Finance Officer), Jackie Carrington (Democratic Services Manager), Rachel Connor (Marketing and Communications Officer) and Katie Williams (Corporate Performance and Compliance Manager)

In Attendance: Nil
(Remotely)

Public: Nil

162/25 - Apologies for Absence

Councillors John Gurney and Michelle Henderson

163/25 - Declarations of Interest

There were no specific declarations of interest

164/25 - Public Question Time

There were no questions from the public

165/25 - To approve as an accurate record the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on Monday 17 March 2025

The minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 17 March 2025 were approved as a correct record and were signed by the Chair.

166/25 - Action Tracker – to receive updates on previous actions

Members received and noted the Action Tracker summarised by the Town Clerk and Chief Executive.

167/25 - Finance Report

The Head of Corporate Services summarised the report provided to members.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 To note the revenue budget position for the financial year 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.
- 1.2 To note the Council's Year End Balances and earmarked reserves as of 31 March 2025.
- 1.3 To receive and note the conclusion of the final Internal Audit for financial year 2024/25
- 1.4 To adopt the updated Treasury Management Policy.
- 1.5 To release £27,492 from the general reserve, for works detailed in the report be presented to Grounds and Environmental Services Committee on 9 June 2025
- 1.6 To note current investments.

168/25 - Compliance and Facilities Report

The Head of Corporate Services summarised the report.

The Head of Corporate Services reported that a tenant had been acquired for the first-floor office under licence. Hope Church South will occupy the space within the next month. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor signed the Licence.

The lease for Mortons Solicitors incorporating the additional rooms occupied has been finalised. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor signed the Lease.

Councillor Hollick inquired if there were any redecoration needs in the Wedding Room. The Head of Corporate Services confirmed that it needed redecoration and monies to fund this will come from the deposit received back. The Town Clerk and Chief Executive stated that there may be a need to request extra funding for furniture in the future.

169/25 - Marketing and Communications Report

The Marketing and Communications officer briefly summarised the report.

The Marketing and Communications officer advised that since writing the report Dunstable Town Council Facebook account has reached another milestone of

14,000 followers.

170/25 - Reports from Outside Organisations:

Citizen's Advice Management Committee – Councillor Attwell

Councillor Attwell reported that he had attended the Annual Meeting and that the organisation was doing well and that number of Dunstable residents using the facility had increased and opening hours are to be extended to include Thursday evenings.

Dunstable International Town Twinning Association – Town Mayor and Councillors Hollick and Kenson Gurney

Nothing to report

Hospice at Home Management Committee – Councillor Wendy Bater

Councillor Jones updated members on behalf of Councillor Bater. The organisation had attended local events and had recruited more volunteers from Dunstable as a result.

Ashton Almshouses Charity – Councillors O’Riordan and Alderman

Nothing to report

Ashton Schools Foundation – Councillors Hollick and Alderman

Nothing to report

Chew’s Foundation – Councillors Brennan and Kenson Gurney

Councillor Brennan reported that he had been unable to attend the last meeting and therefore did not have anything to report.

Poor’s Land Charity – Councillors Kenson Gurney and Jones

Nothing to report

Lockington Charity and Marshe Charity – Councillors Kenson Gurney and Jones

Councillor Jones reported that inspections of the Almshouses had taken place and there was currently one vacant Almshouse which was undergoing internal changes. There was currently a waiting list for residents to acquire an Almshouse.

Dunstable and District Scout Council Executive – Councillor Kotarski

Councillor Kotarski reported that the Annual General Meeting was to be held on Wednesday 18 June 2025. The organisation's finances were in a solid position. The attendance for the St. George's Day parade was down and this was to be looked at for the future.

171/25 - Date of the next meeting – Monday 22 September 2025 at 7.00 pm

The meeting closed at 7.55 PM

