

## **DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE**

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

**ON MONDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2025 FROM 7.00 pm**

Present: Councillors Matthew Neall (Chair), Sally Kimondo (Town Mayor), Richard Attwell (Deputy Town Mayor), Trevor Adams, Robert Blennerhassett, Gregory Alderman, Philip Crawley and Nicholas Kotarski

In Attendance: Councillors Peter Hollick and Matthew Brennan, Lisa Scheder (Corporate Services Manager & Responsible Finance Officer), Jackie Carrington (Democratic Services Manager), Lisa Stephens (Cultural Services Manager) and Gill Peck (Youth and Community Manager)

In Attendance: Paul Hodson (Town Clerk & Chief Executive), Becky Wisbey (Remotely) (Head of Community Services) and Annette Clynes (Town Centre Manager)

Public: One

#### **172/25 - Apologies for Absence**

Councillors Kenson Gurney (Vice-Chair), Mark Davis and Louise O'Riordan.

#### **173/25 - Declarations of Interest**

None

#### **174/25 - Public Question Time**

None

#### **175/25 - To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 2 June 2025 as an accurate record**

The minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 2 June 2025 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

#### **176/25 - Town Centre Services**

The Town Centre Manager summarised the report. A Member raised the possibility of the Christmas Lights being extended further along the High Street from the crossroads and it was noted that this was a good time to explore options because the

tender for the next five years was up for renewal. Officers undertook to include several possible extensions of the lights on the tender that is issued.

**ACTION: Town Centre Manager**

### **177/25 – Events**

The report was presented by the Cultural Services Manager detailing the success of the Events programme so far this year.

It was proposed, seconded and

**RESOLVED:** to engage a professional compere to host Christmas Carols and Torchlight Procession to maintain a professional appearance

It was proposed, seconded and

**RESOLVED:** that the Town Council uses the remaining free use of Grove Theatre for the staff away day in October 2025

### **178/25 - Priory House**

The Cultural Services Manager informed Members that the Gift Shop was due to reopen at the end of October. The shop would include hand washing facilities to enable staff to make use of a panini machine so that a small food service can be resumed.

### **179/25 - Older People's Services**

The report on Older People's Services was delivered detailing the activities of the various services provided. Members noted that funding had been received from the Household Support Fund which would provide vouchers for all who access lunch clubs over the winter period, to go towards their food shopping during the week. The service would be closed between Christmas and New Year.

### **180/25 - Grove Corner and Community Engagement**

The report on Grove Corner and Community Engagement was summarised by the Youth and Community Manager. Despite quieter Grove Corner sessions, the detached youth team had delivered additional youth hours, having 1,239 interactions with young people across Dunstable.

The report noted the need to consider the detached youth work beyond March 2026 when the current funding would end. Members made suggestions as to the options they would like to consider when setting the budget for the coming year, with officers clear that they should consider the costs for delivering a two night a week detached youth work service.

Officers confirmed that CBC funding is not guaranteed for the detached youth work post March 2026, and that their current commissioned service had had Dunstable removed from their contract in terms of delivery location. Officers encouraged

Members of both DTC and CBC to raise this within CBC as a concern and seek support for funding post March 2026.

School engagement work had included visits to schools prior to the summer holidays to promote all events and summer activities for both under and over 10s, which had resulted in new members.

Various events had been organised and presented at Bennett's Splashside Café and Community Hub. Officers had begun advertising a Friends of Bennett Memorial Recreation Ground Group.

The Community Lottery had 32 good causes and 134 players to date. Another marketing push for both good causes and players would take place in September and Members were encouraged to promote this.

### **181/25 - Service Level Agreement**

It was proposed, seconded and

**RESOLVED:** that organisations who already have a Service Level Agreement with the Council may be invited to reapply at the end of their four-year agreement to have the SLA extended for the same or similar project providing the project is continuing and still adds value to the town.

### **182/25 - Corporate Plan Update**

Members noted the progress made on the Corporate Plan actions and Key Performance Indicators relevant to the Committee.

### **183/25 - Date of the next meeting - Monday 3 November 2025 at 7.00 pm**

**The meeting closed at 9.00 pm**