

**DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GROUNDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL**

**SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**HELD ON MONDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2025 FROM 7.00 pm**

**Present:** Councillors Sally Kimondo (Town Mayor), Richard Attwell (Deputy Town Mayor), Peter Hollick (Chair), Michelle Henderson (Vice-Chair), Trevor Adams, Wendy Bater, Robert Blennerhassett, Matthew Brennan, Mark Davies, John Gurney, Liz Jones, Johnson Tamara

**In Attendance:** Paul Hodson (Town Clerk and Chief Executive), John Crawley (Head of Grounds and Environmental Services), Kelley Hallam (HR & Payroll Manager), Mary Dobbs (Cemetery Manager), Katherine Doyle (Parks and Green Space Development Officer) and Daniel Mott (Grounds Operations Manager)

**In Attendance:** Councillor Nicholas Kotarski  
(Remotely)

**Public:** One

**193/25 - Apologies for Absence**

Councillor Louise O’Riordan

**194/25 - Declarations of Interest**

There were no specific declarations or interest

**195/25 - Public Question Time**

There were no questions from the public.

**196/25 - To agree the minutes of the meeting of 9 June 2025 as a true record**

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting of the Grounds and Environmental Services Committee held on 9 June 2025 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**197/25 - To receive the minutes of the Meetings of Plans Sub-Committee meetings held on 2 June, 30 June, 28 July and 18 August 2025.**

**RESOLVED:** that the Minutes of the meetings of the Plans Sub-Committee held on 2 June, 30 June, 28 July and 18 August 2025 be received.

**198/25 - Action Tracker**

Members noted the Action Tracker provided.

## **199/25 - Grounds Information Report**

The Cemetery Manager, Grounds Operations Manager and Parks and Open Space Development Officer summarised the report.

Members noted that Dunstable Cemetery and Bennett Memorial Recreation Ground had both retained their Green Flag status and congratulated and thanked all those that had helped with this achievement.

Members questioned whether it was time to close the allotment waiting list to new applicants as it was reaching the 300 mark. It was hoped a new allotment site could be made available once the new cemetery land was purchased and this would reduce the waiting list greatly.

The Committee learned that the UKSPF funding application for improvements to Bennett Memorial Recreation Ground tennis courts and for outdoor chess and table tennis tables had been unsuccessful but remained on a reserve list if further funds become available.

The committee reviewed the proposal to install self-closing gates accessing Jeansway at Kingsbury Recreation Ground, following a suggestion from a member of the public at the previous meeting. Officers had evaluated available options and obtained a quotation for £2,496. The committee then proceeded to vote on the matter.

**RESOLVED:** that the current gates were sufficient and that the purchase of new self-closing gates was unwarranted.

Councillors Davies, John Gurney and Attwell abstained from the vote; all other Members voted in favour of the resolution.

The Committee were informed that Dunstable had been awarded Overall Winner at the Anglia in Bloom Awards as well as winning and receiving gold status in many of the other categories. Members were thrilled with the result and congratulated the Head of Grounds and Environmental Services, community groups, volunteers, the grounds team and all those concerned with this fantastic achievement.

## **200/25 – Anti-social Behaviour Working Group**

The Head of Grounds and Environmental Services summarised the report and asked members to approve the establishment of a working group and to adopt the scope and objectives set out within the report.

**RESOLVED:** i) that the establishment of a working group and the adoption of the scope and objectives reported be approved

ii) that Councillors Adams, Attwell, Blennerhassett, Henderson, Hollick, Kimondo and Tamara would participate in the working group

### **201/25 – Markham Crescent Knee Rail**

The Grounds Operations Manager gave a detailed report that sought approval for the release of £6,912 from the Fencing Reserve for the repair and replacement of the knee rail at Markham Crescent Recreation Ground.

**RESOLVED:** that the release of £6,912 from the Fencing Reserve for the repair and replacement of the knee rail at Markham Crescent Recreation Ground be approved

### **202/25 – Corporate Plan Update**

The Head of Grounds and Environmental Services presented a detailed report on the progress of the Corporate Plan objectives and Key Performance Indicators associated with the Grounds and Environmental Services Committee.

Members noted the achievements to date and the progress of ongoing projects.

### **203/25 - Date of the next meeting**

Monday 10 November 2025 at 7.00 pm

**The meeting closed at 8.57pm**