

DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY 22 JUNE 2026 FROM 7 PM

Present: Councillors Richard Attwell (Town Mayor), Gregory Alderman, Wendy Bater, Matthew Brennan, Steve Collins, Phillip Crawley, John Gurney, Kenson Gurney, Michelle Henderson, Peter Hollick, Sally Kimondo, Nicholas Kotarski, Shaun Moulster, Matthew Neall and Johnson Tamara

In Attendance: Paul Hodson (Town Clerk and Chief Executive) and Lisa Scheder (Head of Corporate Services and Responsible Finance Officer)

In Attendance: None
(Remotely)

Public: None

The Town Mayor's Chaplain, Reverend Ricky Turner led the council in prayer.

202/26 - Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Robert Blennerhassett

203/26 - Declarations of Interest

No specific declarations were made.

204/26 - Public Question Time

None

205/26 - To agree as a correct record the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 18 May 2026

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Full Council held on Monday 18 May 2026 be signed as a correct record

206/26 - To receive reports of the following Committees:

206.1/26 - Community Services 1 June 2026

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Community Services Committee held on 1 June 2026 be received

206.2/26 - Grounds and Environmental Services 8 June 2026

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Grounds and Environmental Services Committee held on 8 June 2026 be received

206.3/26 - Finance and General Purposes 15 June 2026

Councillor Hollick informed Members that he had been part of a group from the Dunstable Twinning Association who recently attended a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Porz Twinning Association.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 15 June 2026 be received

207/26 - To receive a verbal update from the Dunstable Joint Committee held on 4 June 2026

Councillor Brennan informed Members that he had been elected as Chair just for the previous meeting, and the next meeting would elect a chair for the remainder of the year. The Joint Committee had allocated the remaining funding of £38,000 to be match funding for the Town Council's bid to Anglia Water to provide an attenuation tank in Bennett's Recreation Ground to help divert flood waters from the town centre. The Committee had received a presentation on the Dunstable Community Emergency Response Plan (CERT) and Councillor Brennan encouraged Members to join the WhatsApp group.

208/26 - Town Mayor's Remarks including Civic Events and Mayoral Activities

The Town Mayor, Councillor Richard Attwell summarised the Civic Events and Mayoral Activities he had attended since becoming Mayor in May 2026.

209/26 - Proposed Motion from Councillor Richard Attwell (Town Mayor)

Councillor Attwell Proposed, it was seconded and

RESOLVED:

"That the Mayoral Handbook be amended to clarify that the Deputy Mayor is not required to seek the Mayor's approval before wearing the Deputy Mayor's Chain of Office when undertaking official civic duties.

Specifically, the guidance should now read:

- 8.** *a) The Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayoress/Consort will be expected to attend all the annual civic functions and chains/badge of Office should be worn as appropriate. As a general rule the Deputy Mayor's chain/badge of Office should be worn at all the major annual civic events and for all full Council meetings and when the Deputy represents the Mayor at official engagements and at all other events/receptions attended by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor together in an official capacity."*

210/26 - Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2025/26

The Head of Corporate Services and Responsible Financial Officer presented the report.

It was proposed, seconded and

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 2026, 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) as presented at Appendix 2.

210.1/26 - To receive the final internal audit report for 2025/26

It was proposed, seconded and

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

210.2/26 - To approve the Annual Governance Statement and the Accounting Statements in the Annual Governance Return for 2025/26

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: To authorise the Chair to sign the Accounting Statements

211/26 - To review membership of the New Cemetery Working Group

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: that Councillors Tamara, Kenson Gurney, Attwell, Henderson and Brennan form the new cemetery working group.

Members also expressed willingness to co-opt other interested individuals to the Group. All Members were asked to submit suggestions for consideration before the next meeting of the Council.

ACTION: All Members

212/26 - Reference up from Finance and General Purposes

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: to approve the updated Health and Safety Policy

213/26 - To receive reports/updates by Members of Central Bedfordshire Council on

matters of interest to the Town Council

Councillor Brennan updated Members that Central Bedfordshire Council had agreed that High Street Rental Auctions can go forward. This would enable CBC to force a landlord to auction a property for rental in certain circumstances.

Councillor John Gurney updated Members that CBC had emailed all CBC Councillors today informing them that the government had offered CBC just £250,000 to enter into a combined authority with Luton, Milton Keynes and Bedford Councils. Planning arrangements were being changed by the government to reduce the powers of Central Bedfordshire Council in certain circumstances. An initial briefing would be provided CBC's development Control Committee, at which Councillor John Gurney undertook to ask whether the Town Council could be provided with the information given.

214/26 - Reports from Outside Organisations

Dunstable Rotary

Councillor Kotarski updated Members that the Rotary Club were supporting band concerts during the summer.

BATPC

Councillor Kenson Gurney informed Members that the Council may be offered to sign up to a parish charter by CBC. No details were available.

Councillor Gurney updated Members that the Council had three places available at the Association's AGM and encouraged Members to attend.

215/26 - Exclusion of the Public and Press

RESOLVED: In terms of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972, the following items would be likely to disclose exempt information relating to establishment and contractual matters and it was, therefore, that pursuant to the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admissions to meetings) Act 1960 the public and the press be excluded

216/26 - Reference up from Grounds and Environmental Services

The Town Clerk and Chief Executive updated Members on matters relating to Dunstable Cemetery. Members expressed support for the approach taken.

217/26 - Date of the next meeting Monday 5 October 2026 at 7pm

The meeting closed at 8:08 pm