

DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

HELD AT DUNSTABLE CONFERENCE CENTRE, HIGH STREET NORTH

ON MONDAY 18 MAY 2026 FROM 7 PM

Present: Councillors Sally Kimondo (Retiring Town Mayor), Richard Attwell (Retiring Deputy Town Mayor), Trevor Adams, Wendy Bater, Robert Blennerhassett, Matthew Brennan, Steven Collins, Philip Crawley, Mark Davis, John Gurney, Kenson Gurney, Michelle Henderson, Peter Hollick, Nicholas Kotarski, Shaun Moulster, Matthew Neall and Johnson Tamara with Paul Hodson (Town Clerk and Chief Executive)

Before the commencement of the meeting Reverend Julian Richards led the Council in prayer.

136/26 ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR

It was proposed by Councillor Kotarski, and seconded by Councillor John Gurney and

RESOLVED: That Councillor Richard Attwell be elected Town Mayor of Dunstable for the ensuing Municipal Year.

137/26 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

The newly elected Town Mayor made the statutory Declaration of Acceptance of Office and gave a short address to the Council. The Town Mayor signed the Form of Declaration, witnessed by the Town Clerk and Chief Executive.

The Town Mayor was presented with his robes and chain of office whilst Patricie Jurackova was presented with her Mayor's consort badge.

138/26 VOTE OF THANKS FOR THE RETIRING MAYOR

It was proposed by Councillor Brennan and seconded by Councillor Bater and

RESOLVED: That Councillor Sally Kimondo be in receipt of the sincere thanks of the Council for the courteous, efficient, and admirable manner in which she had discharged the important and exacting duties of the office of Town Mayor of Dunstable during the Municipal year ended 18 May 2026.

Councillor Kimondo was presented with her past Mayor's badge.

139/26 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS

There were no specific declarations of interest.

140/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Councillor Gregory Alderman passed on apologies for the meeting.

141/26 APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR

It was proposed by Councillor Adams, seconded by Councillor Crawley, and

RESOLVED: That Councillor Robert Blennerhassett be elected Deputy Town Mayor of Dunstable for the ensuing Municipal Year.

142/26 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

The newly appointed Deputy Town Mayor made the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and signed the Form of Declaration, witnessed by the Town Clerk and Chief Executive.

Councillor Blennerhassett was presented with the Deputy Mayor's chain whilst his consort received the Deputy Mayor's consort badge.

143/26 TOWN MAYOR'S CHAPLAIN

The Town Mayor was pleased to report that Reverend Ricky Turner, of St. Augustine's Church had agreed to be the Town Mayor's Chaplain for the ensuing Municipal Year.

144/26 APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS ON STANDING COMMITTEES

And

145/26 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR OF STANDING COMMITTEES

RESOLVED: That the following Committees be appointed for the ensuing Municipal Year 2026/2027

RESOLVED: By the Members of each Committee in turn that the following Chairs and Vice-Chairs be appointed for the ensuing Municipal Year 2026/2027

Finance and General Purposes Committee	Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor (ex-officio), Councillors Alderman, Brennan (Deputy-Chair), Collins, Crawley, Davis, John Gurney, Kenson Gurney, Henderson, Hollick, Moulster, Neall, and Tamara (Chair)
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Community Services Committee	Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor (ex-officio), Councillors Adams (Deputy-Chair), Alderman, Bater, Collins, Crawley, Davis, Kenson Gurney (Chair), Kimondo, Kotarski and Neall
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Grounds and Environmental Services	Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor (ex-officio), Councillors Adams, Bater, Brennan, John Gurney, Henderson (Chair), Hollick, Kimondo, Kotarski (Deputy-Chair), Moulster and
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Committee	Tamara.
Personnel Sub-Committee	Councillors Attwell, Henderson, Hollick, Kimondo, Kotarski, Neall and Tamara
Dunstable Joint Committee	Town Mayor, Deputy Town Mayor and Chairs of the three Standing Committees (Named substitutes: Vice-Chairs of the three Standing Committees)
Plans Sub-Committee	Councillors Attwell, Bater, Collins, Henderson, Kotarski, Moulster and Tamara

146/26 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 30 March 2026 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

147/26 TOWN MAYOR'S REMARKS

None

148/26 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

It was moved by Councillor John Gurney seconded by Councillor Collins, and

RESOLVED: That the representatives to serve on outside organisations be as follows:

<u>Body</u>	<u>Representative</u>
Observer at Development Committee (Central Beds)	Nicholas Kotarski
Dunstable International Town Twinning Assoc.	Richard Attwell, Kenson Gurney and Peter Hollick
South Beds Dial-a-Ride Management Cttee	Peter Hollick
Citizens Advice Management Committee	Richard Attwell
Hospice at Home Management Cttee	Wendy Bater
Dunstable Town Band	Robert Blennerhassett
Dunstable District Scouts Trustee Board	Nicholas Kotarski
Ashton Schools Foundation	Gregory Alderman, Peter Hollick
Ashton Almshouses Charity	Gregory Alderman, Peter Hollick

Chews Foundation	Matthew Brennan, Kenson Gurney
Poor's Lands Charity	Wendy Bater, Johnson Tamara
Lockington Charity	Sally Kimondo, Johnson Tamara
Marshe Charity	Wendy Bater, Johnson Tamara
Dunstable Men in Sheds	Richard Attwell
BATPC	Kenson Gurney
Dunstable Pride	Matthew Brennan
Friends of Priory House and Gardens	Nicholas Kotarski

149/26 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Monday 22 June at 7 pm.