Dunstable Town Council

Minutes of the Dunstable Town Council

Held at the Council Chamber, Grove House, 76 High Street North, Dunstable, Beds, LU6 1NF

On Monday, 5 October 2026

Attendance

Present: Councillors Alderman, Attwell, Blennerhassett, Brennan, Collins, Crawley, Davis, Henderson, Hollick, Kimondo, Kotarski, Moulster, Neall, Tamara

Apologies: Councillors Adams, Bater, J Gurney

Also present: Paul Hodson, Georgia Pearson, Jane Conway, Lisa Scheder, Becky Wisbey

Public: 4

267/26 Declarations of Interest

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

No specific declarations were made

268/26 Public Question Time

Mr. John Tizard, the Police and Crime Commissioner, Inspector Cunningham and 2 members of the public were present.

Mr. John Tizard addressed members of the council on local policing matters and the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner

269/26 To agree the minutes of the meeting of the meeting of 22 June 2026 as an accurate record

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Full Council held on Monday 22 June 2026 be signed as a correct record

270/26 To Receive reports from the following committees

It was;

271/26 Community Services 7 September 2026

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Community Services Committee held on 7 September 2026 be received

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272/26 Grounds and Environmental Services 14 September 2026

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Grounds and Environmental Services Committee held on 14 September 2026 be received

273/26 Finance and General Purposes 21 September 2026

Councillor Crawley sought clarification on a statement regarding the Council's Facebook following. It was confirmed that the correct wording was that Dunstable Town Council remains the town council with the highest number of Facebook followers in England.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 21 September 2026 be received with the amendment by Councillor Crawley.

274/26 To receive a verbal update from the Dunstable Joint Committee held on 17 September 2026

Cllr Tamara provided a verbal update to members on the Dunstable Joint Committee meeting held on 17 September 2026. It was NOTED that a new Chair and Vice Chair had been appointed to the Committee, with Cllr Tamara serving as Vice Chair.

The Committee received an update on local policing matters. Discussions had included the local night-time economy and measures through which the Police could work with stakeholders to address issues within the town centre and support improvements.

275/26 Town Mayor's Remarks including Civic Events and Mayoral Activities

The Town Mayor presented a report on civic engagements and mayoral activities undertaken since the previous meeting and highlighted a number of significant events.

Councillor Tamara commended the Mayor for representing the town at the World Leaders Summit and thanked him for his efforts in promoting Dunstable.

276/26 External Audit - Conclusion 2025-2026

The Town Clerk and Chief Executive highlighted the key points of the report to members.

Members were informed that the Council had been one of the largest local councils to participate in the new digital audit process, which had required additional work from the finance team. Despite this, the audit had been completed successfully with no issues raised.

The Mayor congratulated the Head of Corporate Services and Responsible Finance Officer and the finance team for their continued professionalism and expertise, noting that the Council had consistently achieved clean audit outcomes.

277/26 Redecoration Decision Report

The Town Clerk and Chief Executive updated members on the report provided.

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Members discussed this item in detail, seeking clarification on the proposed use of reserve funds from other areas of the Council. Officers confirmed that the proposed expenditure was for planned maintenance and health and safety works and that sufficient funds would remain within the relevant reserves following the expenditure, with no significant future maintenance requirements currently identified.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: To spend £5,140 from the Outdoor Leisure (non-play) reserve and £9,870 from the Grove Corner reserve, for the purpose of repainting both buildings and fitting a counter in Bennett's Splash Cafe and Community Hub.

278/26 Annual Report 2025 / 26

The Town Clerk and Chief Executive summarised the report to members.

Members were advised that the report brought together information previously considered by committees through corporate plan updates and key performance indicator reports.

279/26 To receive reports/updates by Members of Central Bedfordshire Council on matters of interest to the Town Council

Councillor Brennan reported that, at a recent meeting of the Dunstable Joint Committee, an update had been received regarding the High Street Rental Auctions scheme being administered by Central Bedfordshire Council. It was noted that the scheme would enable local authorities to bring long term vacant commercial premises back into use. Members were advised that, although Dunstable currently had a significant level of retail vacancies, Central Bedfordshire Council had selected Biggleswade as the location for the initial pilot scheme.

Members were informed that certain highway-related petitions would now be considered by the Dunstable Joint Committee prior to referral to Central Bedfordshire Council, providing greater opportunity for local input and public engagement.

280/26 Reports from Outside Organisations

Dunstable Rotary:
No update

Bedfordshire Association of Town and Parish Councils:
The Town Clerk and Chief Executive reminded members that details of the Bedfordshire Association of Town and Parish Councils Annual General Meeting had been circulated and encouraged members to attend.

281/26 Exclusion of 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

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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

282/26 Cemetery Matters - verbal update

The Town Clerk and Chief Executive provided members with a verbal update.

The meeting closed at 20:44.

Signed: _____

Chair of the Dunstable Town Council

Date: _____

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