

DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GROUNDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

HELD ON MONDAY 9 MARCH 2026 FROM 7 PM

Present: Councillors Sally Kimondo (Town Mayor), Richard Attwell (Deputy Town Mayor), Peter Hollick (Chair), Michelle Henderson (Vice-Chair), Wendy Bater, Robert Blennerhassett and Matthew Brennan

In Attendance: Paul Hodson (Town Clerk and Chief Executive), Daniel Mott (Grounds Operations Manager), James Stenson (Cemetery Manager) and Jackie Carrington (Democratic Services Manager)

Public: One

092/26 - Apologies for Absence

Councillors Johnson Tamara and Nicholas Kotarski

093/26 – Specific Declarations of Interest

Cllr Henderson – Non-pecuniary (Allotment tenant)

094/26 - Public Question Time

A member of the public raised concerns about the cemetery. The Chair undertook that a written response to the raised issues would be provided.

***ACTION:** Town Clerk & Chief Executive*

095/26 – Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED: that the minutes from the meeting of the Grounds & Environmental Services Committee held on Monday 19 January 2026 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

096/26 - To receive the minutes of the Meetings of Plans Sub-Committee meetings held on 2 February 2026 and 23 February 2026.

RESOLVED: that the minutes from the Plans Sub-Committee meetings held on 2 February and 23 February 2026 be received

097/26 - Action Tracker – to receive updates on previous actions

Members noted the Action Tracker provided

In regard to the action to investigate salting and gritting of Town Centre pathways and public areas, it was:

RESOLVED: that following the withdrawal of Central Bedfordshire funding officers would calculate the potential cost of the salt, additional staffing requirements and adaptations of existing equipment to enable officers to undertake the gritting themselves. It was agreed that the action be closed and the findings to be discussed at a future meeting.

ACTION: *Grounds Operations Manager*

The issue of CCTV across the Council's estate was raised,

RESOLVED: Members suggested that Councillors request this item be discussed at the Joint Committee with CBC and the police to better define the problem and potential solutions.

098/26 - Grounds – Information Report

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

Repairs and maintenance works were ongoing. Two self-closing gates had been installed in Grove Gardens, and the Play Area Inspection Report has been received. The Ranger service had completed numerous job requests, and efforts were being made to address issues in the town centre. The Cemetery Manager updated members on the allotments and the number of burials taken place.

Members thanked officers for their work in the planting of the trees for the 40th Anniversary which was in its final phase and the planting included eight apple trees. Dunstable in Bloom's theme for the year was to be 'Community Spirit' and plans were underway for the Anglia in Bloom and Britain in Bloom campaigns.

099/26 - Allotment Improvement Plan

The allotment improvement plan was reviewed. Members noted the pressing need for security improvements at the Meadway allotments site. Members also noted that there had been no recent requests for composting toilets to be installed, and that this action would be postponed, not removed, if the Meadway measures were prioritised.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: that the £10,000 reserved for toilets be redirected towards installing security fencing at Meadway allotments

100/26 - Reports from Outside Organisations:

The Chair reported that Councillor Kotarski had indicated that there was nothing to report from the CBC Development Committee.

101/26 - Motion to exclude public and press

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED:In terms of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972, the following item will be likely to disclose exempt information relating to establishment and contractual matters and therefore, pursuant to the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 the public and press be excluded.

102/26 - To appoint a contractor to develop the new cemetery

Members discussed the recommendation report. Members reviewed the scores achieved by each bidder, and

RESOLVED: to recommend to the Finance and General Purposes Committee to appoint Bidder A to carry out the development work for the new cemetery

103/26 - Date of the next meeting – Monday 8 June 2026 at 7 pm

The meeting closed at 8:30 PM