Dunstable Town Council

Minutes of the Grounds and Environmental Services Committee

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

On Monday, 14 September 2026

Attendance

Present: Councillors Henderson (Chair), Attwell, Bater, Blennerhassett, Brennan, Hollick, Kimondo, Moulster, Tamara

Apologies: Councillors Adams, Gurney, Kotarski

Also present: Daniel Mott, Georgia Pearson, James Stenson, Jane Conway, Gregory Alderman — Cllr, Lisa Scheder

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

243/26 Declarations of Interest

Councillor John Gurney attended the meeting via Teams.

Councillor Henderson declared an interest in Agenda Item 6, by reason of being an allotment holder.

244/26 Public Question Time

There were no questions from the public.

245/26 To agree the minutes of the meeting of 8 June and 17 August 2026 as an accurate record

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings of 8 June and 17 August 2026, with the addition of apologies from Cllr Hollick recorded against the minutes of 17 August 2026, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

246/26 To receive the minutes of the Meetings of Plans Sub-Committee meetings held on 8 June, 29 June, 20 July and 10 August 2026

RESOLVED: that the minutes from the Plans Sub-Committee meetings held on 8 June, 29 June, 20 July and 10 August 2026 be received.

247/26 Action Tracker

The Head of Grounds and Environmental Services highlighted the key points of the tracker to Members.

Members received an update on investigations into pavement cleaning. Officers advised that quotations received from external contractors were significantly higher than anticipated and were not considered affordable within the current budget. The Head of Grounds and Environmental Services was looking to introduce a programme known as "Footway Fridays", under which the Town Rangers would undertake chewing gum removal and jet washing of sections of the High Street for approximately two hours each Friday morning.

ACTION: To trial and feedback on the "Footway Fridays" initiative and establish a baseline for cleaning productivity once hosepipe restrictions are lifted - Head of Grounds and Environmental Services

Members received an update on the search for additional allotment land. No suitable sites had been identified within existing recreation grounds. However, an area within the proposed new cemetery land had been identified as a potential location for temporary allotments.

248/26 Parks and Recreation Grounds, Cemetery, Allotments, Town Centre Gardens and Rangers Services

Parks and Recreation Grounds

The Grounds Operations Manager summarised the report to members. Members praised officers for retaining all four Green Flag Awards and thanked them for all of their hard work. A replacement triple mower had been purchased in line with the machinery replacement programme and staff were undertaking appropriate training. Recent play area inspections identified eight medium-risk maintenance issues, with no high risk concerns recorded.

Cemetery

The Cemetery Manager updated members on the key points within the report. Members noted that the cemetery path audit had been completed and quotations for repair works would be obtained. A review of cemetery rules, regulations and burial documentation were underway to improve understanding and compliance among Exclusive Right of Burial owners and funeral directors. The work of the Friends of Dunstable Cemetery volunteer group was noted and commended, particularly their efforts in clearing overgrown graves and enhancing the appearance of the cemetery.

Allotments

The Cemetery Manager advised members of the key points of the report. July allotment inspections resulted in 28 cultivation notices and five notices to quit were issued. Thirteen plots were currently available for reletting at the time of the report, the waiting list had 328 applicants. Officers confirmed that any newly available plots would be subdivided where possible into smaller plots to maximise capacity.

Town Centre Gardens

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

The Grounds Operations Manager summarised the key points of the report to Members. It was reported that discussions were ongoing with Central Bedfordshire Council regarding damaged town centre planters that require removal or replacement.

ACTION: Continue discussions with Central Bedfordshire Council regarding damaged town centre planters and replacement options and report back to committee - The Grounds Operations Manager

Town Ranger Services

The Grounds Operations Manager highlighted the key points of the report. It was noted that demand for the Town Ranger service remained high. Recent work had included the cleaning of bus shelters, jet washing of play areas and the removal of graffiti across the town.

249/26 Corporate Plan Update Report

The Head of Corporate Services and RFO summarised the report to members.

Members sought an update on the progress relating to the Dunstable Bowls Club project and the Kingsbury Pavilion. Officers explained that delays to the associated land sale had affected the wider project, preventing progression of the full scheme as originally planned. Members expressed concern regarding the length of time the project had been ongoing and requested further information regarding future options for the site.

ACTION: To investigate and provide a further update on the Dunstable Bowls Club and Kingsbury Pavilion project, including available options for progressing improvements - The Head of Grounds and Environmental Services

250/26 Play Area Refurbishment Prioritisation Programme Overview Report

The Head of Grounds and Environmental Services highlighted the key parts of the report to members.

Members were asked to identify which option they would like officers to investigate further, and report back through the 2027/2028 budget-setting process. Members discussed this in detail and acknowledged the need for a planned and sustainable approach to refurbishment rather than responding only when facilities reach the end of their lifespan. Discussion highlighted the importance of considering condition, accessibility, play value, community need and health outcomes when prioritising future investment.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: To establish an annual budget and rolling, priority-led play area replacement programme, as modelled in Appendix 1, aiming to fund at least one project each year and allow additional work where external funding becomes available.

251/26 Reports from Outside Organisations

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

CBC Developmental Committee
No update

Friends of Priory House and Gardens
The Head of Corporate Services and RFO mentioned the group were working on raising funds for the knee rail in Priory Gardens and had committed to contribute £1,000.

252/26 Exclusion of Public and Press

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: In terms of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972, the following item would 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.

253/26 Removal of Unauthorised Memorial at Dunstable Cemetery

The committee received an update and discussed the matter in detail.

254/26 Date of the Next Meeting

Monday 16 November 2026 at 19:00.

The meeting closed at 20:27.

Signed: _____

Chair of the Grounds and Environmental Services Committee

Date: _____

UNAPPROVED MINUTES