

DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, GROVE HOUSE, HIGH STREET NORTH, DUNSTABLE

ON MONDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 2017

Present: Councillors Gloria Martin (Town Mayor), Pat Staples (Chairman), Lisa Bird, John Chatterley, Terry Colbourne, Jeannette Freeman, Eugene Ghent and Claire Meakins

In Attendance: Councillors Sid Abbott and Liz Jones; David Ashlee (Town Clerk and Chief Executive), Becky Wisbey (Head of Community Services), Sandy Coyle (Community and Young Peoples Services Manager) and Kelley Hallam (Office Administrator)

Apologies: None

Public: None

145 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 5 June 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

146 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

| Councillor | Interest | Agenda Item |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Councillor Lisa Bird | Pecuniary interest – Dunstable Market | 4 |
| Councillor Pat Staples | Pecuniary interest – Dunstable Market | 4 |

147 DUNSTABLE TOWN CENTRE SERVICES

Councillor Staples vacated the Chair and Councillor Chatterley assumed the role of Chairman while the information report on Dunstable Town Centre Services was considered.

The Head of Community Services reported on the market trader figures for May, June and July 2017 which included enquiry numbers, casual traders and permanent traders.

Members noted the income and expenditure figures.

Members were informed that the Market Officer had given notice of his resignation but a new officer, with market experience, had already been recruited and started this week.

Members were pleased to note the high attendance figures for the Craft Markets. Members also indicated that they would give further consideration to the future of holding the Friday market during the budget setting process for 2018/19.

148 PRIORY HOUSE

The Head of Community Services presented a report on recent operations and activities at Priory House, including trading account figures and Priory House maintenance.

The Priory House Manager was currently on long term sick leave, but the Priory House Assistant Manager and the rest of the Priory House Team were ensuring that there was a limited impact on day to day operations.

The Committee were informed that National Express had once again cut the commission and was now down to 5%. In light of this, a survey was being carried out into the costs of undertaking National Express coach transactions and would be reported at the next committee meeting.

Priory House Gift Shop had been awarded Silver Plus in the 2017 Shop Front Accreditation scheme.

A proposal had been put forward to name part of the 'Lounge' area 'Vivienne's Corner'. Members agreed this was a fitting tribute to Vivienne Evans' memory.

149 EVENTS AND MARKETING

The Head of Community Services presented an update report on past events and the planning of future 2017 events and updated members on the Council's website and social media usage.

All events so far had gone well especially the Beer Festival which had 1,693 people attend, 3,500 pints served and a sell-out of all beers and ciders.

The Events Officer had received a request that the Salvation Army Band be offered a permanent slot at the Sunday Band Concerts. Members had no objection to this.

RESOLVED: that the Dunstable Salvation Army Band be offered a permanent performance opportunity at the Sunday Band Concerts.

The Committee received the proposed events programme and dates for 2018. It was noted that next year History Day would replace Around the World, to mark the 100th Anniversary of the end of WWI. The Town Mayor also noted that the WWI Beacon Lighting event had not been included but was informed that a meeting was being held with the National Trust the next day and more details would be brought to Committee once this had taken place.

RESOLVED: that the proposed 2018 events and dates as detailed in table 1 of the report be agreed.

Officers also requested that Members consider the inclusion of two further events in 2018; The Beer and Cider Festival and Dunstable Rocks. Both events required a lot more consideration due to staffing resources, financial resources and health and safety issues for the Council. Following discussion, all members agreed that Dunstable Rocks had not been missed this year and that the family events had gone down much better with the public. Whilst the Committee were keen that a Beer Festival be staged in 2018, they did not want to make a final decision on full arrangements for this event until a more detailed report had been supplied at the next committee meeting.

RESOLVED: that Dunstable Rocks would not be included on the 2018 events programme

150 GROVE CORNER AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Community and Young People's Services Manager reported on recent attendance figures and activities at Grove Corner and reported on recent community engagement activities.

This year's Summer Activities had been the most successful ever. Over 1300 people had attended the National Play Day and approximately 500 children enjoyed Inflatable Day, which was extremely busy. Officers were exploring options to expand the event next year.

Dunstable Men in Sheds would be having their official opening on 22 September.

The Junior Wardens initiative was now co-ordinated by two volunteers who were looking into expanding the scheme to Beecroft Academy.

151 OLDER PEOPLE'S DAY CARE SERVICE

The Community and Young People's Services Manager reported on attendances, activities and outings for the Good Companions Club and the Creasey Park Community Football Centre Over 55s Lunch Club.

Both groups had been on a trip to Windsor over the summer. Officers were able to hire a coach with a lift that enabled wheelchair users to attend the trip as well, which they hadn't been able to before. Members were pleased that all users were able to take part.

152 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

South Bedfordshire Dial-a-Ride:
There was no report.

Dunstable Town Band:
Councillor Sparrow reported that the Town Band were hoping to play on the Square at Christmas as well as their SLA agreed performances at St Georges Day, Sunday Band Concert and Proms in the Park.

The Shambles Big Band were to hold a charity concert at the Methodist Church on 30 September in aid of Action for Children.