

## **DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE**

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

**ON MONDAY 5 JUNE 2017**

Present: Gloria Martin (Town Mayor), Pat Staples (Chairman), Steve Elliott (Vice-Chairman), Lisa Bird, John Chatterley, Terry Colbourne, Jeannette Freeman, Eugene Ghent and Patricia Russell

In Attendance: Councillors Liz Jones and Ann Sparrow; David Ashlee (Town Clerk and Chief Executive), John Crawley (Head of Grounds and Environmental Services) and Kelley Hallam (Office Administrator)

Apologies: Councillors Jessica Castle, Claire Meakins and Emma Simmons

Public: None

#### **105 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 6 March 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### **106 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Interest</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>
Councillor Lisa Bird	Pecuniary interest – Dunstable Market	4
Councillor Pat Staples	Pecuniary interest – Dunstable Market	4
Councillor Liz Jones	Non-Pecuniary – Peter Newton Pavilion	9

#### **107 DUNSTABLE TOWN CENTRE SERVICES**

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

The Town Clerk and Chief Executive reported on the market trader figures for February, March and April 2017 which included enquiry numbers, casual traders and permanent traders.

Members noted the income and expenditure figures.

Members received the results from the Dunstable Market Survey. In total 315 people had completed the survey. The Committee noted that the results generally reflected the same views as the Committee; that the market was in the wrong location and that there was not enough variance in traders. Overall the view was that Dunstable should continue to have a market and that the Town Council should continue to manage and fund it.

Members considered whether to form a small sub-group to discuss the results. Other members of the group said this had been done many times before with no results and that it was not worth making any decisions about the market until the works on the de-trunking of the A5 had started and the splash park had opened. It was suggested that the market continued to be reviewed once more was known about the works on the High Street and the Saturday initiatives had had more time to have an impact. Some of the issues raised in the comments section of the questionnaire would be dealt with immediately.

*Action: Town Centre Manager*

## **108 PRIORY HOUSE**

The Town Clerk and Chief Executive presented a report on recent operations and activities at Priory House, including trading account figures and Priory House maintenance.

The Motor Rally event being held next week had 142 vehicles booked to attend.

The Tea Rooms were supplying and serving a special Afternoon Tea for the Town Mayor's charity event at Creasey Park Community Football Centre on 9 July.

## **109 EVENTS AND MARKETING**

The Head of Grounds and Environmental 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.

Plans were progressing well for Party in the Park and Members noted that the performance area would be used to stage entertainment, including two different dance schools to perform dance routines, followed by a magician who would entertain the crowd before the Boy George tribute and the performance by Toyah Wilcox. There were 22 stall bookings to date for this event, which was more than the previous year.

Councillor Jones expressed her disappointment that other community groups had not been contacted in regards to providing refreshments at the Band Concerts as a way of raising funds.

## **110 GROVE CORNER AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

The Head of Grounds and Environmental Services reported on recent attendance figures and activities at Grove Corner and reported on recent community engagement activities.

Officers had been working with Autism Bedfordshire on a 5 week photography project. An exhibition of their work was to be displayed at Grove Corner on 8 June.

Men in Sheds now met regularly 3 times a week and were hoping to start an evening session for members who were still employed. The group had received a donation of wood and had turned this into bird boxes.

Members requested that the core number of attendees to Grove Corner be reported to Committee.

*Action: Senior Community and Young People's Officer*

**111 OLDER PEOPLE'S DAY CARE SERVICE**

The Head of Grounds and Environmental Services 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 visited by an Occupational Therapist who offered advice and information to users of the group.

**112 PETER NEWTON PAVILION**

Members received the annual report on the running and management of the Peter Newton Pavilion by the Bedfordshire Football Association.

**113 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS**

South Bedfordshire Dial-a-Ride:

Councillor Martin reported that South Beds Dial-a-Ride had had their contract renewed for this area.

Dunstable Town Band:

Councillor Sparrow reported that the Town Band had had a highly successful Gala Concert and that they would be playing at the Town Council's Motor Rally and the first Sunday Band Concert.