

**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 MARCH 2018**

Present: Councillors Gloria Martin (Town Mayor), John Kane (Deputy Town Mayor), Pat Staples (Chairman), Eugene Ghent (Vice Chairman), Lisa Bird, Jeannette Freeman, Anne Kennedy, Emma Simmons, Patricia Russell and Johnson Tamara.

In Attendance: Councillors Philip Crawley, Liz Jones and Ann Sparrow with David Ashlee (Town Clerk and Chief Executive), Becky Wisbey (Head of Community Services), Lisa Vincent (Events and Marketing Officer), Hayley Clear and Jackie Carrington (Priory House Duty Managers), Sgt Louise Bates (Bedfordshire Police).

Apologies: Councillors John Chatterley, Terry Colbourne and Claire Meakins.

Public: 1

**49 BY ELECTION**

The Chairman welcomed the newly elected member for Northfields Ward, Councillor Johnson Tamara, following the by-election held on 8 February 2018. Councillor Tamara had made the Statutory Declaration of Acceptance of Office prior to the meeting.

**50 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 8 January 2018 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**51 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no specific declarations of interest.

**52 PRESENTATION ON COMMUNITY POLICING IN DUNSTABLE**

Sgt Louise Bates gave a verbal report on the work of the community policing team in Dunstable. This included the Operation Vision that had been taking place in the East of Dunstable, and partnership working with Town and Central Bedfordshire Council officers to address the town centre anti-social behaviour, vandalism and crime. Members had the opportunity to raise some individual questions and concerns regarding recent burglaries and road traffic crime.

**53 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 consultation period for the staff affected by organisational change had ended. Hayley Clear had accepted one of the Duty Manager posts with immediate effect and the other Duty Manager and Shop Assistant positions were in the process of being filled. The Head of Service introduced to the committee both Hayley Clear and Jackie Carrington who had successfully been appointed to the second Duty Manager position. Members passed on their thanks to both officers for their hard work over the recent months.

The Tea Rooms would not be open on Mother's Day, but were offering special Afternoon Teas the week before.

There were plans to hold a special Royal Wedding Afternoon Tea Party on 19 May whilst showing the royal wedding live.

Members asked whether Priory House would have to close when the repairs associated with the Lottery bid were undertaken. The Head of Service confirmed that this has not yet been established and more preliminary work was required in order to determine the order of works. There was also a question about when the front of Priory House would be repainted. The Head of Service explained that this formed part of the Lottery bid and that there were no other planned works until the outcome of the bid was known.

#### **54 EVENTS AND MARKETING**

The Events and Marketing Officer presented an update report on the planning of the 2018 events and updated members on the Council's website and social media usage.

Members were given the full details on the St George's day event plans and were updated on the progress of all other events for the year.

The Committee received the results for the 2017 events survey. In total 331 responses were received which was a significant improvement from the 91 received the previous year. Overall the results were really encouraging and constructive. Changes to St George's Day, Party in the Park and Priory Pictures were planned due to comments received from the questionnaire.

#### **55 GROVE CORNER AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

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

#### **56 OLDER PEOPLE'S DAY CARE SERVICE**

The Head of Community Services reported on attendances, activities and outings for the Good Companions Club and the Creasey Park Community Football Centre over 55s Lunch Club.

The Furness Avenue coffee morning on 20 February had attracted 15 people with Age UK and Bedfordshire Fire Service in attendance to offer useful information.

#### **57 DUNSTABLE TOWN CENTRE SERVICES**

The Head of Community Services updated the Committee on Town Centre Services including Ashton Square Toilets and the themed and craft market trader figures.

The Town Centre Services Manager had been looking into the possibility of introducing a community toilet scheme in Dunstable. The scheme works by asking businesses to open their toilets for the public to use without the need to purchase their commodity. In return, they were given a small monetary contribution for the upkeep and washroom supplies. Members were asked to consider the scheme and whether to take it to Dunstable Joint Committee to request funding. After some debate, Members confirmed that they liked the idea of the community toilet scheme and agreed that this spend proposal be put forward to the meeting of Dunstable Joint Committee in March.

Members received the current vacancy rates for the Town Centre.

## **58 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS**

South Bedfordshire Dial-a-Ride: Nothing to report.

Dunstable Town Band: Nothing to report.