

## **DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF TOWN MEETING**

#### **HELD AT GROVE HOUSE, 76 HIGH STREET NORTH, DUNSTABLE**

**ON MONDAY 16 APRIL 2018**

Present: Councillor Gloria Martin (Town Mayor) (in the Chair); Councillor John Kane (Deputy Town Mayor); Mr D Ashlee (Town Clerk and Chief Executive) and 17 electors of the Parish of Dunstable, 11 of whom were elected representatives of the Town Council.

#### **1. WELCOME**

The Town Mayor welcomed electors to the 2018 Dunstable Town Meeting and explained its purpose.

#### **2. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Town Meeting held on 3 April 2017 were approved and signed as a correct record by the Town Mayor.

#### **3. QUESTIONS FROM ELECTORS**

In answer to questions raised on town affairs, the following responses were given:

High Street South – A resident advised that a newly introduced parking bay outside 172 High Street South was being misused as vans and other vehicles were parking in the bay all day when it has a 10 minute drop off. Residents who had parked in the bay had been asked to move along by the shop owner as he stated this was for his customers. Councillor Hollick responded that he would take the matter up with Central Bedfordshire Council to look at in terms of the restrictions and enforcement and to see whether traffic wardens could be employed to make regular visits. Councillor Hollick would respond directly to the resident.

Town Parks and Gardens – A resident expressed his pleasure in walking through the gardens in Dunstable and thought the flower beds and displays are better than ever. He asked that the Head of Service and the grounds staff be congratulated. He also praised the initiatives for community gardens, including work with Incredible Edible and asked how the Council was going to develop further community gardens. The Head of Grounds and Environmental Services advised that he worked closely with the Head of Community Services to develop these schemes and projects and where opportunities arise would try to encourage and support such initiatives. Further examples were the work with Dunstable in Bloom and the Friends of the Dunstable Cemetery Group.

Dunstable Market – In answer to a question regarding the Best of British themed market held on Saturday and how the Council was encouraging more traders, the Head of Community Services advised that the Town Centre Services Manager has actively been trying to build up trade and assessing what themes would be popular. She also advised that the future themed and craft markets were proving more popular and were almost full to capacity. The children's themed market in August was also

proving popular. Councillor Staples expressed her belief that the market would get better and would be only too pleased to work with the resident in that regard.

Town Meeting – In noting the public attendance at this year's Town Meeting, a resident expressed disappointment that there had been no guest speaker and that the meeting was being held at the smaller venue of Grove House. Town Councillors recalled that previous meetings held at Creasey Park Community Centre and including presentations on particular town issues had attracted public attendance of just 3 in 2017 and the presentation on the A5-M1 link at the 2016 meeting had attracted 7 electors.

Court Drive – Councillor Ghent explained that the road layout in Queenway and Court Drive was known as shared space, or courtesy crossings and the raised levels had slowed traffic down.

The Town Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance and participation and closed the meeting at 7.50 pm.