

## **DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF TOWN MEETING**

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

**ON MONDAY 4 MARCH 2019**

Present: Councillor John Kane (Town Mayor) (in the Chair); Councillor Nigel Warren (Deputy Town Mayor); Mr D Ashlee (Town Clerk and Chief Executive) and 23 electors of the Parish of Dunstable, 9 of whom were elected representatives of the Town Council.

#### **1. WELCOME**

The Town Mayor welcomed electors to the 2019 Dunstable Town Meeting and explained its purpose.

#### **2. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Town Meeting held on 16 April 2018 were approved and signed as a correct record by the Town Mayor.

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

A number of residents raised their concerns and dissatisfaction regarding the High Street Improvement Scheme and the consultation thereon. Particular concerns were raised regarding the new raised table and pedestrian crossing on Church Street; removal of railings; removal of bus lane outside the former Ashton School; timing of lights on pedestrian crossing lights at West Street, Church Street and Priory View; uneven paving; safety issues at all 4 points of access and congestion on the A5. In response the Town Clerk and Chief Executive advised that the improvements taking place were Phase 1 of a Central Bedfordshire Council scheme and more extensive works were to be undertaken in Phase 2, which was still being put together. All concerns raised would be forwarded to the Chief Executive of Central Bedfordshire Council. Councillor Jones referred residents to Central Bedfordshire Council's facebook page @letstalkcentral for any further information regarding Phase 2.

Central Bedfordshire Council would be made aware of other town issues raised at the meeting which were not the responsibility of the Town Council, namely:

20 mph speed limit in Lowther Road not adhered to – reports of vehicles driven at 60 mph

Great Northern Road and Lowther Road used as rat runs

Reduction in traffic flow – shops closing – poor footfall

Poor bus service – no direct service to Luton/Luton and Dunstable Hospital from Watling Ward, particularly Totternhoe Road and Ardley Close

Totternhoe Road – length of time taken to fill salt bins after repeated requests.

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

Dunstable Market – in answer to a question as to how Dunstable Town Council would bring Dunstable back to a Market Town with no market – Councillor Staples responded that the speciality markets which were held twice a month were very well attended and at present Central Bedfordshire Council issued street trading licences to the regular market traders.

Town Parks and Gardens – A resident praised the Town Council's work in the parks and gardens and their success in Anglian in Bloom and suggested this could be publicised on the Welcome to Dunstable signs. The Head of Grounds and Environmental Services would follow this up.

Mentmore Cresecent – A resident expressed his concerns of motorbikes being ridden on the road and then straight into the park at high speeds which could cause an accident and asked whether barriers could be erected at the two entrances to deter this. The Head of Grounds and Environmental Services would look into this, taking account of the need to maintain access for the disabled. Councillor Colbourne asked residents to telephone 101 and report any incidents to the Police so they could build up their intelligence. Councillor Jones advised that she had spoken to the Police regarding this matter and they had recently attended the site; their cycle team would also be making routine visits.

The Town Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance and participation and closed the meeting at 8.20 pm.