

## **BOROUGH OF KETTERING**

at a meeting of the Council of the Borough of Kettering held at the Municipal Offices, Bowling Green Road, Kettering on 23rd April 2014

Present:

Councillor	Keli Watts (Mayor)	Councillor	Philip Hollobone MP
"	Linda Adams	"	David Howes
"	Duncan Bain (Deputy Mayor)	"	Ian Jelley
"	Maurice Bayes	"	Christopher Lamb
"	Steve Bellamy	"	Shirley Lynch
"	David Bishop	"	Mary Malin
"	Michael Brown	"	Paul Marks
"	Jonathan Bullock	"	Alan Mills
"	Lloyd Bunday	"	Cliff Moreton
"	Maggie Don	"	Russell Roberts
"	Scott Edwards	"	Jan Smith
"	Terry Freer	"	David Soans
"	Ruth Groome	"	Margaret Talbot
"	Jim Hakewill	"	Michael Tebbutt
"	Eileen Hales, MBE	"	Derek Zanger

### **13.C.43      APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mark Dearing, June Derbyshire, Michelle George, Jenny Henson, Ellie Manns and Jonathan West.

### **13.C.44      MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 26th February 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

**13.C.45      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

**13.C.46      MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor asked any Councillor who had not responded to the Mayor-Elect's invitation to the Mayor-Making dinner on 14<sup>th</sup> May do so by 5<sup>th</sup> May at the latest.

**13.C.47      LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Leader reflected on the value added by the council in recent times. He noted that exciting work was due to commence imminently on Newland Street and that car-parking fees had seen a reduction for the first time. He looked forward to full pedestrianisation of Kettering town centre beginning in the near future

**13.C.48      REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

The Chief Executive paid tribute to Val Hitchman, Head of Community Services, who was retiring from the Council after 14 years' service. He noted that Val was both a great colleague and advocate for the council, who would be very much missed; KBC was indebted to her for all her services. Val was presented with a bouquet of flowers and a leaving gift from elected members.

The Chief Executive also took the opportunity to pay tribute to Deputy Chief Executive, Martin Hammond, for his 25 years of distinguished service at Kettering Borough Council.

**13.C.49      RIGHT TO SPEAK**

Dr Mike Dawson indicated he wished to exercise his right to address Council, under Council's Right to Speak Policy, in respect of Item 11 on the agenda.

**13.C.50**      **FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH – ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT**

The Chief Executive presented a report advising Council of the intention of the Royal Anglian Regiment to exercise their right to march through the streets of Kettering on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2014.

**RESOLVED** that members noted the date of the Freedom of the Borough March by the Royal Anglian Regiment as being Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2014.

**13.C.51**      **CHANGING THE CONSTITUTION – VOTING ON THE COUNCIL’S BUDGET**

A report was submitted which sought

- (a) to advise Council of the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendments) Regulations; and
- (b) sought approval of the amendments required to the Council’s Constitution to implement the Regulations

**RESOLVED** that paragraph 19.4 of the Council Procedure Rules be amended to include the following provision:-

*“A recorded vote shall be taken at any budget decision making meeting of the Council, as defined by The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, including any amendments to the motion, and there shall be recorded in the minutes the names of the persons who cast a vote for the decision or against the decision or who abstained from voting.”*

*(Voting: Unanimous)*

**13.C.52**      **CHANGING THE CONSTITUTION – TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE TENANTS’ FORUM**

A report was submitted which sought the adoption of amendments to the Council’s Constitution in respect of Terms of Reference for the Tenants’ Forum.

Tenants' Forum representatives had worked with elected members to review the existing Terms of Reference which they felt needed to be more explicit regarding voting for the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair, the need for tenant representatives to attend meetings regularly and adherence to a tenant code of conduct. The Terms of Reference would be subject to annual review.

**RESOLVED** that:

- (i) the revised constitution of the Tenants' Forum (as detailed in Appendix A to the report) be adopted with effect from 24<sup>th</sup> April 2014; and
- (ii) The Tenants' Code of Conduct be noted

*(Voting: Unanimous)*

### **13.C.53 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

A report was submitted which sought Council approval for the terms of reference for the Community Governance Review.

It was noted that in September 2013 Council had agreed to a "light touch" community governance review and agreed criteria on which the review would be based. All Parish Councils had been consulted, with responses included in the report incorporated into the Terms of Reference and forming the scope of the review.

Council noted instances of officer recommendations within the Terms of Reference, including the situation where building in Mawsley had encroached into the Parish of Cransley. The review would provide the opportunity to rectify that situation.

Proposed changes would be consulted upon with those Parish Councils and residents affected, with an intention to complete and implement the review before local elections in May 2015.

**RESOLVED** that:

- (i) the Terms of Reference for the conduct of the Community Governance Review be agreed; and

- (ii) that the initial responses be referred to the Research and Development Committee to consider and formulate the final proposals for recommendation to Council.

*(Voting: Unanimous)*

**13.C.54 BROUGHTON CONSERVATION AREA – ADOPTION**

A report was submitted which sought the adoption of the Broughton Conservation Area appraisal and proposed boundary as the Broughton Conservation Area.

Dr Mike Dawson addressed Council under the Right to Speak Policy in relation to Broughton Conservation Area, formally requesting the adjournment of a decision on the item to allow the Planning Policy Committee further time to review available evidence and to reconsider their decision.

Members stated their support for the rigorous process that had been followed in the designation of the conservation area by officers and the Planning Policy Committee.

**RESOLVED** that the Broughton Conservation Area Appraisal and boundary be adopted in accordance with Section 70(8) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act 1990.

*(Voting: Unanimous)*

**13.C.55 KETTERING BOROUGH COUNCIL – SOCIAL MEDIA**

Councillor Mike Brown proposed and Councillor David Howes seconded that:-

*"This administration welcomes the use of new technologies and has seen fantastic growth in use of the Council's own Twitter accounts. The administration also looks forward to see the creation of a Borough-wide events and activities Facebook Page to help communicate our excellent range of events, such as those on at the Market Place, to the public throughout the summer and beyond."*

During debate members stated their wholehearted support for the motion, but took into consideration the need to utilise all available methods of communication with the public, being mindful of those unable or unwilling to use newer technologies to access council information.

*(The motion was unanimously agreed)*

**13.C.56**      **ERIC PICKLES - KETTERING BOROUGH COUNCIL PROVIDING AN EXAMPLE FOR OTHER COUNCILS**

Councillor Bullock asked the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration the following question:-

*“Does Cllr Zanger agree with Eric Pickles when he says Kettering is providing an example for other councils to follow by freezing Council Tax, cutting car parking charges and protecting the global voluntary sector budget?”*

The Portfolio Holder for Finance responded as follows:-

*“Yes, I most certainly agree with Eric Pickles, I appreciate his comments and intend to invite him to visit Kettering Borough to see for himself how we are bucking the trend in the High Street, and out performing other towns.”*

**13.C.57**      **PARISH COUNCIL GRANTS**

Councillor Jonathan Bullock asked the Leader of the Council the following question:-

*“Was the Leader aware that the Rural Forum and I, as its Chairman, were concerned from 2011 onwards about the low level of Parish Council Grants?”*

The Leader of the Council responded as follows:-

*“The Leader was aware that the Rural Forum called for a review Parish Grants”*

Councillor Bullock then asked the Leader of the Council the following supplementary question:-

*“On the issue of Parish Council grants would the Leader of the Council make a note of my thanks to Councillor Brown for his*

*unconditional withdrawal of comments made at the last Council meeting.”*

The Leader of the Council responded as follows:-

*“Democracy is a wonderful thing, I am happy to accept that. Of course when a review is requested it has to be accepted that a review will take place. I will pass your good words onto Councillor Brown”*

**13.C.58 ENERGY PARK AT BURTON WOLD**

Councillor Bullock asked the Portfolio Holder for the Environment the following question:-

*“There are major concerns among residents in my ward about the proposed “Energy Park” to the East of Kettering following a BBC News story in which a Kettering Borough Council cabinet member was apparently interviewed. Would the portfolio holder make a statement explaining what the position is of the Council on this matter?”*

In the absence of the portfolio holder, the following answer was provided:-

*“We are delighted to be invited along to learn more about First Renewable Ltd’s proposals for an Energy Park at Burton Wold. The prospect of low carbon energy being generated and used locally businesses and housing, along with the creation of quality jobs in the area, appeared to be an attractive one – particularly as it would be funded entirely by the private sector. The proposals are yet to be considered through the planning process, but, we understand involve wind, solar and bio-mass technologies in combination. First Renewable Ltd believe their proposals have the potential to make the east of Kettering development an exemplar of sustainability, and to satisfy the planning requirement placed on that development for renewable energy use. We are particularly pleased to see First Renewable Ltd along with their partners E.On and Reach, consulting with the communities of Cranford and Burton Latimer on the 9<sup>th</sup> April. This bodes well for community involvement in the process.”*

(The meeting started at 7.00 pm and ended at 8.00 pm)

Signed .....

The Mayor

DJP