

## **BOROUGH OF KETTERING**

at a meeting of the Council of the Borough of Kettering held at the Municipal Offices, Bowling Green Road, Kettering on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2016

Present:

Councillor	Scott Edwards ( Mayor)	Councillor	Shirley Lynch
"	Duncan Bain	"	Mary Malin
"	Steve Bellamy	"	Clark Mitchell
"	Michael Brown	"	Russell Roberts
"	Lloyd Bunday	"	Mark Rowley
"	James Burton	"	Mick Scrimshaw
"	Ash Davies	"	Jan Smith
"	June Derbyshire	"	David Soans
"	Maggie Don	"	Michael Tebbutt
"	Jenny Henson	"	Lesley Thurland
"	David Howes	"	Greg Titcombe
"	Ian Jelley	"	Derek Zanger
"	Anne Lee		

### **16.C.41 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Linda Adams, Mark Dearing, Ruth Groome, Jim Hakewill, Philip Hollobone, Margaret Talbot, Keli Watts and Jonathan West

### **16.C.42 MINUTES**

#### **RESOLVED**

that the minutes of Council held on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2016 and the Special Meeting of Council held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

### **16.C.43 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

#### **16.C.44**      **TRIBUTE TO ALAN MILLS**

The Mayor stated that since the last Full Council meeting, Councillor Alan Mills had sadly lost his battle with illness and passed away. A minute silence was held in his honour.

Councillor Mick Scrimshaw paid tribute to Councillor Mills, noting that he would be sadly missed by the Labour Group, the council and his family as well as by the community, having been held in great esteem by the people of Rothwell.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Russell Roberts acknowledged that Councillor Mills would be greatly missed by everybody and was a great loss to the Borough.

Councillor Maggie Don stated that Councillor Mills was a great loss to Kettering Borough Council, Rothwell Town Council and the town of Rothwell, whose residents had grown to love him during his time there.

Councillor Ian Jelley noted that it had been an honour to serve alongside Councillor Mills on Rothwell Town Council, and highlighted his passion for the town and his charity works.

Councillor Mike Tebbutt remembered Councillor Mills as both a friend and colleague and noted his involvement in Kettering Rotary Club and his extensive charity work.

The Mayor, Councillor Scott Edwards recalled Councillor Mills' involvement in the Scouting organisation and stated that he was a fantastic man and would be sadly missed by all.

#### **16.C.45**      **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor announced that the Civic Ball would take place on 18<sup>th</sup> November at Kettering Conference Centre, with invitations to be sent out during the week.

It was with pleasure that the Mayor announced that during the run-up to Christmas a Gift Tree would be in operation in conjunction with the Newlands Centre. The meeting heard that gifts could be donated for distribution amongst under-privileged children of the Borough. Further information would be supplied to members closer to Christmas.

**16.C.46**      **LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Leader of the Council announced that KBC had a proud track record of delivering affordable housing in the borough, with over 1500 new homes provided during the previous ten years.

The Leader further stated that he had targeted construction of 200 new social housing units a year going forward, utilising established means of working with partner organisations and innovative working to contribute from KBC's own housing stock.

**16.C.47**      **REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

None

**16.C.48**      **RIGHT TO SPEAK POLICY**

One member of the public, Mr Pooley wished to address Council on Item 11.

**16.C.49**      **THE MAYOR TO RECEIVE ANY PUBLIC DEPUTATION AND PETITIONS**

Mr Richard Atkinson attended the meeting and presented a petition containing 4,529 signatures on behalf of Kettering Town Football Club supporters and members of the public.

The petition called upon Kettering Borough Council to list the Rockingham Road football stadium in Kettering as an Asset of Community Value (ACV).

The Chief Executive provided a brief presentation to explain how potential Assets of Community Value were assessed; the legislation that the council had to adhere to in making a decision and that Full Council had no power to make any decision in relation to an ACV application

Mr Atkinson addressed Council on behalf of the petitioners under the provisions of the Council's Petition Scheme. He confirmed that a second ACV application in relation to Rockingham Road football stadium had been submitted.

The Mayor thanked Mr Atkinson and the Kettering Town FC supporters for their attendance and presentation of the petition

and allowed councillors a fifteen minute period of debate on the issue, with Councillors Scrimshaw, Bellamy, Brown, Mitchell and Roberts addressing the meeting.

Councillor Roberts stated that talks between KBC officers and representatives from Kettering Town Football Club were ongoing and would continue.

**16.C.50**      **ROCKINGHAM ROAD ASSET OF COMMUNITY VALUE –  
DECISION CONSISTENT WITH FULL COUNCIL MOTION  
JULY 2015**

Councillor Steve Bellamy asked the Leader of the Council the following question:-

*"Has the decision to reject the first ACV application for Rockingham Road under Kettering Borough Council's powers and duties been consistent with the sporting Motion passed in July 2015 by full council that reads:*

*"This motion recognises the enormous contribution local sporting organisations make to our Borough. An active society is a healthy society, thus this motion wishes to endorse the majority group's Manifesto commitment to the Borough. In particular we aim to regenerate some of our older leisure facilities and also to work more closely with our local sporting teams, to help them realise their own aspirations and future success within their home towns/villages." "*

The Leader answered as follows:-

*"It is not a political decision, it is not a manifesto commitment, it is not a debatable decision.*

*As I hope is clear, the decision to reject the application for Rockingham Road to be an Asset of Community Value arises from considering the tests set out in the Assets of Community Value Regulation 2012."*

Councillor Bellamy asked the following supplementary question:-

*"Is it consistent with the Motion at full council July 2015, yes or no?"*

The Leader replied as follows:-

*"It is consistent. This decision was taken under law and we do support participatory sports and as I have said officers will meet with the football club."*

**16.C.51**      **ROCKINGHAM ROAD ASSET OF COMMUNITY VALUE –  
DECISION CONSISTENT WITH CONSERVATIVE LOCAL  
ELECTION MANIFESTO 2015**

Councillor Steve Bellamy asked the Leader of the Council the following question:-

*"Was the decision to reject the first ACV application for Rockingham Road consistent with the Conservative 2015 Local Election Manifesto that makes the same pledge?"*

The Leader answered as follows:-

*"As per my previous answer, an ACV decision is not a political decision"*

Councillor Bellamy asked the following supplementary question:-

*"Does the leader of KBC have an answer which doesn't replicate the answer given to original question?"*

The Leader replied as follows:-

*"No."*

**16.C.52**      **REMOVAL OF PARTS OF ONE-WAY SYSTEM IN  
KETTERING**

Councillor Mike Brown asked the Leader of the Council the following question:-

*"When does the Leader expect the manifesto pledge to remove parts of the one-way system to be fulfilled?"*

The Leader answered as follows:-

*"This is not a matter in our control. We have sought to persuade our colleagues in NCC to prioritise the scheme but as with many things it is a matter of finance."*

Councillor Brown asked the following supplementary question:-

*“Why sign-off on policy to be included in the borough council manifesto?”*

The Leader replied as follows:-

*“We have big ambitions to make the road system better and we are seeking to do that with NCC. A start has been made; improvements to town centre roads have been done. It’s all about money; we are pushing and trying hard to get the road done to open up the north/south route.”*

**16.C.53 CAR-PARKING CHARGES**

Councillor Mike Brown asked the Leader of the Council the following question:-

*“When does the Leader expect the manifesto pledge to cut car-parking charges in Kettering Town Centre to be fulfilled?”*

The Leader answered as follows:-

*“Car parking charges have not increased for 5 years. The Council continues to offer free parking for one off special events that support the regeneration of the town centre up to a value of £40,000 per year. I would say free parking is a cut in car parking charges”*

Councillor Brown asked the following supplementary question:-

*“When is a further cut promised in the manifesto going to be fulfilled?”*

The Leader replied as follows:-

*“Car parking charges have been reduced by this administration for first time ever. Free parking is available to those using the phlebotomy unit, and there is free parking for certain town centre events. We are reviewing parking charges, although we cannot announce anything at the moment, we will do so as soon as possible.”*

**16.C.54 KBC FUNDING FOR VOLLEYBALL**

Councillor Mike Brown asked the Portfolio Holder for Finance the following question:-

*“How much funding has Kettering Borough Council given towards the National Volleyball Centre and volleyball in the past 10 years?”*

The Portfolio Holder for Finance answered as follows:-

*“The total expenditure in the past 10 years is £63,000. The last decision being made by Executive on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2013, which you may remember as you were a member of that Executive and supported it.”*

Councillor Brown asked the following supplementary question:-

*“When do you plan to give similar support to Kettering Town Football Club?”*

The Portfolio Holder for Finance replied as follows:-

*“We will talk to Kettering Town Football Club again. Going forward should any opportunities arise to do what we have done for volleyball, we will take the right decision for everyone in the borough”*

#### **16.C.55**

#### **KBC FUNDING FOR THE WOMEN'S CYCLE RACE**

Councillor Mike Brown asked the Portfolio Holder for Finance the following question:-

*“How much funding has Kettering Borough Council given to The Women's Cycle Race in the past 10 years?”*

The Portfolio Holder for Finance answered as follows:-

*“The total expenditure in the past 10 years is £72,000. The first decision being made by Executive on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2014, which you may remember as you were a member of that Executive that supported the decision.”*

Councillor Brown asked the following supplementary question:-

*“When do you plan to give similar support to Kettering Town Football Club?”*

The Portfolio Holder for Finance replied as follows:-

*“If we get an opportunity to help the football club, we will do what is best for every resident in the town.”*

**16.C.56**      **KETTERING RUGBY CLUB – LAND AT**

Councillor Mike Brown asked the Portfolio Holder for Finance the following question:-

*“Does the Borough Council own the land on which Kettering Rugby Club’s stadium is built?”*

The Portfolio Holder for Finance answered as follows:-

*“Yes – the rugby club is subject to a binding 99 year lease which has been in place since the 1960s and therefore predates this council.”*

Councillor Brown asked the following supplementary question:-

*“Why can’t we do this for Kettering Town Football Club?”*

The Portfolio Holder for Finance replied as follows:-

*“Times are different and we have a duty to get best value from our land. If we get a chance to talk to the football club and can help them, we will do so for the benefit of every resident.”*

**16.C.57**      **KETTERING RUGBY CLUB – ANNUAL RENT**

Councillor Mike Brown asked the Portfolio Holder for Finance the following question:-

*“How much does the Borough Council charge for the use, per year, for the land on which Kettering Rugby Club’s stadium is built?”*

The Portfolio Holder for Finance answered as follows:-

*“As per my previous answer the binding lease predates this Council and is subject to a charge of £10.50 per year.”*

Councillor Brown asked the following supplementary question:-

*“Why can’t we offer a similar peppercorn rent deal for Kettering Town Football Club as well as the rugby club?”*

The Portfolio Holder for Finance replied as follows:-

*“In the past an offer was made for both football and rugby clubs to share that land and it was declined.”*



*Prior to this question being asked (minute 16.C.58),  
Graham Soulsby and Martin Hammond left the meeting.*

**16.C.58**      **MANAGING DIRECTOR**

Councillor Mike Brown asked the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Delivery the following question:-

*“Why was the new position of Managing Director kept confidential?”*

The Portfolio Holder for Strategic Delivery answered as follows:-

*“It was not kept confidential. In order to respect the sovereignty of the decision making of this Chamber, members were given the opportunity to consider this decision (administrative process of the Council) in private, in accordance with the law regarding private and confidential items.”*

Councillor Brown asked the following supplementary question:-

*“Why was it in best interests of council to work in the way it did and have private papers for members on this issue?”*

The Portfolio Holder for Strategic Delivery as follows:-

*“A decision was made to hold the item in private and confidential by council unanimously. When talking about individual’s jobs and livelihoods, it is always done in private and confidential.”*

**16.C.59**      **MANAGING DIRECTOR - SALARY**

Councillor Mike Brown asked the Leader of the Council the following question:-

*“Does the leader feel that a proposed salary of £130,000 for the new Managing Director position represents good value for money?”*

The Portfolio Holder for Strategic Delivery, on behalf of the Leader of the Council, answered as follows:-

*“Flexible Resources Working Group – A cross party group of members was tasked with a number of actions, all previously unanimously endorsed by Full Council. We took external advice*

*regarding the current market and pitched the salary at a mid-point of those comparators. This salary was reported at Council on 14<sup>th</sup> September and agreed unanimously.”*

**16.C.60**      **MANAGING DIRECTOR – EXTERNAL CANDIDATES**

Councillor Mike Brown asked the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Delivery the following question:-

*“How many external candidates have or will be considered for the new role of Managing Director?”*

The Portfolio Holder for Strategic Delivery, on behalf of the Leader of the Council, answered as follows:-

*“I refer to my previous answer; the process for recruitment of the Managing Director was agreed unanimously at Council on 14<sup>th</sup> September.”*

**16.C.61**      **MANAGING DIRECTOR – LOCAL CANDIDATES**

Councillor Mike Brown asked the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Delivery the following question:-

*“Have any local people been considered for the new role of Managing Director?”*

The Portfolio Holder for Strategic Delivery, on behalf of the Leader of the Council, answered as follows:-

*“Please refer to my previous answer regarding the recruitment process for the Managing Director and its unanimous approval at Council on 14<sup>th</sup> September.”*

Councillor Brown asked the following supplementary question:-

*“Why have no local people been considered?”*

The Portfolio Holder for Strategic Delivery as follows:-

*“Because nobody applied”*

**16.C.62      PETITION FOR ROCKINGHAM ROAD STADIUM - DEBATE**

Councillor Mike Brown asked the Leader of the Council the following question:-

*“Does the leader agree with the statement in the Northants Telegraph by the Council that there should not be a debate on the petition for Rockingham Road Stadium?”*

The Leader answered as follows:-

*“I hope the situation regarding this is much clearer now.”*

**16.C.63      COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT – PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

Councillor Maggie Don asked the Portfolio Holder for Finance the following question:-

*“Following the decision at the last Executive meeting, to go out for public consultation on the four taper options and other technical changes, can the Portfolio Holder please ensure that those customer who are or are going to be directly affected are made aware of the process and how they can engage with the consultation?”*

The Portfolio Holder for Finance answered as follows:-

*“As always the consultation process will be full transparent with engagement with customers and partners being in a variety of formats.”*

Councillor Don made the following supplementary comment:-

*“We must be sure that when we have a consultation on Council Tax Support that we get to those most affected as they are the most likely to not know what is going on or engage with a process that will directly affect their future”*

The Portfolio Holder for Finance replied as follows:-

*“The consultation will be transparent, I will personally endeavour to make sure that the process is made available to everyone affected by this issue and am happy to work with Councillor Don to make sure this happens.”*

**16.C.64**      **APPOINTMENT OF MANAGING DIRECTOR**

A report was submitted which sought Council approval in accordance with the Council's constitution for the appointment to the role of Managing Director.

It was noted that the appointment process for the role of Managing Director had been unanimously agreed by members at the previous meeting of Council. Following the completion of that process the Appointments Committee had agreed to recommend to Council that Mr Graham Soulsby be appointed as the Council's Managing Director. It was further noted that as Mr Soulsby currently held the substantive post of Deputy Chief Executive, a post that would be known as Executive Director in the new structure, it would be necessary to recruit to fill this position. The provisional recruitment timetable for the position of Executive Director had already been approved. The outcome of that recruitment process and an effective start date for the Managing Director would be reported to Council in December.

**RESOLVED**      That Council approve the appointment of Mr Graham Soulsby as the Council's Managing Director, with an effective start date to be reported to Council at its next meeting in December.

*(Voting: For: 22; Abstentions: 2)*

**16.C.65**      **NORTHAMPTON ROAD IMPROVEMENTS – SAFETY CONCERNS**

It was Proposed by Councillor Clark Mitchell and Seconded by Councillor Anne Lee that:-

*“This council asks that Northamptonshire County Council Highways Department investigates the possibility of either installing a pedestrian refuge in the chevron area at the top of Northampton Road or extending the barriers on both sides of the road.”*

Mr Pooley addressed Council under the Council's Right to Speak policy as a representative of Guide Dogs for the Blind and spoke in support of the motion from the perspective of vulnerable pedestrians.

**RESOLVED**

This council asks that Northamptonshire County Council Highways Department investigates the possibility of either installing a pedestrian refuge in the chevron area at the top of Northampton Road or extending the barriers on both sides of the road.

*(Voting: Unanimous)*

(The meeting started at 7.00 pm and ended at 8.37 pm)

Signed .....  
The Mayor

djp