

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

at a meeting of the Council of the Borough of Kettering held at the North Pavilion, Wicksteed Park, Kettering on 26th April 2017

Present:

Councillor	Scott Edwards (Mayor)	Councillor	Anne Lee
"	Duncan Bain	"	Shirley Lynch
"	Cedwien Brown	"	Clark Mitchell
"	Michael Brown	"	Cliff Moreton
"	Lloyd Bunday	"	Russell Roberts
"	James Burton	"	Mark Rowley
"	Ash Davies	"	Mick Scrimshaw
"	Mark Dearing	"	Jan Smith
"	Maggie Don	"	David Soans
"	Andrew Dutton	"	Margaret Talbot
"	Ruth Groome	"	Mike Tebbutt
"	Jim Hakewill	"	Lesley Thurland
"	Philip Hollobone MP	"	Greg Titcombe
"	David Howes	"	Keli Watts
"	Ian Jelley	"	Jonathan West

16.C.127 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Derbyshire, Henson and Sumpter.

Apologies were also received from the Chief Executive, David Cook.

16.C.128 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 1st March 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

16.C.129 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

16.C.130 **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor reported that since the last Full Council meeting, former Councillors Derek Zanger and David Bishop had sadly passed away. A minute silence was held in their honour.

Councillor Keli Watts paid tribute to Councillor Bishop, noting that he had been an exceptional man who had done a great deal of work for the council during his time as a member and was a great loss as both a colleague and friend.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Russell Roberts paid tribute to both Derek Zanger and Dave Bishop, also noting his work alongside both at parish council level and observing that both would be missed by the whole chamber.

The Mayor took time to congratulate Cllr Maggie Don on her successful abseil down the Northampton Lift Tower and reminded the meeting that her donation page was still open and raising funds for Home Start.

16.C.131 **LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Leader of the Council reported that the North Northamptonshire Joint Delivery Committee had recently been awarded a significant grant that would allow for the continuation of the work of the committee for a further 12 months, helping to bring growth to the area.

It was also reported that a meeting had been held with the new owners of Weetabix who had confirmed their wish to remain at their site in Burton Latimer and that they had no plans to alter their local farming suppliers.

16.C.132 **REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

None

16.C.133 **RIGHT TO SPEAK**

Joanne Taylor indicated she wished to exercise her right to address the Council in respect of Item 9(ii).

16.C.134 **MAYORAL ARRANGEMENTS 2017/18**

The Leader of the Council proposed that given the resignation and sad passing of the Deputy Mayor, Derek Zanger, that the current Mayor, Cllr Scott Edwards continue in the role for a further year. Councillor Mick Scrimshaw seconded the proposal.

(Voting: 29 For; 1 Not Voting)

The Mayor thanked the chamber for allowing him the honour of a second term as mayor, stating that he and the Mayoress had thoroughly enjoyed the previous year and were looking forward to the forthcoming municipal year.

16.C.135 **WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY**

A report was submitted which sought adoption of the revised Whistleblowing Policy as part of the council's constitution

RESOLVED that the Council adopt into Part 5 of the Constitution, the revised Whistleblowing Policy as set out at Appendix A to the officer report.

MOTIONS

16.C.136 **DEMOCRATIC TRANSPARENCY**

Councillor Michael Brown proposed and Councillor Ruth Groome seconded the following motion:-

"In the interests of democratic transparency, this Council will seek to amend the Council Constitution to ensure that Political Parties declare, before a vote is taken in the Council chamber, whether or not their Councillors are bound by their groups' constitution, to vote with the party-line, or whether they have a choice to vote differently."

Councillor Brown stated that he believed the motion, if passed, would provide clarity to the people of Kettering on the intentions of ward councillors when taking a vote. Cllr Brown requested that a named vote be taken and received the requisite level of support for this request.

Councillor Ruth Groome seconded the motion, noting that the requirement for democratic transparency had become increasingly pronounced.

Councillor Lesley Thurland spoke against the motion, stating that choosing which way to vote was always the choice of the individual member.

Councillor Mick Scrimshaw spoke in support of the motion, stating that he had never known the Labour Group to put a whip on any decision.

Cllr Jim Hakewill spoke against the motion stating that the council's constitution, adopted in 2003, had all the necessary checks and balances required to provide fair, open and transparent democracy.

(Voting: 10 For; 20 Against)

Those Voting for the Motion

Councillors Adams, M Brown, Dutton, Don, Groome, Lee, Mitchell, Scrimshaw, Watts and West

Those Voting Against the Motion

Councillors Bain, C Brown, Bunday, Burton, Davies, Dearing, Hakewill, Hollobone, Howes, Jelley, Lynch, Moreton, Roberts, Rowley, Smith, Soans, Talbot, Tebbutt, Thurland and Titcombe

The motion therefore fell.

16.C.137 COMMUNITY TOILET FACILITIES

Joanne Taylor attended and addressed Council under the Council's Right to Speak Policy on behalf of the Kettering Diversity Group.

It was noted that seven business and organisations in the town were currently involved in the Community Toilet scheme, with few of these being open during the evening or on Sundays. It was heard that five of the seven locations currently lacked stickers advertising that they were part of the scheme, including Kettering Borough Council's Municipal Offices and the library. Three of the businesses reported uncertainty about whether they had ever received a sticker but would display one if one was supplied. She requested that the Community Toilet Scheme be revisited to enable all those coming to Kettering to easily access suitable toilet facilities.

Councillor Maggie Don proposed and Councillor Linda Adams seconded the following motion:-

“This council now considers it is time to have a total review of the community toilet facilities within the borough, as a matter of urgency. This system was introduced many years ago now, and we need to consider how effective and user friendly it is.”

A number of councillors spoke in support of the motion, and it was proposed the scheme be taken to the council’s Research and Development Committee for review, with a final report being sent to the Executive Committee.

RESOLVED that that the Community Toilet Scheme be referred to the Research and Development Committee for review.

(Voting: Unanimous)

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

16.C.138 CAR-PARKING CHARGES – OVER VEND

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

“How much does the Council make per annum, for the past 4 years, from people overpaying to use Council Car Parks?”

The Portfolio Holder for Finance answered as follows:-

“The annual statement of accounts details the income and expenditure relating to the Councils Car Parks.

The total “overvend” totals below comprise:

- a) Payment by a customer towards the end of the day where their fee period runs beyond 6pm;*
- b) Payment made on free parking days including Sundays and in the evening after 6pm*
- c) Overpayment due to no change given,*

We are not able to split the amount between these three scenarios. Therefore the total overvend for the last 4 years is,

2012/13 - £18,129

2013/14 - £15,373

2014/15 - £16,024
2015/16 - £17,779”

Councillor Brown asked the following supplementary question:-

“As part of the review of the Community Toilet Scheme could it be looked at to invest this revenue into the scheme?”

The Portfolio Holder for Finance responded as follows:-

“Income from car parking is ring-fenced for car parks and wardens”

16.C.139 CAR PARKING TICKET MACHINES

Councillor Michael Brown asked the Portfolio Holder for the following question:-

“Do council car parking ticket machines currently give change in the event of an overpayment for a ticket?”

The Portfolio Holder for Finance answered as follows:-

“No. There is an option to pay the exact amount by card over the phone.”

16.C.140 CAR PARKING TICKET MACHINES – CHANGE FACILITY

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

“Do our current car parking machines have an option to allow the giving of change to be turned on?”

The Portfolio Holder for Finance answered as follows:-

“No.”

Councillor Brown asked the following supplementary question:-

“Would the Portfolio Holder write to me to explain why we bought machines without this option?”

The Portfolio Holder for Finance responded as follows:-

“This car park and its peripherals have been around for many years, yes I will write to Cllr Brown,

16.C.141 ROCKINGHAM ROAD STADIUM SITE – COUNCIL TAX AND NEW HOME BONUS

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

“If a future planning application was successful to deliver the number of properties suggested from the council’s own “earmarked” plans on the Rockingham Road Stadium site, what would be the estimated revenue the council would receive as a result in extra Council Tax and New Home Bonus?”

The Portfolio Holder for Finance answered as follows:-

“It is impossible to answer this until we know how many houses are actually to be built, (which is a function of a planning application, not an estimate for the purpose of demonstrating a five year land supply). It will depend on what Council Tax band each home falls into, and from a New Homes Bonus perspective, what proportion are affordable homes and what the level of New Homes Bonus will be at the time of occupation. The current level of Council Tax means that KBC receives an average of £3.07 per week per property and that contributes to the overall cost of council services. The New Homes Bonus is reducing year on year so it would be pure speculation to guess at the amounts raised when we don’t know when they will be built.”

16.C.142 ROCKINGHAM ROAD STADIUM SITE – HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

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

“Does the Conservative Administration still agree with this council’s decision that Rockingham Road should be earmarked for housing development?”

The Portfolio Holder for Finance answered as follows:-

“It is a fact that the Core Spatial Strategy and our five year housing land supply assume that the Rockingham Road site has potential for housing development. This administration is not

going to pre-determine any future planning application by expressing an opinion on the matter.”

16.C.143 KETTERING – PRIME MINISTER’S QUESTIONS

Councillor Andrew Dutton asked the Leader of the Council the following question:-

“Do you agree with our MP’s assessment made at PMQ’s last week that “Kettering is Britain’s most average town.”?”

The Leader of the Council answered as follows:-

“Philip Hollobone MP is not the originator of this assessment. Philip has made it clear that an official at the DCLG advised him that they are encouraged to think of Kettering whenever they have to think of how policies might impact on what could be regarded as the most average town in the middle of the country. This is not formal Government guidance, but an informal assessment. As Leader of the Borough Council I know that we have a council which performs well above average, and has an above average record on freezing council tax, together with an MP with a well above average Parliamentary record. I fully support Philip Hollobone’s invitation to the Prime Minister to visit our Borough.”

Councillor Dutton asked a supplementary question that was considered to be unrelated to the original question asked.

16.C.144 ROTHWELL NOTE STRATEGIC LINK ROAD

Councillor Jim Hakewill asked the Portfolio Holder for Finance the following question:-

“Would the Portfolio Holder be sympathetic to the idea of discussions between Kettering Borough Council, Northamptonshire County Council and developers Persimmon in order to get the Rothwell North Strategic Link Road (SLR) forward funded? Presently there is agreement that the developer will fund the link road at the completion of the build but not from the beginning. The residents of, businesses in and visitors to Rothwell would realise significant benefits by some form of agreement to bring the construction traffic onto the site from the A6 bypass before any work starts on the 700 planned houses. This would avoid the construction traffic coming past

already congested, narrow and densely populated residential roads which are the only other option.”

The Portfolio Holder for Finance answered as follows:-

“The question of how best to protect Rothwell from the impact of construction traffic is being addressed now; officers are working with the County Council and the developer to identify the most effective construction management plan, with a view to removing or severely reducing lorry movements through the town. As to whether there is the financial wherewithal to forward fund the road, this will depend to a great extent on the County Council. The Borough Council does not have the funds to do this. If the County Council has the funds and the developer is willing to entertain that proposal, then of course we would be willing, as a planning authority, to help facilitate that. I should also point out that the planning approval requires the road to be completed at 350 dwellings not at the “completion of the build”.”

Councillor Hakewill asked the following supplementary question:-

“Mindful of the answer given to a question above, nevertheless, when could the Portfolio Holder let me have an estimate of the New Homes Bonus yield for the 700 houses on Rothwell North based on current New Homes Bonus and average size and tenure of property?”

The Portfolio Holder for Finance replied as follows:-

“I will be writing to Cllr Hakewill as soon as we have an answer as to what is happening with New Homes Bonus”

16.C.145 DECRIMINALISATION OF PARKING

Councillor Mick Scrimshaw asked the Portfolio Holder for Finance the following question:-

“Can I have an update of where the negotiations with Northamptonshire County Council are regarding decriminalisation of parking and if we have any rough idea of when it might become active?”

The Portfolio Holder for Finance answered as follows:-

“A business case was submitted to the County Council in September 2016. They replied with a series of questions seeking further information in February 2017, and those

questions are being answered, with a view to a meeting in May to take the negotiations forward.”

Councillor Scrimshaw asked the following supplementary question:-

“I ask the Portfolio Holder whether she agrees with me that these negotiations seem to have been delayed as the County Council are not taking them seriously?”

The Portfolio Holder for Finance replied as follows:-

“Yes I would, but perhaps as a county councillor you may have some sway in getting this done. We are waiting to have another meeting; we want to get on with this more than anyone, as soon as we have answers, we will let everyone know.”

16.C.146 KETTERING GENERAL HOSPITAL – VEHICLE EMISSIONS

Councillor Mick Scrimshaw asked the Deputy Leader the following question:-

“The planning committee recently passed plans for a new two-tier car park at Kettering General Hospital (KGH). Given that the car park will surround Northfield House on the KGH site where a large number of NHS staff work, can I ask if, as part of the planning process, any future monitoring of vehicle emission levels will be required.”

The Deputy Leader answered as follows:-

“No future monitoring of vehicle emissions is required as part of the approval. Environmental Health were consulted and raised no objection to the scheme. Given the temporary nature of the structure, which places a modular upper deck on the existing car park B, the approval grants a temporary permission for a period of 5 years. This enables the proposal to be reappraised by the Local Planning Authority in the medium term.”

16.C.147 KETTERING GENERAL HOSPITAL – TRAFFIC ISSUES

Councillor Mick Scrimshaw asked the Deputy Leader the following question:-

“Are KBC aware of any plans by Kettering General Hospital to deal with the traffic chaos that has been caused by changing the route into their car parks?”

The Deputy Leader answered as follows:-

“No plans have been shared with us, other than the plan to provide extra parking spaces, referred to above.”

(The meeting started at 7.00 pm and ended at 7.43pm)

Signed

The Mayor

DJP