

## **BOROUGH OF KETTERING**

at a meeting of the Council of the Borough of Kettering held at the Municipal Offices, Bowling Green Road, Kettering on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2017

Present:

Councillor	Bain	Councillor	Lee
"	Brown, M	"	Lynch
"	Bunday	"	Marks
"	Burton (Deputy Mayor)	"	Mitchell
"	Currall	"	Moreton
"	Davies	"	Roberts
"	Dearing	"	Rowley
"	Derbyshire	"	Scrimshaw
"	Dutton	"	Smith
"	Don	"	Sumpter
"	Edwards (Mayor)	"	Talbot
"	Groome	"	Tebbutt
"	Hakewill	"	Thurland
"	Hollobone	"	Titcombe
"	Howes	"	West
"	Jelley		

*A minute silence was held in memory of the victims of the Grenfell Tower fire*

### **17.C.01      APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Linda Adams, Cedwien Brown and Keli Watts.

### **17.C.02      MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of Annual Council held on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

**17.C.03      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

**17.C.04      MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor noted the sad passing of former Barton Seagrave Parish Councillor, Arthur Mitchelson, with condolences having been sent to Cllr Mitchelson's wife.

The Mayor announced the first of his fundraising events, to be held on 18<sup>th</sup> September at The Raj in Kettering. Further details would be sent out in the coming week.

The meeting was provided with the date for the Mayor's Annual Civic Ball, which would take place on Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> November. Further details would be made available nearer the time.

The Deputy Mayor offered congratulations to the grounds maintenance team for their sterling work on flower beds and displays across the Borough. Several constituents had praised the work of the team and it was requested that this was fed back to the staff concerned.

**17.C.05      LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Leader of the Council echoed the comments made by the Deputy Mayor in regards to the Borough's floral displays

**17.C.06      REPORT OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR**

The Managing Director thanked the Deputy Mayor for his comments and advised that this would be passed onto the staff members concerned.

Tribute was paid to Sue Lyons, the council's Monitoring Officer and Head of Democratic and Legal Services, who was leaving the organisation after eight years' service.

The Mayor presented Ms Lyons with a small token of appreciation before Cllrs Hakewill, Groome, Scrimshaw and the Leader of the Council paid thanks for the work undertaken during her time as Monitoring Officer.

**17.C.07**      **RIGHT TO SPEAK**

Jane Marchant indicated she wished to exercise her right to address the Council in respect of Item 9(i).

John Turner indicated he wished to exercise his right to address the Council in respect of Item 9(ii).

**17.C.08**      **INDEPENDENT REVIEW PANEL – MEMBERS’ ALLOWANCES**

Council was asked to consider the process for the review of the Scheme of Members’ Allowances, and was requested to endorse the nomination of independent and impartial members to the Independent Review Panel that would make recommendations in respect of these allowances.

It was noted that members, officers and other interested parties would have the opportunity to meet with the Panel to put forward their views prior to recommendations being presented to Council for a final decision.

**RESOLVED**

that:-

- (i) the Council endorsed the process for the review of the Scheme of Members’ Allowances and the appointment of Professor Steve Leach as the Chair of the Independent Review Panel;
- (ii) authority be delegated to the Council’s Managing Director to appoint a representative of the business sector to the Independent Review Panel; and
- (iii) the Briefing Pack be approved by the Standards Committee prior to publication on the Council’s website and commencement of the review.

(Voting: For 28; Abstention 1)

**17.C.09**      **STATUTORY OFFICER DESIGNATIONS**

A report was submitted which sought approval of a number of changes to Statutory Officer and Proper Officer designations to enable compliance with legislative requirements.

It was noted that that the recruitment process for a new Monitoring Officer would shortly commence, with an aim to have a replacement in place soon as possible. Executive Director, Martin Hammond would fulfil the role only on an interim basis

**RESOLVED**

that:-

- i) Mr Graham Soulsby be appointed as Returning Officer under the provisions of section 41 of the Local Government Act 1972 and all related legislation with immediate effect;
- ii) Mr Graham Soulsby be appointed as Electoral Registration Officer under the provisions of the Representation of the People Act 1983 and all related legislation with immediate effect;
- iii) Mr Mark Dickenson be appointed as Statutory Finance Officer under the provisions of s151 of the Local Government Act 1972 and s114 of the Local Government Act 1988 with immediate effect;
- iv) Mr Martin Hammond be appointed as the Council's Monitoring Officer under the provisions of s5 of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989) with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017.
- v) That changes to the Proper Officer functions, as set out in the appendix to the report be approved.

(Voting: Unanimous)

**MOTIONS**

**17.C.10**

**DECRIMINLISATION OF PARKING**

Jane Marchant attended and addressed Council under the Council's Right to Speak Policy on behalf of the Headlands Area Residents Association.

It was heard that parking was an emotive issue for a good number of residents, some of whom had no access to off-road parking. Parking and traffic flow issues had been experienced for some time and there was confusion amongst residents as to who was responsible for taking forward resident parking schemes. Residents were keen to see a resolution to the issue and wished

to be kept informed of what was delaying the process and also to have an action plan going forward that would resolve parking problems.

It was proposed by Councillor Anne Lee and seconded by Councillor Maggie Don, that:-

*“Kettering Borough Council is committed to ensuring that an agreement is reached with Northamptonshire County Council to bring in decriminalisation of parking as a matter of urgency, as soon as possible, and that this council maintains its stance that KBC would be best placed to enforce both the new decriminalised aspect of parking enforcement and the continued enforcement of residents only parking.”*

Members discussed the motion at length, noting that there was a need to bring the matter of decriminalised parking to a swift conclusion for the benefit of local residents.

It was

**RESOLVED**

That Kettering Borough Council is committed to ensuring that an agreement is reached with Northamptonshire County Council to bring in decriminalisation of parking as a matter of urgency, as soon as possible, and that this council maintains its stance that KBC would be best placed to enforce both the new decriminalised aspect of parking enforcement and the continued enforcement of residents only parking

(Voting: For 28; Abstention 1)

**17.C.11 BUILDING SOCIAL HOUSING**

John Turner attended and addressed Council under the Council’s Right to Speak Policy.

It was heard that given the rising issue of homelessness across the Borough that there was a pressing need for the construction of new social housing

It was proposed by Councillor Mick Scrimshaw and seconded by Councillor Anne Lee:-

*“The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government made a recent speech to the Local Government Association*

*where he recognised ‘there is a serious shortage of decent affordable housing’ and went to talk about the stark inequalities in housing and said he was willing to listen to proposals from ambitious councils to try to address these issues. In Kettering we have recognised for some time there is a desperate need for more social housing and have stated our aim to address this. We are an ambitious council and agree that members and officers will work together on a proposal to finance and build new social housing locally and put forward a proposal to government for their support and approval.”*

There was strong support for the motion from all members of the council, with members hearing that KBC had been involved in the creation of social housing in conjunction with local Housing Associations, as well as building five new properties of its own.

It was

**RESOLVED**

that members and officers would work together on a proposal to finance and build new social housing locally and put forward a proposal to government for their support and approval.

(Voting: Unanimous)

**QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS**

**17.C.12**

**CAR-PARKING CHARGES – OVER VEND**

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

*“Firstly, I would like to thank the Portfolio Holder for writing back in response to my supplementary to clarify why the Council does not dispense change from its car parking machines. Would the Portfolio Holder therefore be open to the idea of, like in some car parks around the Country, allowing extra time to be added to a Car Parking Ticket in the event of an overpayment, to the value of the overpayment, if it does not meet the threshold of the next hourly payment band? For example, a payment of £1.10 in a £1 per hour machine, will give 1.1 hours of car parking, instead of 1 hour.”*

The Portfolio Holder for Finance answered as follows:-

*“No”*

Councillor Brown asked the following supplementary question:-

“Why?”

The Portfolio Holder for Finance responded as follows:-

*“I am pleased to tell everyone that we abide by industry standards and have grace periods. These are five minutes grace for no ticket displayed, and ten minutes grace when a ticket is past expiry. Ticket software we use cannot issue fines unless these grace periods have been met.”*

**17.C.13      HOUSING ALLOCATIONS – ROCKINGHAM ROAD STADIUM**

Councillor Michael Brown asked the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Delivery and Environment the following question:-

*“Would the Council be open to making representations, through the Joint Planning Unit and/or any other mechanism/body, to remove the Housing allocations in the Core Special Strategy, or any other document/policy, for Rockingham Road Stadium, to help protect this historical site for potential future sports provision?”*

The Portfolio Holder for Strategic Delivery and Environment answered as follows:-

*“The Joint Core Strategy does not specifically allocate the former Kettering Town Football Club ground in Rockingham Road for housing. An assumption has been made in the plan that it could provide housing, for the purposes of calculating likely future numbers of houses built in the plan period, but the process of allocation is still under way. The site is being considered in the preparation of Kettering Borough’s Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan. All sites will be reviewed, for recommendation for allocation, in light of their assessment and evidence presented, at a Planning Policy Committee. The intention being that a Draft Borough-wide Plan is published for public consultation later in the year.”*

Councillor Brown asked the following supplementary question:-

*“Can you clarify that there is an opportunity through this council’s Planning Policy Committee to have this potential allocation removed?”*

The Portfolio Holder for Strategic Delivery and Environment responded as follows:-

*“The land owner is the only person who can ask for this site to be taken off the list, however I will confirm with Councillor Brown.”*

#### **17.C.14 CAR PARKING TICKET MACHINES – CHANGE FACILITY**

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

*“Why is there an additional charge to pay by phone in Council operated car parks?”*

The Portfolio Holder for Finance answered as follows:-

*“This is an optional service of convenience, credit card and cash options are also available.”*

Councillor Brown asked the following supplementary question:-

*“There is some talk that credit card charges are due to be made illegal, how will this effect cards car parks?”*

The Portfolio Holder for Finance responded as follows:-

*“Pay by phone services are used nationwide, with extra features provided that are very useful for some users. The charge to pay by phone is nothing to do with credit card surcharges; it is a fee for using that service.”*

#### **17.C.15 SCOTT ROAD GARAGES - UPDATE**

Councillor Michael Brown asked the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Communications and Youth the following question:-

*“Please can I have an update to the current plans for affordable housing/bungalows on Scott Road garages site?”*

The Portfolio Holder for Housing, Communications and Youth answered as follows:-

*“The Council is in discussion about the possibility of attracting capital finance for development of some sites in the Borough which are in the Council’s ownership.”*



Councillor Brown asked the following supplementary question:-

*“Is Scott Road on the potential list of sites you’re looking at?”*

The Portfolio Holder for Housing, Communications and Youth responded as follows:-

*“I am sure that site is one of those included in that list”*

#### **17.C.16 CAR PARKING CHARGES REVIEW**

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

*“When is the planned review for car parking charges cuts?”*

The Portfolio Holder for Finance answered as follows:-

*“A report will be presented in the autumn to link into the budget process.”*

Councillor Brown asked the following supplementary question:-

*“Will the report alluded to in regard to a review of car parking charges come to committee for discussion?”*

The Portfolio Holder for Finance replied as follows:-

*“It will go through every committee and discussion necessary.”*

#### **17.C.17 KETTERING TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB DISCUSSIONS**

Councillor Michael Brown asked the Deputy Leader of the Council the following question:-

*“What progress has been made during talks with Kettering Town Football Club in finding a permanent site for the Club?”*

The Deputy Leader answered as follows:-

*“As promised at a previous meeting of Council we have had several productive meetings with the football club. I would ask that you talk directly to the club.”*

Councillor Brown asked the following supplementary question:-

*“Have you managed to narrow down list of sites during talks?”*

The Deputy Leader replied as follows:-

*“The football club have gone away with ideas and we are awaiting responses from the club.”*

**17.C.18 PREFERRED SITE FOR NEW FOOTBALL AND SPORTING FACILITY IN KETTERING**

Councillor Michael Brown asked the Deputy Leader of the Council the following question:-

*“What is the Council’s preferred site for a new Football and sporting facility within Kettering?”*

The Deputy Leader answered as follows:-

*“As a planning authority we will consider proposals as they arise.”*

**17.C.19 LEISURE FACILITIES EMERGENCY WORKS**

Councillor Michael Brown asked the Deputy Leader of the Council the following question:-

*“Is the Council satisfied with the performance of Parkwood Leisure after both the Public All Weather Pitch at the Leisure Village and the Public Swimming Pool have required emergency works in recent times under their management?”*

The Deputy Leader answered as follows:-

*“Both of the works referred to are capital works, and as such are not the responsibility of Parkwood.”*

Councillor Brown asked the following supplementary question:-

*“Are they the responsibility of KBC?”*

The Deputy Leader responded as follows:-

*“Yes.”*

**17.C.20**      **KETTERING TOWN CENTRE VITALITY**

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

*“In a recent Town Centre Vitality Report by retail experts Harper Dennis Hobbs, Kettering is listed as 792 out of 1,000 centres in Great Britain. Does the Council think this is good enough?”*

The Portfolio Holder for Regeneration answered as follows:-

*“There are over 48,000 towns in the UK, we are rated 729 in this survey. Thank you for highlighting again that Kettering is a great place for our residents.”*

Councillor Brown asked the following supplementary question:-

*“I would like to highlight the fact Kettering had dropped over 100 places in the table since the last report and gone behind neighbouring towns. What do you seek to do to address this?”*

The Portfolio Holder for Regeneration answered as follows:-

*“We are holding a public consultation starting in September; I hope Councillor Brown will participate in positive manner for the people of the borough”*

**17.C.21**      **BUSINESS RATES RETENTION – FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

*“Following the Queen’s Speech where the government failed to address the future of local authority finance, there is a bigger question mark over future plans for Business Rate Retention, or indeed if this will now go ahead at all. Can the finance portfolio holder explain the implications for this continued uncertainty on the council’s Medium Term Financial Plan?”*

The Portfolio Holder for Finance answered as follows:-

*“As part of the four year settlement – indicative grant levels are known for 2018/19 and 2019/20 and this is reflected in the MTFS. The years thereafter are more uncertain – as the financial landscape becomes clearer the MTFS will be updated accordingly.”*

Councillor Scrimshaw asked the following supplementary question:-

*“Do you agree that this makes it even more important that we continue to invest in revenue generation schemes?”*

The Portfolio Holder for Finance replied as follows:-

*“We will do as much as we possibly can to increase revenue and income and also to make savings where we can and it is possible to do so.”*

## **17.C.22 PLANS FOR LAND AT ROTHWELL**

Councillor Mick Scrimshaw asked the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Delivery and Environment the following question:-

*“Local press reports about the £110,000 purchase of land the council made at Rothwell say the land is ‘part of a long term plan’. Previously it has been stated that the purchase was purely speculative and there were no plans yet as to how it may be used. Can the council be told exactly what the long term plan now is please?”*

The Portfolio Holder for Strategic Delivery and Environment answered as follows:-

*“I am not prepared to share commercially sensitive information about expressions of interest in these parcels of land. The sites, close by a junction on the A14, have long term economic development potential. Given the purchase price, this opportunity-led acquisition represented a good long term investment.”*

Councillor Scrimshaw asked the following supplementary question:-

*“Do we have a definite plan for this land?”*

The Portfolio Holder for Strategic Delivery and Environment responded as follows:-

*“We do not have a definitive plan; the land was bought purely as investment. Any future plan will go through the Asset Management Board.”*

**17.C.23**      **FINANCIAL RESERVES**

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

*“Please can the council illustrate clearly in the answer to this question the numerical figures of the different financial reserves that the Council keep, whether approved by auditors or not?”*

The Portfolio Holder for Finance answered as follows:-

*“This forms part of the Council’s Statement of Accounts, which set out the information requested very clearly.”*

Councillor Brown asked the following supplementary question:-

*“Can I request you forward the details to me?”*

The Portfolio Holder for Finance responded as follows:-

*“Councillor Brown asked at the meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> March how much the council has invested in reserves. The answer I gave then is same as I give tonight, they are in the accounts. I invite Councillor Brown to contact me and I will arrange a meeting to show him where they are.”*

**17.C.24**      **PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER - UPDATE**

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

*“Can I have an update please on the next round of Public Space Protection Orders? Some time ago the council agreed to look at bringing in a new series of orders for things like public drinking in areas of Desborough and Mill Road Park. When will the public consultation on these proposed orders actually begin, and what is the expected date that they may come into effect?”*

The Deputy Leader answered as follows:-

*“The consultation is due to start next week and will take a minimum of six weeks.”*

Councillor Scrimshaw asked the following supplementary question:-

*“Can councillors be emailed a link when the consultation becomes available?”*

The Deputy Leader responded as follows:-

*“Yes”*

**17.C.25 IMPACT ASSESSMENTS FOLLOWING CHANGES TO COUNCIL AMENITIES**

Councillor Anne Lee asked the Deputy Leader the following question:-

*“Does KBC have a systematic process in place to consider the impact of its decisions on people with physical disabilities, such as when making changes to council amenities?”*

The Deputy Leader answered as follows:-

*“We have processes in place to implement change. As part of this process we undertake impact assessments reviews.”*

Councillor Lee asked the following supplementary question:-

*“Can you tell us whether impact assessments involve interest groups outside the council?”*

The Deputy Leader responded as follows:-

*“We are aware of certain things that have happened where we have not consulted as well as we should. It is very important officers and members are aware of what is going on in the Borough. Kettering Futures Partnership is a fabulous organisation to get all partner organisations together to meet these ends.”*

(The meeting started at 7.00 pm and ended at 8.30pm)

Signed .....

The Mayor

DJP