

## **BOROUGH OF KETTERING**

at a meeting of the Council of the Borough of Kettering held at the Municipal Offices, Bowling Green Road, Kettering on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Present:

Councillor	Scott Edwards (Mayor)	Councillor	Anne Lee
"	James Burton (Deputy Mayor)	"	Shirley Lynch
"	Duncan Bain	"	Paul Marks
"	Cedwien Brown	"	Clark Mitchell
"	Lloyd Bunday	"	Russell Roberts
"	John Currall	"	Mark Rowley
"	Ash Davies	"	Mick Scrimshaw
"	Mark Dearing	"	Jan Smith
"	June Derbyshire	"	Karl Sumpter
"	Andrew Dutton	"	Margaret Talbot
"	Maggie Don	"	Mike Tebbutt
"	Ruth Groome	"	Lesley Thurland
"	James Hakewill	"	Greg Titcombe
"	David Howes	"	Keli Watts
"	Howes	"	Jonathan West
"	Ian Jelley		

### **17.C.26 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Linda Adams, Philip Hollobone and David Soans.

### **17.C.27 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

### **17.C.28 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Don declared a personal interest in item 7(ii) and stated she would leave the meeting room during discussion thereon.

**17.C.29****MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- The Mayor thanked Councillors and all who had supported his fund-raising event at The Raj in aid of the Mayor's Charity. In excess of £700 had been raised.
- A letter of thanks had been received from The Lord Mayor of Manchester for the book of condolence following the Manchester terrorist attack
- The Civic Ball would be held on 17<sup>th</sup> November with tickets being available from the Mayor's Secretary from week commencing 3<sup>rd</sup> October
- Thanks were extended to all Councillors who had expressed concern following the Mayoress's admittance to hospital

**17.C.30****LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Leader announced that Kettering Borough Council Bereavement Services had won the Best Service Team award at the recent APSE Awards Ceremony and the Environmental Health team had been awarded runners-up in the Environmental Health, Regulatory Services and Trading Standards category. Both teams were congratulated on behalf of the Council. Cameron Galloway and Jayne Blanchard of Bereavement Services were welcomed to the meeting and congratulated by the Mayor and Leader.

The Leader of the Opposition added his congratulations to that of the Leader and Mayor.

**17.C.31****REPORT OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR**

The Managing Director thanked Environmental Health and Bereavement Services staff for their recent awards on behalf of the Management Team.

The Managing Director then gave Council an update on progress in the recruitment process for Head of Democratic and Legal Services and Head of Commercial Development, and it was

noted that once these staff had been recruited, the work of the Flexible Resources Working Group would be complete.

## **17.C.32 EAST MIDLANDS RAIL FRANCHISE**

It was proposed by Councillor Jonathan West and seconded by Councillor Anne Lee that:

*“The Department of Transport are currently consulting on the future of the East Midlands rail franchise. This council agrees to respond to this consultation raising its concerns about the possibility of a reduction in services to and from Kettering. Any reduction in the number of trains would obviously have an adverse effect on local commuters and residents but it would also make Kettering less attractive to businesses, in particular ones wishing to look to relocate from London.”*

It was noted that the deadline for consultation was 11<sup>th</sup> October.

Councillor Russell Roberts proposed the following amendment:-

*“The Department for transport is currently consulting on the future of the East Midlands Rail Franchise.*

*This Council has and will continue to work cross-party to raise concerns and respond to any risk of a reduced service for Kettering.*

*Any reduction in the number of trains could have an adverse effect on local commuters, residents and businesses. It could also make Kettering less attractive to inward investment in particular from London in the south and major cities in the north.”*

Councillor Jonathan West seconded the amendment and accepted the amended motion, which then became the substantive motion.

Councillor Ruth Groome, in indicating her broad agreement to the amendment, stated that she felt the wording should also actively promote Kettering as a link to northern and southern services and accordingly proposed the following additional wording to the substantive motion as an amendment:-

*“This Council will promote Kettering as a link stop between northern services to Nottingham and southern services to St. Pancras”.*

The amendment was seconded by Councillor Andrew Dutton.

Following discussion on the amendment, particularly in respect of its potential effect on the Borough's residents who may use Market Harborough or Wellingborough stations, a vote was taken as follows:-

(For the amendment: 2; Against 27)

The amendment therefore fell.

During debate on the substantive motion, it was felt that it was vital to have cross-party support for the Council's work in respect of the consultation. It was noted that the Council was working with Corby Borough Council and looking to achieve the best possible rail service for residents in Kettering Borough.

**RESOLVED** that the Department for Transport is currently consulting on the future of the East Midlands Rail Franchise.

This Council has and will continue to work cross party to raise concerns and respond to any risk of a reduced service for Kettering.

Any reduction in the number of trains could have an adverse effect on local commuters, residents and businesses. It could also make Kettering less attractive to inward investment in particular from London in the south and major cities in the north.

(Voting: Unanimous)

*(Having declared a personal interest in the following item, Councillor Maggie Don left the meeting room during discussion and voting thereon)*

### **17.C.33 KETTERING SWIMMING POOL**

It was proposed by Councillor Mick Scrimshaw and seconded by Councillor Clark Mitchell that:-

*"This council agrees to either refund or discount the monthly payments of those users who pay by direct debit to use the gym facilities at Kettering Swimming Pool by £20 (£10 a month for two months) because of the fact the swimming pool has been closed.*

*Other pool users have been refunded or reimbursed due to the closure, and as gym membership includes free use of the pool we agree that this gesture would be a suitable gesture of good will to our customers."*

Cllr Bunday reported that he had looked into the implications of this motion at length. The Swimming Pool and Gym were run by Legacy Leisure, which had advised all its customers to contact the manager directly regarding refunds appropriate to their membership, and it was his understanding that refunds, discounts or extra time on memberships had been given to all those gym users whose pattern of use included use of the pool. Although he agreed with the sentiments of the motion, he felt that Legacy Leisure were taking enough action to be fair to all its members.

(Voting on the Motion: 7 for; 22 Against; 0 Not Voting)

The Motion was therefore defeated.

*(Councillor Maggie Don rejoined the meeting)*

## **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS**

**Note – questions 34-39 were submitted and taken as read in the absence of Cllr Brown.**

### **17.C.34 LAND AT ROCKINGHAM ROAD, KETTERING**

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

*"At the last full council I asked the question if the removal of housing allocation for Rockingham Road stadium in local Planning Policy documents was within the power of this Council. I was given the answer by the Portfolio Holder that this was only within the power of the land owner themselves.*

*In a subsequent Planning Policy committee meeting on which the Portfolio Holder sits, advice was given by Council officers to the committee that it was indeed within the power of the Council to have this allocation removed.*

*Can the portfolio holder please clarify that it IS within the power of Councillors, through our committees, to have this allocation removed, or not"*

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

*“The process is that a landowner can submit a site for inclusion in the plan. That was the position we were at when you asked your previous question. No-one can stop them doing that.”*

*“Only a landowner therefore can withdraw a site from this part of the process. The Local Authority can only decide to not take that site forward for consultation to the next stage.”*

**17.C.35      HOUSING ALLOCATIONS – LAND AT ROCKINGHAM ROAD, KETTERING**

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

*“When will the public consultation on the draft local planning document in which Councillors chose to include housing allocations for Rockingham Road Stadium begin and when will it end?”*

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

*“The Part 2 Local Plan will be consulted upon in November/ December 2017, the consultation will run for at least six weeks; the exact start date for consultation will be set at the next meeting of the Planning Policy Committee.”*

**17.C.36      MEETINGS BETWEEN KETTERING BOROUGH COUNCIL AND KETTERING TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB**

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

*“Why are there no Councillors present at the meetings with the Council and KTFC?”*

The Portfolio Holder for Community and Leisure responded as follows:-

*“This is an operational matter for officers to handle.”*

**17.C.37      PRE-PLANNING ADVICE**

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

*“Has the Council had any engagement with any parties regarding any pre-planning advice or similar of Rockingham Road Football Ground.”*

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

*“The Council is currently engaged in pre-application planning advice relating to this site.*

*The Council cannot disclose any further information about that advice, because the matter is of a commercially sensitive nature and is therefore confidential.”*

**17.C.38      FORMER FOOTBALL GROUND - ROCKINGHAM ROAD, KETTERING**

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

*“Is the Council aware of any recent sale of Rockingham Road Football Ground?”*

The Portfolio Holder for Community and Leisure responded as follows:-

*“We were advised last week by the new owner, that he had taken ownership of the site.”*

**17.C.39**      **PROPOSED MEMORIAL – FORMER FOOTBALL GROUND,  
ROCKINGHAM ROAD, KETTERING**

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

*“Would the Administration please support any call by the Kettering community and KTFC Supporters Trust for a possible memorial to honour our passed and beloved residents who have had loved one's ashes scattered on Rockingham Road Stadium pitch on the Pocket Park opposite?”*

The Portfolio Holder for Community and Leisure responded as follows:-

*“Yes.”*

**17.C.40**      **WEBCASTING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Councillor Mick Scrimshaw asked the Portfolio Holder for Community and Leisure the following question:-

*“NCC are currently speaking to contractors about how to reduce their £11,000 p.a. cost of webcasting meetings. They are also apparently in talks with Northampton Borough Council about how they can work together in this. Would KBC be willing to get involved in these talks to see if there might be an opportunity to see if we can also webcast our meetings?”*

The Portfolio Holder for Community and Leisure responded as follows:-

*“If invited to, I am sure we would consider an approach; however, there is the upfront capital cost to consider as well as ongoing revenue costs.”*

Councillor Mick Scrimshaw asked the following supplementary question:-

*“It would be useful if members of the public who were not currently engaging with us to engage. Please could the portfolio holder just pick up the phone and ask?”*

The Portfolio Holder for Community and Leisure responded as follows:-



*“Yes, but they could ask me.”*

#### **17.C.41 FUTURE COUNCIL HOUSE BUILDING**

Councillor Mick Scrimshaw asked the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Communications and Youth the following question:-

*“Following on from the decision taken at the last full council to put together plans to be sent to central government to see how they may support a substantial council house building programme for the borough, can I ask how these plans are progressing?”*

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

*“A housing green paper emerged from government last week which acknowledges the need to change the regime which currently restricts council house building. This is a positive step, but we and the local government community will continue to press ministers on turning these aspirations into reality.”*

Councillor Mick Scrimshaw asked the following supplementary question:-

*“Is this Council working on a motion passed at the last Council meeting? Are plans being prepared to submit to government, and where are we with it?”*

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

*“Yes, we are working on it. I will get back to Councillor Scrimshaw with an update.”*

#### **17.C.42 FLY-TIPPING**

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

*“How much did having to deal with fly tipping cost last year 2016/17 and what is the best current estimate for the cost this year 2017/18?”*

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

*“Costs for fly tipping below, this includes collection and disposal rates;*

**2016/17**- *Approx. £60,000*

**2017/18** (April to Aug 31<sup>st</sup>) - *Approx. £ 30,000.”*

#### **17.C.43      DECRIMINALISATION OF PARKING**

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

*“Can we have an update please on the current negotiations with NCC over the issue of decriminalisation of parking?”*

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

*“A meeting took place on the 20<sup>th</sup> September with County Council colleagues, which made some positive steps towards an agreed position being submitted to both the County Council and Borough Council Executive Committees. However, we are not there yet.”*

#### **17.C.44      LORRY PARK PROVISION**

Councillor Maggie Don asked the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Delivery and Environment the following question:-

*“Can the portfolio holder please give us an update on the lorry park provision?”*

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

*“The truck stop at Junction 3 of the A14 was granted on appeal in January 2013 and I understand that contractors have recently been carrying out groundworks on site in relation to that planning permission.”*

(The meeting started at 7.00 pm and ended at 7.35 pm)

Signed .....

The Mayor

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