

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

at a meeting of the Council of the Borough of
Kettering held at the Municipal Offices,
Bowling Green Road, Kettering on 12th
December 2018

Present:

Councillor James Burton (Mayor)
“ Linda Adams
“ Duncan Bain
“ Mike Brown
“ Lloyd Bunday
“ John Currall
“ Mark Dearing
“ June Derbyshire
“ Maggie Don
“ Andrew Dutton
“ Scott Edwards
“ Ruth Groome
“ Jim Hakewill
“ Jenny Henson
“ Ian Jelley

Councillor Anne Lee
“ Paul Marks
“ Clark Mitchell
“ Russell Roberts
“ Mark Rowley
“ Mick Scrimshaw
“ Jan Smith
“ Shirley Stanton
“ Karl Sumpter
“ Margaret Talbot
“ Mike Tebbutt
“ Lesley Thurland
“ Greg Titcombe
“ Keli Watts
“ Jonathan West

*Prior to commencement of the meeting
Katie Rose-Parker performed festive songs*

18.C.61 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON

A brief video was shown to the meeting of the Kettering Christmas Lights switch-on celebrations.

18.C.62 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cedwien Brown, Ash Davies, Philip Hollobone, David Howes, Cliff Moreton and David Soans

18.C.63 MINUTES

RESOLVED

that the minutes of the meeting of 26th September 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

18.C.64 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following Councillors made Declarations of Interest:-

- Cllr Mick Scrimshaw declared a personal interest in Item 11(i) as a trustee for Kettering Community Unit (KCU)
- Cllr Ruth Groome declared a personal interest in Item 11(i) as a trustee for Kettering Community Unit (KCU)
- Cllr Linda Adams declared a personal interest in Item 10

18.C.65 **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor reported that he and the Mayoress had undertaken a total of 156 civic duties to date during the Mayoral year. A number of events would be taking place in the New Year with further updates to be supplied to members in due course.

The Mayor made award presentations to people he felt were deserving of recognition for their work in the local community. The first award was presented to Andy Smith and Judith Hall, past Chairman and Secretary respectively of the Royal British Legion in Kettering. The Mayor presented them with a "Tommy" award for their commitment to the organisation and their involvement in events such as Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day.

The second award was made to Anne Wilson who for 26 years had directed the Guiding Light Christian Drama Group. The Mayor reported that he and the Mayoress had attended two productions by the group and enjoyed them immensely.

The final award was made to Cllr Scott Edwards for his 3rd place finish in a charitable dance competition in aid of Cransley Hospice.

18.C.66 **LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Leader commenced his announcements by bidding farewell to the Head of Development Services and the Head of Democratic and Legal Services who would shortly be leaving their posts at KBC. Both were thanked for their hard work and dedication.

The Leader reflected on the past year where the administration had sought to help residents of the Borough and maintain services against a background of turbulence in local government.

The Leader highlighted a number of awards and accreditations for good practice received by the Council during the year and noted the forthcoming shared service Street Scene Partnership with Corby

Borough Council that would improve service resilience and make a significant financial saving.

The refurbished customer service centre and inclusion of additional customer-facing partner agencies at the Council was noted, especially the recent arrival of Mental Health navigators.

An overview of planning consents and construction of both housing and employment sites were detailed, with reference also made to forthcoming Town Centre delivery works in Kettering and the A6 Towns.

Challenges facing residents in relation to housing were outlined, especially with regard to homeless applications and the number of individuals assisted with practical finance advice and support. The Leader also made reference to the Homes for the Future project, with positive feedback being received from new tenants at Hampden Crescent.

The Leader noted that KBC fully funded two PCSOs, had seen success in tackling anti-social behaviour and undertaken partnership work with police in regard to unauthorised encampments in the Borough. In addition, an agreement had been reached with NCC to delegate decriminalised parking to KBC as soon as the Secretary of State could bring the relevant order forward.

In financial terms, the Council's asset investment strategy had brought in over £1 million of revenue and grants of over £300,000 had been obtained, in addition to having a balanced budget.

The Leader concluded by thanking all the officers, members and volunteers that had made the above possible during the previous year.

18.C.67 REPORT OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

The Managing Director, on behalf of all the staff of the council, wished everyone the compliments of the season.

The Managing Director echoed the comments of the leader in relation to the departures of Head of Development Services and the Head of Democratic and Legal Services and thanked both for their commitment and hard work.

The meeting was advised that the Local Government Reorganisation consultation would close on 25th January 2019. In addition, the government had placed an order before parliament which effectively cancelled elections to the Borough and town and parish councils in the county, due to take place in May 2019.

18.C.68 **RIGHT TO SPEAK**

None.

18.C.69 **GAMBLING ACT 2005 STATEMENT OF GAMBLING POLICY APPROVAL**

Council was presented with a report which sought adoption of the reviewed Gambling Act 2005 Policy Statement, a statutory three year review of the statement of principles as required by the Act.

Councillor Bunday proposed and Councillor Edwards seconded and it was unanimously

RESOLVED that the Council adopted the Gambling Act 2005 Policy Statement 2019-2022 set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

18.C.70 **CAPITAL PROGRAMME AMENDMENTS**

A report was submitted in accordance with the Council's Constitution that sought approval for amendments to the General Fund and the HRA Capital Programme.

It was noted that the report brought together several projects that requiring budgetary amendments including:

- New build housing schemes for Scott Road and Albert Street
- Land acquisition at Stamford Road
- Pre-contract works on the Willow Close and Lawrence's sites
- Hampden Crescent Block B (Hamilton House)
- Purchase of grounds maintenance equipment to be used as part of the shared street scene partnership with Corby Borough Council

Concerns were raised regarding the overspend at Hampden Crescent Block A (Montrose House). In response, the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communications offered to issue a report detailing the causes for the overspend as well as a cost itemisation.

Councillor Bunday proposed and Councillor Edwards seconded and it was unanimously

RESOLVED that the changes to the Council's Capital Programme as outlined in paragraphs 2.9 and 2.10 of the report be approved.

18.C.71 DESIGNATION OF MONITORING OFFICER

A report was submitted which sought formal approval to appoint Martin Hammond as the Council's Monitoring Officer with effect from 31st January 2019 and to approve the allocation of Proper Officer functions.

The Leader proposed and the Deputy Leader seconded and it was unanimously

RESOLVED that the Council:-

- (i) Appoint Martin Hammond as the Council's Monitoring Officer under the provisions of s5 of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989) with effect from 31st January 2019; and
- (ii) Approve the allocation of Proper Officer functions as set out in the report

18.C.72 THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The meeting received a report which sought agreement to establish a Local Government Reform Advisory Committee that would have responsibility for the formulation and monitoring of the implementation of the council's plans for the transition to the North Northamptonshire unitary council, should its creation be approved by the Secretary of State. The report also sought agreement of the terms of reference (ToR) for the new committee.

Councillor Jim Hakewill moved a motion under part 4, rule 15(m) of the Council's Constitution to suspend council rule 16.4 that limited a member to one speech on an item.

(Voting on the Motion: 10 for; 18 Against)
The Motion was therefore defeated.

Cllr West suggested two amendments to the objectives that formed part of the ToR. These were as follows:-

- Bullet point 3 wording be amended to include the words "Town and..." before "...Parish Councils"
- Bullet point 4 wording be amended from "To make decisions..." to "To advise or make recommendations to Council..."

Both suggested amendments were unanimously accepted.

Councillor Michael Brown proposed an amendment to the composition of the committee, from 7 to 8 to encompass a member of the

Independent Group. Councillor Hakewill request a recorded vote on this amendment and sufficient support was gained to allow for this to be undertaken as follows:-

(For; 7 Against; 21 Not voting; 0)

Those Voting For the Amendment

Councillors Adams, Brown M, Dutton, Groome, Hakewill, Lee, Scrimshaw

Those Voting Against the Amendment

Councillors Bain, Bunday, Currall, Dearing, Derbyshire, Don, Edwards, Henson, Jelley, Marks, Mitchell, Roberts, Rowley, Smith, Stanton, Sumpter, Talbot, Tebbutt, Thurland, Titcombe, West

Those Not Voting

None

Therefore the amendment was lost.

Council requested that substitutes be allowed for the committee in-line with all other council committees.

The Leader proposed and Councillor Jelley seconded and it was unanimously

RESOLVED that the Council:-

- (i) Agreed the establishment of a Local Government Reform Advisory Committee for the period 13th December 2018 to 31st March 2020; and
- (ii) Agreed the Terms of Reference for the committee as set out in Appendix A to the report; and subject to the amendments to wording and inclusion of substitutes as set out above.

18.C.73 MOTION – TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION FUNDING

It was proposed by Councillor Mike Brown and seconded by Councillor Jim Hakewill that:-

“This Council will actively lobby and apply for any new funds towards the long-planned town centre(s) regeneration, such as those announced in the Government’s Latest Budget”

Councillor Mark Dearing proposed an amendment to the original motion as follows:-

“This Council will continue to actively lobby and apply for any new funds towards the long-planned town centre(s) regeneration, such as those announced in the Government’s Latest Budget, where applicable”

Councillor Brown accepted this amendment to the motion.

It was

RESOLVED

that this Council will continue to actively lobby and apply for any new funds towards the long-planned town centre(s) regeneration, such as those announced in the Government’s Latest Budget, where applicable.

(Voting on the Amendment:
Unanimous)

(Voting on the Substantive Motion: Unanimous)

18.C.73

**MOTION – TOWN AND PARISH COUNCIL STRUCTURES –
COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

It was proposed by Councillor Jim Hakewill and seconded by Councillor Andrew Dutton that:-

"This council welcomes the actions of other Boroughs and Districts in the County by setting up a Community Governance Review to enable towns and villages to formally participate in the debate around future Town and Parish Council Structures. We particularly welcome, near neighbours, the Borough Council of Wellingborough’s unanimous decision to establish a Town Council in Wellingborough, following a Community Governance Review (CGR).

This council will immediately, as a result of this motion, instigate the actions required to commence a Community Governance Review in Kettering Borough’s area, based on the shortest timescales laid down in legislation".

Concerns were raised regarding the timing of the motion given the creation of the Local Government Reform Advisory Committee. It was considered that one of the aspects of the new committee would be to decide whether a CGR was required and it would be inappropriate to pre-empt any recommendations it may make.

(Voting on the Motion: 8 for; 18 Against; 2 Not Voting)

The Motion was therefore defeated.

18.C.74 **MOTION – KETTERING FUTURES PARTNERSHIP**

It was proposed by Councillor Scott Edwards and seconded by Councillor Lesley Thurland that:-

"This Council appreciates the work of the Kettering Futures Partnership, and recognises how important it is to maintain this approach and to embed in, and extend to, the proposed new unitary structure."

The motion received cross-party support during debate.

It was unanimously

RESOLVED that this Council appreciates the work of the Kettering Futures Partnership, and recognises how important it is to maintain this approach and to embed in, and extend to, the proposed new unitary structure.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

18.C.75 **TOWN CENTRE UNIT OCCUPANCY/VACANCY RATES**

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

"What are the current occupancy and vacancy rates of Kettering Town Centre?"

The Portfolio Holder for Regeneration responded as follows:-

"The occupancy and vacancy rates for the town centre are 86.13% and 13.87% respectively."

18.C.76 **CAPITAL PROGRAMME SPENDING**

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

"Given the highly likely abolition of the Borough/County Council and transition to a new form of Local Government, does the Portfolio Holder agree with me that the massively increased spending in the capital program should be stopped immediately to allow the new Authority to consider the desirability of this form of accruing debt and the risks highlighted by CIPFA?"

The Portfolio Holder for Finance responded as follows:-

“No”

Councillor Hakewill asked the following supplementary question:-

“What three reasons would you give for your answer, no?”

The Portfolio Holder for Finance replied:-

“We are investing and building council houses and residential houses, I am confused by the question”

18.C.77 CORB Y WEST DEVELOPMENT – IMPACT SCRUTINY

Councillor Jim Hakewill asked the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Delivery & Environment the following question:-

“Corby Borough Council are progressing a Sustainable Urban Extension, Corby West, for 4,500 houses and infrastructure right up to KBC’s Boundary with Pipewell and Rushton. The traffic changes on the A43 and 6003 between the A14 and Rockingham have the potential to increase rat-running on village roads including through, and to, Desborough and Rothwell. Would the portfolio holder agree with me that the impacts on Kettering Towns and Villages should be scrutinised in a formal KBC committee meeting, with members comments being reported directly to colleagues at Corby Borough Council?”

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

“The proposed Corby West SUE has already been considered by KBC’s Planning Policy Committee during the development of the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy. This proposal is now embedded in the JCS’s adopted policies as a strategic housing site.

In response to a more recent Corby Borough Council consultation on the outline application, which closed in September 2018, KBC has called for detailed assessments to be undertaken on highways, landscape visibility and designated heritage assets, which should be assessed by the relevant statutory consultees.”

18.C.78 DB SYMMETRY WAREHOUSE PLANNING APPLICATION

Councillor Jim Hakewill asked the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Delivery & Environment the following question:-

“The DB Symmetry warehousing application (KET/2017/0616) drew a significant audience and a number of speakers, notably from Isham and Pytchley, when it was heard by the Planning Committee. The committee unanimously refused permission.

Would the portfolio holder agree with me that if there is to be a significant change in the decision to refuse this application and present a case at the planned Appeal, on behalf of local people, it should come before the Planning Committee for members to scrutinise any such proposals, and for those who made comments previously, to comment?”

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

“The Planning Committee will have an opportunity to revisit this application when DBS’s anticipated new application comes before it in due course.”

18.C.79 ROTHWELL NORTH STRATEGIC LINK ROAD FUNDING

Councillor Jim Hakewill asked the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Delivery & Environment the following question:-

“What options are available to the Borough Council to help Persimmon Homes secure funding for the Rothwell North Strategic Link Road (perhaps with similar innovative solutions like that achieved for the construction of Hayfield Cross School or the funding secured for Desborough North) to be constructed prior to any groundworks and construction of the proposed 700 houses?”

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

“None. As Cllr Hakewill knows, the co-operation of Persimmon in any such scheme is essential and they have not been interested in this approach previously.”

18.C.80 HOMELESSNESS IN THE BOROUGH

Councillor Jim Hakewill asked the Portfolio Holder for Housing & Communications the following question:-

“What update figure for the number of homeless families in the Borough, and the current overspend in the relevant homelessness budget, would have been reported to the December Executive Committee had it not been cancelled “due to lack of business”?”

The Portfolio Holder for Housing & Communications responded as follows:-

“There are currently 172 homeless households in temporary accommodation. The projected overspend on Homelessness for November which would have been reported in the December Executive report is £700,000.”

18.C.81 LOCAL POLLINATOR STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION

Councillor Jim Hakewill asked the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Delivery & Environment the following question:-

“Thank you for answering iii) at the last full council meeting. Stark warnings have been issued since the last Council Meeting on Climate Change. We all need to play our part. The answers to the following questions were omitted:

- How can residents access the online toolkit?*
- When did Monitoring and Audit carry out the last annual review?*
- How many of the seed packets have been procured and issued to-date?*

For reference these were the resolutions of the Executive Committee:

- i) An online toolkit be introduced;*
- ii) The strategy be reviewed annually through the Monitoring and Audit Committee;*
- iii) The strategy be embedded, wherever possible, within the planning system at Kettering Borough Council;*
- iv) Information cards be produced with packets of seeds attached, themed on Kettering Borough Council’s pollinator strategy; and*
- v) Any costs associated with (iv) above should be contained within existing budgets.”*

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

“We will provide a written answer to these questions.”

18.C.82 FREE PARKING – CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON

Councillor Clark Mitchell asked the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration the following question:-

“Why wasn't free parking after 3pm offered to residents for the lights switch on event on Thursday 29th November?”

The Portfolio Holder for Regeneration responded as follows:-

“Parking is free every day after 6pm and Sundays. Each year the Council provides 7 days of free parking to accompany late night shopping events – this year, they are running on 1st, 6th, 8th, 13th, 15th, 20th and 22nd of December.”

Councillor Mitchell asked the following supplementary question:-

“Can we in addition to 7 days of free parking get an additional afternoon for the Christmas Lights switch on next year and can we make sure parking metres are blocked off at 8am as free parking should be a day? Promotional leaflets say after 3pm”

The Portfolio Holder for Regeneration replied as follows:-

“I will talk to officers and see what we can do.”

18.C.83 KBC RESERVE LEVELS

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

“Can you please confirm what the total level of reserves was from the audited accounts at the end of the financial year 2017/18 and what the same figure is currently forecast to be at the end of this financial year?”

The Portfolio Holder for Finance responded as follows:-

“As Cllr Scrimshaw is aware, these figures are detailed on page 66 of the accounts. An update will be provided in January as part of the budget setting process.”

Councillor Scrimshaw asked the following supplementary question:-

“In the spirit of co-operation, what are the figures?”

The Portfolio Holder for Finance replied as follows:-

“We will write to you with the figures”

18.C.84 **AIR POLLUTION AND TRAFFIC FLOWS**

Councillor Anne Lee asked the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Delivery & Environment the following question:-

“In the interest of combating air pollution and improving traffic flows, can the time line be shortened for:-

- i) Improving the phasing of the traffic lights at the junctions of London Road and Bowling Green Road, and London Road and St Mary's Road;*
- ii) Improving these junctions in any other way?”*

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

“I can give no guarantees. This is entirely within the remit of the County Council”

Councillor Lee asked the following supplementary question:-

“Can we have an undertaking to put NCC under pressure as the phasing of these traffic lights are very important?”

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

“We are already talking to NCC about this.”

18.C.85 **KETTERING/CORBY SHARED SERVICES**

Councillor Jenny Henson asked the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Delivery & Environment the following question:-

“Following the Members’ Information Session on 26th November, will the portfolio holder confirm that praise has gone to both Corby and Kettering Council on work done to date in the creation of the kerb-side services?”

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

“Yes and we are still on track for a January commencement date for what is a superb piece of cross-party and cross district working.”

Councillor Henson asked the following supplementary question:-

“Please could we have a start date?”

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

“The 2nd February.”

18.C.86 **NEW BUILD COUNCIL HOUSING**

Councillor John Currall asked the Portfolio Holder for Housing & Communications the following question:-

“Will the Portfolio Holder for Housing confirm this council is still committed to building high quality council homes for the residents of the Borough that fit within the financial constraints of a balanced budget?”

The Portfolio Holder for Housing & Communications responded as follows:-

Yes, this council will continue to build quality housing for our residents. We have Hampden Crescent, Scott Road and Albert Street at various stages of development and other sites such as the Lawrence’s site and Stamford Road in the pipeline.”

(The meeting started at 6.30pm and ended at 8.49pm)

Signed

The Mayor

DJP