

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

RURAL FORUM

Meeting held: 18th July 2019

Present:

Borough Councillors

Councillor Jim Hakewill (*Chair*)
Councillor David Howes
Councillor Mark Rowley

Parish Councillors

Councillor Richard Barnwell (Cransley and Mawsley)
Councillor Hilary Bull (Broughton)
Councillor Fay Foster (Pytchley)
Councillor Paul Gooding (Harrington)
Councillor Mark Hales (Weekley)
Councillor Peter Hooton (Rushton)
Councillor Nick Richards (Wilbarston)
Councillor Robin Shrive (Broughton)
Councillor Matt Tartaglia (Weekley)
Councillor David Watson (Geddington, Newton & Little Oakley)
Cllr Paul Wharin (Warkton)
Councillor James Woolsey (Warkton)

Also Present:

Martin Hammond (Kettering Borough Council)
Ian White (Kettering Borough Council)
Daniel Baker (Bench CRC)
Anne Ireson (Forum Administrator - KBC)

Actions

19.RF.01 **ELECTION OF CHAIR**

It was proposed by Councillor Hilary Bull and seconded by Councillor Paul Waring that Councillor Jim Hakewill be elected as Chair

It was proposed by Councillor David Howes and seconded by Councillor Mark Hales that Councillor Mark Rowley be elected as Chair.

(Voting: Cllr Hakewill 8; Cllr Rowley 3)

RESOLVED that Councillor Jim Hakewill be elected Chair of the Rural Forum for the ensuing Municipal Year.

Councillor Hakewill took the Chair and thanked Warkton Parish Council for hosting the meeting.

19.RF.02 **APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CHAIR**

It was proposed by Councillor Jim Hakewill and seconded by Councillor Richard Barnwell that Councillor David Watson be appointed Deputy Chair.

RESOLVED that Councillor David Watson be appointed Deputy Chair of the Rural Forum for the ensuing Municipal year.

19.RF.03 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Allan Matthews (NCC), Councillor Anne Lee (Kettering Borough Council), Councillors Andy Macredie and Pat Hobson (Pytchley), Councillor Francis Pope (Thorpe Malsor), Sgt Rob Offord (Northamptonshire Police) and Braybrooke Parish Council.

19.RF.04 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

19.RF.05 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Rural Forum held on 4th April 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

19.RF.06 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

The Chair reported that he had met with Councillor Frances Pope regarding high speed broadband, and that some areas had been missed. He had also spoken to the Chief Constable regarding the police social media platform and reported that the Chief Constable used a Twitter account to connect with the public, but he had pointed out that the 101 telephone number should be used for reporting incidents, rather than through social media, to ensure degree of formality.

19.RF.07 **POLICE STATISTICS**

The Police Statistics were taken as read.

Councillor Richard Barnwell reported that he had attended a Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner meeting on Monday, 15th July. House burglary

had been identified as a new priority, and information was due to be published shortly.

The Chair reported that the Police were looking at creating two command areas in Northamptonshire in line with the proposed unitary authorities in the North and West.

19.RF.08 COMMUNITY PAYBACK

Dan Baker, Manager of Northants Community Payback, was welcomed to the meeting and gave an update on the work of Community Payback and opportunities for Parish Councils in the Borough.

Community Payback was one of 12 sentencing options available to the courts. It was the only visible punishment available, and the main aim was for offenders to pay back to the community for the offences they had committed.

The work was physically demanding and carried out within a timeframe of a minimum of 40 hrs to a maximum of 300 hrs. In Northamptonshire the work equated to over £800,000 based on the minimum wage in 2018. 250-300 offenders were registered on the programme at any one time, with work being carried out seven days of the week, every day of year with the exception of bank holidays. Work was also undertaken in all weathers.

There was a requirement to demonstrate to the court that people were working their sentences in full. Risk assessments were carried out throughout the process and care was taken in placing offenders appropriately, for example those working in places where there were children in close proximity.

Offices in Northampton, Wellingborough, Kettering, Corby and Rushden were responsible for groups of up to 10 offenders with one site officer managing each work group.

Examples of the type of work carried out were outlined and it was noted that the Community Payback programme was available to all councils, including Parish Councils. The programme welcomed challenging work and offenders came to the scheme with varying skill sets, which were fully utilised wherever possible.

Councillor James Wolsey gave an account of the experience of using Community Payback in Warkton, stating that workers had been courteous and helpful. No problems had been experienced.

Debate was then held on the following:-

- Contracts

- Health and Safety
- Liability and Insurance
- Costs to Parish Councils
- Removal of rubbish, hedge cuttings etc
- Recurring work, eg grass cutting
- Timescales

It was noted that the work was carried out at zero cost to Parish Councils, but that materials, tools and fuel for power tools should be supplied by the Parish Council. It was also required to arrange for the proper disposal of any rubbish and cuttings. In addition, work undertaken must be worthwhile, constructive, demanding and challenging. It must also be of benefit to the community, not on private property and not for profit.

The point was made that, if the services of a Community Payback team were engaged, they should be thanked for their work.

The Chair thanked Dan Baker for his attendance and informative update.

RESOLVED that contact and website details for Community Payback be e-mailed to all Parish Councils

**Anne
Ireson**

19.RF.09 POLLING PLACE AND POLLING DISTRICT REVIEW

A report was submitted which sought the comments of the Rural Forum in relation to the polling place and polling district review and its impact on the Parishes in the Borough.

It was noted that the review did not permit changes to parish boundaries or wards. Any changes as a result of the review would be put in place from May 2020, with a further review being held in 2024/25.

A final report would be submitted to Full Council in December 2019.

Discussion was held on grants available to address issues of access in village halls, and it was noted that Cransley Village Hall had applied for funding from the Council's community fund.

Safeguarding issues needed to be addressed when schools remained open on polling day, and for this reason alternative venues were sought where possible, although at times the use of schools as polling places could not be avoided.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

19.RF.10 **PUBLIC SECTOR REFORM**

Martin Hammond (Executive Director – Kettering Borough Council) gave a presentation on public sector reform in Northamptonshire.

Parish councillors were urged to read a report that had been submitted to Full Council on 24th July in respect of options for Kettering Town, and it was noted that consultation with parishes would begin in the summer.

Elections would be held for parish councils in May 2020, but councillors would then serve for five years, after which time elections would be held every four years. The Structural Change Order in respect of unitary authorities in Northamptonshire, which affected the Borough Council, was expected to be put before Parliament in the autumn.

Members of the Rural Forum were advised that, should a vacancy occur after 6th November 2019, the position could not be filled by holding an election until after the Structural Change Order had been approved. However, parishes could still fill any vacancies by co-option.

Martin Hammond was thanked for his presentation.

RESOLVED that the presentation slides be e-mailed to Parish Councils.

**Anne
Ireson**

19.RF.11 **UPDATE ON RURAL BUS SERVICES**

The Chair informed the Forum that a meeting had been held with Brendan Coleman (Head of Environmental Care) and Councillor Nick Richards (Wilbarston Parish Council). It was hoped to introduce a service from Little Harrowden, calling at Orlingbury and Pytchley, with an additional service from Old including Thorpe Malsor.

It was noted that the cost of operation for 12 months was in the region of £28,000. Northamptonshire County Council had a ring-fenced Bus Services Operators' Grant) and would fund half this cost. It was hoped the remainder of the cost could be found from grants from Daventry, Wellingborough and Kettering to enable the first year's service to run, but during the first year of operation to monitor viability with a view to parishes making contributions.

Work on the proposed services was ongoing, which it was hoped could serve as a template for services to other villages.

Councillor Nick Richards gave an update on the Wilbarston bus service, which had not proved to be fully sustainable for several reasons, which included the cost of fares, the number of concessionary journeys, seasonal trends and the number of people using the service on a regular basis.

It was suggested that given the age profile of users, Adult Social Care could be asked to contribute to the costs on the basis of combatting loneliness and isolation for elderly people in rural areas.

It was noted that the voluntary car scheme serving Kettering General Hospital also covered rural areas. It was felt to be useful to have further information on the voluntary car scheme and it was therefore

RESOLVED that the item be placed on a future agenda and a representative of the voluntary car scheme serving Kettering General Hospital be invited to the meeting.

**Anne
Ireson**

19.RF.12 GYPSY AND TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION ASSESSMENT (GTAA)

An update on the GTAA was given and it was noted that four districts in the north of the county had jointly commissioned an assessment, which had now been finalised. All four authorities would need to accept the assessment and an item would be placed on the agenda for a meeting of the Council's Planning Policy Committee to be held on 10th September 2019. Background work on assessing the options was ongoing.

The assessment would be circulated to town and parish councils once it had been considered by the Planning Policy Committee.

19.RF.13 GRIT BINS

An update on the current position regarding grit bins in the rural areas was given. It was noted that some of the grit bins earmarked for removal by Northamptonshire County Council had ultimately not been removed.

It was reported that some bins had been removed in Broughton and then put back in alternative locations. Warkton had kept its bins, and an undertaking had been given to keep them filled on an ongoing basis.

Individual parishes were urged to contact Northamptonshire County Council before the winter period.

19.RF.14 PLANNING TRAINING

The Forum was requested to consider which areas of Planning training they would consider to be beneficial for any future session, and also when the session should take place.

In discussion, members of the Forum agreed that the previous training session had been useful and straightforward, particularly in enabling parish councillors to understand the process from the local planning authority's

point of view. It was suggested that a future Planning training session for parish councillors should take place after the elections in May 2020.

It was **Agreed** that a short single page questionnaire should be formulated and send out to parish councils early in 2020 to inform the content of the session.

**Anne
Ireson/
James
Wilson**

It was felt that a training session on Planning Policy would also be useful.

19.RF.15 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY

An update on the current position regarding the Community Infrastructure Levy was given.

It was noted that, following a desktop exercise, Kettering Borough Council had calculated that it would receive approximately only one-third of the money it could receive through the S106 process and had therefore decided not to adopt the Community Infrastructure Levy. All councils in the north of the County had taken the same decision. This would form a starting point for the new unitary authority, which would have to decide whether it wanted to adopt the Community Infrastructure Levy. It was not anticipated that the Borough Council would review this decision in advance of the creation of the new unitary authority.

Discussion was held on the benefits of local development to parishes, for example new warehousing off the A14 in Cransley Parish. It was noted that income received from development through a S106 could only defray the impact of an application on the local area, so for other community benefits, it was advisable for parishes to apply into the Council's Community Fund.

The benefits of adopting a Neighbourhood Plan in relation to CIL were noted.

19.RF.16 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Hospital Car Scheme
- GTAA
- Public Sector Reform Update and Community Governance Review
- Health and Wellbeing Festival Update and how to involve the rural areas in the future

19.RF.17 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

19.RF.18 **DATES/VENUES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

3rd October 2019
30th January 2020
16th April 2020

It was **Agreed** that the next meeting on 3rd October 2019 be held at Wilbarston Village Hall.

**Cllr
Richards/
Anne
Ireson**

(The meeting started at 7.00 pm and ended at 8.55 pm)

Signed
Chair

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