

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

at a meeting of the Council of the Borough of Kettering held at the Municipal Offices, Bowling Green Road, Kettering on 13th January 2020

Present:

Councillor	Keli Watts (Mayor)	Councillor	Jenny Henson
"	Linda Adams	"	Philip Hollobone
"	Duncan Bain	"	David Howes
"	Cedwien Brown	"	Ian Jelley
"	Mike Brown	"	Anne Lee
"	Lloyd Bunday	"	Paul Marks
"	James Burton	"	Cliff Moreton
"	John Currall	"	Jan O'Hara
"	Ash Davies	"	Russell Roberts
"	Mark Dearing	"	Mark Rowley
"	June Derbyshire	"	Mick Scrimshaw
"	Maggie Don	"	Shirley Stanton
"	Andrew Dutton	"	Mike Tebbutt
"	Scott Edwards	"	Lesley Thurland
"	Jim French	"	Mike Tebbutt
"	Ruth Groome	"	Greg Titcombe
"	Jim Hakewill	"	Jonathan West

19.C.69 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Clark Mitchell and Karl Sumpter.

19.C.70 MINUTES

RESOLVED

that the minutes of the meeting of 25th September 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

19.C.71 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs Adams, Currall, Don, Lee, Tebbutt and West all declared an interest in Item 10(ii) as members of a Trade Union.

Cllrs Groome and Scrimshaw declared a personal interest in Item 8 as a result of their spouses being trustees of consultee organisations.

19.C.72 **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor made announcements as follows:

- A minute silence was held in remembrance of Cllr David Soans, former Deputy Mayor Anne Peniston-Bird, and KBC staff member, Tom Rennie who had all passed away at since the last Council meeting
- The newly elected Councillor Jim French was welcomed to the Council
- The Mayor thanked members for their attendance at the Civic Ball in November
- The following forthcoming Mayoral events were announced and members invited to attend:-
 - Borough of Kettering Quiz Night – 21st January
 - Holocaust Memorial Day – 26th January
 - International Women's Day – 6th March
 - End of Office

The Mayor announced the availability of a pack of six greetings cards featuring images taken around the Borough by members of the Kettering District Photographic Society, one of which had featured as the Mayoral Christmas card.

The Deputy Mayor announced that he had deputised for the Mayor at the Beat the Streets award ceremony. He detailed the number of participants, noting that a total of 85,000 miles had been walked by those involved including 21 primary schools and 26 community and workplace groups. It was heard that a Council-based group, "Democracy in Motion" had finished in second place. The whole event had been very positive, and it was hoped that those involved would continue with their walking endeavours.

19.C.73 **LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Leader announced that the Kettering and Corby shared street scene service had won two national APSE Awards at the ceremony in December for Most Improved Street Cleaning Service and Best Performing Refuse and Recycling Service. This was seen as a hugely positive tribute to what was effectively a new service covering two boroughs. It was also noted that January marked the first anniversary of the service and a Member Information Session was planned for 20th January at Corby Cube in relation to this.

The Leader also announced that as from 3rd February, Civil Parking Enforcement would become live in Kettering with KBC having the responsibility for much of the on-street parking in the borough. Wardens

would target problem areas while on patrol and a multi-media campaign was being devised to inform residents.

The Leader concluded by congratulating Cllr Philip Hollobone on his re-election as MP.

19.C.74 **REPORT OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR**

None.

19.C.75 **RIGHT TO SPEAK**

One member of the public registered their intention to speak in relation to Item 8.

19.C.76 **COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

Council received a report that sought to:-

- Detail the results of the public consultation on the Community Governance Review in relation to the creation of a Town Council for Kettering town;
- Outline consequential boundary changes to accommodate the Hanwood Park urban extension within the town area; and
- Obtain Council approval for the next steps of the process.

The meeting noted that the public consultation took place between 1st September and 31st October 2019 with a total of 164 responses received from a mixture of borough councillors, town and parish councils, community groups and statutory partners and local residents. Broadly, the results indicated widespread support for the creation of a Town Council with the proposed revised boundaries.

Members noted that Council would have to fix a precept for any new Town Council in February 2021.

The creation of a new Town Council was supported by members although disappointment was noted at the level of public engagement in the consultation process. Members suggested that additional work be undertaken with regard to public engagement for the second consultation period, especially in areas that would be impacted by the proposed changes.

It was noted that shadow elections for the Town and Parish Council would not be possible in 2020 due to electoral timetable constraints arising from the recent European and General Elections.

RESOLVED

That Council:

- i) Noted the consultation responses;
- ii) Agreed a revised timetable as set out in the report for completion of the Community Governance Review;
- iii) Agreed the draft recommendations for further consultation as set in the attached statement to the report

(Voting: For 30; Against 1; Abstain 0)

19.C.77 KETTERING TOWN CENTRE – HIGH STREETS HERITAGE ACTION ZONE PROGRAMME DESIGN

A report was submitted which sought to:

- i) Provide an update on the progress of the second stage application for Kettering High Street's Heritage Action Zone
- ii) Outlined the programme submission including the capital and revenue budget proposals for approval
- iii) Confirm the next steps and governance process required

Alison Holland addressed the meeting under the Council's Right to Speak Policy representing the Town Centre Partnership and Brightkidz, two of the organisations mentioned as stakeholders within the report. The organisations offered their full support for the proposal and looked forward to working in close collaboration with KBC to make the most of this opportunity.

The report was welcomed by members and congratulations were offered to the Portfolio Holder and officers involved in the submission. In addition, members welcomed the use of £2.2 million from the Economic Regeneration Fund as match funding.

RESOLVED

That Council:

- i) Endorsed the submission of Stage 2 – Programme Design for Kettering Town Centre to the High Street Heritage Action Zone Fund (HSHAZ);
- ii) Approved the proposed capital and revenue budgets for the HSHAZ Stage 2 submission as outlined in the KBC Budget report
- iii) Agreed the membership of the HSHAZ Project Board as detailed in the report

(Voting: Unanimous)

19.C.78 **LICENSING ACT 2003 STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY 2020-2024**

Council received a report that sought agreement to adopt the Licensing Act 2003 Statement of Licensing Policy for the period 2020-2024 and to make a minor amendment to the Council's Constitution relating to the Licensing Committee.

RESOLVED

That Council:

- i) Adopt the draft Kettering Borough Council Licensing Act 2003 Statement of Licensing Policy for the period 2020-2024; and
- ii) The Council's Constitution be amended to delete the provision in Part 3 section 1.4, which prohibits members of the Licensing Committee considering application from persons resident in their ward or premises located in their ward

(Voting: Unanimous)

19.C.79 **MOTION – COUNCIL MEETING DATES**

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

"This Council agrees to make the dates (and whenever possible, agendas) of future council meetings that are open to the public clearly accessible on the Council's website with at least two weeks' notice from the link on the home page under 'View meetings, minutes and agendas'"

Cllr Lee explained that the purpose of the motion was to make meeting information on the Council's website more easily accessible for members of the public as well as allowing additional time for consideration of complex or contentious committee reports, especially in relation to planning matters.

In debate, other members considered that with recent amendments made to the Council website, and the impracticality of publishing agendas two weeks before the meeting the motion was unnecessary and unrealistic.

Following debate, voting on the motion was as follows:

(Voting: For 8; Against 23; Abstained 1)

The Motion was therefore defeated.

19.C.80

MOTION – TUC “DYING TO WORK” CHARTER

It was proposed by Cllr Ruth Groome and seconded by Cllr Anne Lee that:-

“This council will work towards an official ceremony to sign the TUC charter ‘Dying To Work as soon as possible:

This charter sets out an agreed way in which our employees will be supported, protected and guided throughout their employment, following a terminal diagnosis.

- We recognise that terminal illness requires support and understanding and not additional and avoidable stress and worry.*
- Terminally ill workers will be secure in the knowledge that we will support them following their diagnosis and we recognise that, safe and reasonable work can help maintain dignity, offer a valuable distraction and can be therapeutic in itself.*
- We will provide our employees with the security of work, peace of mind and the right to choose the best course of action for themselves and their families which helps them through this challenging period with dignity and without undue financial loss.*
- We support the TUC’s Dying to Work campaign so that all employees battling terminal illness have adequate employment protection and have their death in service benefits protected for the loved ones they leave behind.”*

The motion attracted support from all sides of the chamber although it was heard that the main requirements of the charter were already offered to Council staff, with members noting the work of the Council’s Human Resources team in this regard.

Following discussion, it was unanimously

RESOLVED

that *“This council will work towards an official ceremony to sign the TUC charter ‘Dying To Work as soon as possible:*

This charter sets out an agreed way in which our employees will be supported, protected and guided throughout their employment, following a terminal diagnosis.

- We recognise that terminal illness requires support and understanding and not additional and avoidable stress and worry.*
- Terminally ill workers will be secure in the knowledge that we will support them following their diagnosis and we recognise that, safe and*

- reasonable work can help maintain dignity, offer a valuable distraction and can be therapeutic in itself.*
- We will provide our employees with the security of work, peace of mind and the right to choose the best course of action for themselves and their families which helps them through this challenging period with dignity and without undue financial loss.*
 - We support the TUC's Dying to Work campaign so that all employees battling terminal illness have adequate employment protection and have their death in service benefits protected for the loved ones they leave behind."*

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

19.C.81 CLIMATE CHANGE PLANS

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

"Following the Executive Committee's decision on 16th October last year to recommend a range of new actions on climate change, in which month will these plans be brought to the Executive Committee and what actions are being taken in respect of starting a process of community engagement regarding climate change including a dedicated page becoming available on the Council's website?"

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

"I refer Cllr Lee to the report to Executive Committee of 16th October 2019 and the commitment to a half yearly report being submitted to Monitoring and Audit Committee and annually to Council detailing the actions that have been taken towards achieving the objectives. I can confirm a report will be going to Monitoring & Audit Committee in March 2020 outlining progress. More detailed reports will be developed and submitted to Executive Committee on strands within the overall action plan, as they are worked up. I can also confirm that scheduled within the workplan is a dedicated Climate Change webpage which will be launched by 31 January 2020, this will be updated and promoted to the community on an ongoing basis."

Councillor Lee asked the following supplementary question:

"Is the website the only active engagement with public; what other forms are there?"

The Portfolio Holder replied as follows:-

“The two appointed Climate Change Champions are working on a process to engage with the public and an agreed action plan will be brought to committee”

19.C.82 FRENCHES FIELD – KETTERING TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

Councillor Mike Brown asked the Portfolio Holder for Community, Leisure and Youth the following question:-

“Is the Council still committed to the sale of Frenches Field to Kettering Town Football Club, and, if so, can the portfolio holder explain why it is taking so long and when he expects the sale to be completed? “

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

“Yes, the Council is committed to the sale. The sale has been complicated by the discovery during the conveyancing process that the land had been designated as allotment land in 1960, and whilst never used as such, it nevertheless requires the approval of the Secretary of State before it can be disposed of. That in turn requires the agreement of the National Allotment Society, who in turn rely on the advice of local societies as to the unmet demand for allotments. The matter of local demand has been resolved, but the local societies have also asked for guarantees that the intended buildings on the site will not overshadow the existing allotments next door, and draft covenants have been the subject of discussion with the football club and their lawyers.

For this reason, I cannot give a definitive date when the sale will be completed, because it depends on factors outside of our control, particularly the time it will take the Secretary of State to come to a decision.”

(The meeting started at 7.00pm and ended at 8.18pm)

Signed

The Mayor

DJP