

To all Members

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Our Ref: AI
Your Ref:
Date: 16th March 2021

Dear Councillor

You are summoned to attend a meeting of **KETTERING BOROUGH COUNCIL** to be held **virtually** on Wednesday 24th March 2021 at **6.00pm**.

This virtual meeting of Kettering Borough Council will be held using Zoom and live-streamed via YouTube. Members of the Council will be sent joining instructions for the meeting by email.

Yours faithfully



G. Soulsby
Managing Director

Instructions for viewing the meeting

To watch the live meeting on YouTube, please follow the instructions below:-

1. Click or visit the following link www.kettering.gov.uk/youtube
2. Select the following video (located at the top of the list):

“Council 24/03/2021”

Working with and on behalf of local people

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. The minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 24th February 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor
3. Declarations of Interest
 - (a) Personal
 - (b) Prejudicial

Vicky Becks will now be singing

4. To receive any announcements from HM Lord Lieutenant of Northamptonshire, Mr James Saunders Watson
5. To receive any announcements from The High Sherriff of Northamptonshire, Mr Paul Parsons
6. To receive any announcements from the Mayor and/or the Leader of the Council.
7. Report of the Managing Director.
8. The Mayor to provide details of any pre-registered public speakers
9. Members of the Council to be provided with the opportunity to speak on the end of Kettering Borough Council

MOTIONS, QUESTIONS & MATTERS OF URGENCY:

10. To consider motions received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16 as follows:-

- (i) To be proposed by Cllr Jim Hakewill and seconded by Cllr Anne Lee:-

“On the occasion of Kettering Borough Council’s historic last Full Council meeting, this Council acknowledges a debt of gratitude to all the councillors and officers who have served local people since its creation in 1974”.

- (ii) To be proposed by Cllr Maggie Don and seconded by Cllr Anne Lee:-

‘This Council pays tribute to all the voluntary organisations and partners of KBC that have played and still fulfil an invaluable role for the population of Kettering, including Accommodation Concern, Homestart, KCU, Groundwork, the Citizens Advice Bureau, and so many others.’

The Mayoress, Mrs Lorraine Burton to read a poem read at the inauguration of Kettering Borough Council in 1974

11. To receive questions from members.

Mr Joshua Daniel will now be singing

12. Any matters of urgency that the Mayor decides should be considered.
13. Closing words from the Mayor

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN REMOTE MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

When registering to speak speakers must elect one of the following three options:

1. Provide a written speech which will be read at the meeting by the Mayor or an officer of the council, (such speech must be 3 minutes or less when read at an audible pace)
2. Submit an audio recording of the speech of 3 minutes or less
3. Elect to speak live at the meeting. Speakers must have sufficient internet connection, and must provide a copy of the speech in the event that they are unable to connect to the meeting for any reason. Live speakers will be given only one opportunity to speak live.

Only speakers choosing to speak live in the virtual meeting will be provided with log-in details to access the virtual meeting. Speakers choosing a pre-recorded option will be able to live-stream the proceedings on YouTube.

All speakers will be asked to provide a text copy of their speech to the committee administrator beforehand so that, in the event of losing contact, the Mayor can complete the speech on their behalf.

All audio speech clips submitted must be received no later than midday on the day of the meeting to allow time for them to be uploaded ahead of the meeting.

Members of the public who have registered to speak with the intention of attending remotely should sign into the meeting platform under the same name as they registered. Failure to do so may result in non-admittance to the meeting.

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BOROUGH OF KETTERING

at a meeting of the Council of the Borough of
Kettering held virtually on Zoom on 24th
February 2021

Present:

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

20.C.45 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Graham Soulsby.

20.C.46 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 16th
December 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed
by the Mayor

20.C.47 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Ruth Groome declared a personal interest as an employee of
Northamptonshire County Council Libraries Service.

20.C.48 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor made the following announcements:

Dr Ahmed Mukhtar

The Mayor informed Council that Dr Ahmed Mukhtar had passed away in early January following a short illness. Dr Mukhtar was an immensely popular and well-respected local figure who had been a long-standing clinical paediatrician at Kettering General Hospital and had also served as the High Sheriff of Northamptonshire, a Deputy Lord Lieutenant, Governor of the University of Northampton, President of the Northamptonshire branch of St John Ambulance, Associate Examiner of the General Medical Council and a member of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Tribunal. He would be sadly missed by all those who knew him.

Former Mayoress, Mrs Christine Pote

The Mayor informed Council of the death of former Mayoress, Mrs Christine Pote, on 31st December 2020. Christine was Mayoress in 2003/04 alongside her husband Alan Pote (decd). The Mayor expressed condolences to her family on their sad loss.

Former Mayoress, Mrs Shushila Wright

The Mayor informed Council of the death of former Mayoress, Mrs Shushila Wright, on 29th January 2021. Shushila was Mayoress in 1997/98 alongside her husband, Ray Wright (dec'd). The Mayor expressed condolences to her family on their sad loss.

Former Mayoress, Patricia Bayes

The Mayor informed Council of the death of former Mayoress, Mrs Patricia Bayes, on 7th February 2021. Patricia was Mayoress in 2006/07 alongside her husband, Maurice Bayes. The Mayor expressed condolences to Maurice Bayes and their family on their sad loss.

A minute's silence was held in memory of Ahmed Mukhtar, Christine Pote, Shushila Wright and Patricia Bayes and all Borough residents who had lost their lives to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Mayoral Activities

The Mayor presented a recorded video sending 100th birthday wishes to Borough resident, Jim Wills.

He also informed Council that he had recorded a video for the children of St Mary's Primary School, Kettering, which was available upon request.

The Mayor thanked Councillors for donations of foreign currency to the Mayor's Charity.

20.C.49 **LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Leader of the Council thanked Councillor Scrimshaw (Leader of the Opposition) for his past work as a Kettering Borough Councillor, expressing regret that he would not be standing for re-election to the new Council.

20.C.50 **REPORT OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR**

No report.

20.C.51 **RIGHT TO SPEAK**

Eight members of the public attended the meeting to speak on Item 7 on the agenda.

20.C.52 **CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN - UPDATE**

A report was submitted which:

- (i) updated members on the current National and International responses to Climate Change; and
- (ii) updated members on the progress that had been made on the actions to be undertaken by this Council to help address Climate Change as set out in October 2019.

The Portfolio Holder for Strategic Delivery and Environment highlighted key points of the report. Members noted that the work of the Council in relation to the Climate Change Action Plan would be fed into the new unitary authority.

Andrew Byatt, Adam Balmer, John Padwick, Kyle Patel, Dez Dell, Steven Esler and Emily Fedorowycz addressed the meeting under the Council's Right to Speak policy.

Speakers were unanimous in thanking the Council for positive progress made in most areas of the action plan. Hope was expressed that the new unitary authority would put climate change to the forefront of its agenda, build on the work of Kettering Borough Council, and take opportunities to improve targets whilst there was still time to make a difference to the environment in North Northamptonshire. It was acknowledged that the Covid-19 pandemic had impacted on progress on some projects. It was felt that some areas of climate change were missing from the action plan, which made it difficult to assess progress. Additionally, the view was expressed that not enough progress was being made in some areas, or the Council's plans were under-ambitious.

Comments on specific projects and topics in the action plan were made as summarised below:-

Trees and Hedgerows

- Mature trees around the library had only been saved due to public pressure
- Measures taken in relation to tree planting and renewable energy were welcomed
- Concern was expressed regarding the possible destruction of ancient woodland at Weekley Wood due to planned development
- An audit should be carried out of how many trees and hedgerows had been lost, in addition to the loss of ivy, such as on the front wall of the library
- The planting of over 500 trees by the Council was welcomed and should be publicised

Transport

- There was a desire to see more information on electric charging points, public transport and a clear strategy for Kettering town centre. Cycle storage points were welcomed.
- A multi-modal hub was required in the vicinity of the railway station
- Proposed cycle lanes in Deeble Road and Windmill Avenue were welcomed
- A date for the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan consultation was requested.

Climate Change and Air Quality

- Kettering had led the way in North Northamptonshire with cross-party commitment, and had been the first council to declare a climate emergency
- Globally, people were responsible for climate change through inactivity and local people and local government must work together
- Poor air quality at Windmill Avenue/Barton Road junction was highlighted and a request was made for more detailed information on measures that could be taken

The Environment

- There was no mention of whether the SEGRO development met eco targets and further information was requested
- The Gallery, Library and Museum GLaM project was welcomed, but did not take public concern about the loss of trees on the site into account
- The Forest for Life – Rockingham Project was supported, but Policy 21 of the Joint Core Strategy appeared to conflict with Policy 36

- The Council's initiative in providing free litter-picking tools and materials to the Kettering and Corby Wombles Groups was welcomed and all those taking part in litter-picking were thanked and commended for their work
- Recycling facilities should be available in the town centre. Proposals for food waste collection were welcomed.
- Progress on biodiversity and the natural environment was welcomed, which could be aided by legislation, but concern was expressed regarding the use of glycosphate
- Incentivising businesses could make a difference in reducing the carbon footprint in town centre and it was important for businesses to understand how much carbon they were producing.

Speakers were thanked for their comments.

During debate, it was acknowledged that progress had been made on the Climate Change Action Plan but it was felt that some areas needed more work, particularly in respect of cycling, walking, tree planting and air quality. It was suggested that a tree planting plan for the future was required as there were a large number of volunteers who were keen to plant trees but no details on where trees should be planted. It was noted that there were resource implications if a large number of trees were planted that needed maintaining, and also there were issues such as ground conditions, time of year and soil quality to consider.

Members also expressed concern about air quality and requested that an air quality action plan be put in place for when air quality figures were exceeded in specific areas, such as at the Barton Road/Windmill Avenue Junction, particularly as there were a number of schools and a college in the area.

The North Northamptonshire Shadow Authority Task and Finish Group on Climate Change was welcomed, but it was pointed out that the Pollinator Strategy and online toolkit was missing from the report. Additionally, there was no information on solar panels. The work of the Green Group in Rothwell was commended for keeping the town clean.

Debate continued in respect of tree planting, and it was noted that a significant number of trees had been or were to be planted in Hanwood Park. However, some mature trees had also been felled, which had impacted on bat habitats in that area. Members reiterated their thanks to volunteers participating in community litter-picks. However, it was felt that the Council should ensure that advice on hazardous materials and liability should be given out, together with the free litter-picking materials.

It was noted that the Council, as a statutory authority, could only act within its legal powers in executing any action to promote climate change and could not encroach on the functions of other statutory authorities. The constraints of the planning process were also noted.

It was felt that there was a need to improve education initiatives and help to engage and involve the whole population in climate change, particularly in the area of litter. It was noted that Boston ivy, of the type that was previously growing on the front wall of the library, was a source of food for bees during the autumn. It was suggested that such ivy should be allowed to bloom and be replaced if removed from buildings.

Debate continued on the subject of development control and larger developments. It was felt there was a need to push for legislation to make the area a greener place to live. The work of the Council's Planning Policy Committee and the North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Committee was noted in this respect. Recommendations due to be considered by the Joint Planning Committee on the immediate use of the Building for a Healthy Life document and design guidance were pointed out. The Deputy Leader of the Council then summarised the Council's views on the need for amenity space for flats and bedsits, stating that people needed such spaces to live a healthy life. Healthy initiatives in relation to improvements in cycling routes and events such as Beat the Street were commended.

In summing up the debate, the Leader of the Council acknowledged there were some areas where progress had been slow. However, he reiterated that the Council was committed to improving the environment, and the Kettering East development now had more open spaces than originally planned, including areas where nature could blossom. The new unitary authority would take forward the work of the Council on climate change and the environment, and it was pointed out that all reports to the Shadow Authority included a section on climate change and environmental considerations and effects.

A request was made for progress on the Pollinator Strategy, which was not included in the progress report. The Portfolio Holder for Strategic Delivery and the Environment agreed to provide separate information on this and other questions and issues that had been raised during the debate, both by public speakers and members of the Council, as this information would be needed to feed into the Climate Change Task and Finish Group for the Shadow Authority.

RESOLVED that the final update report and progress achieved in respect to the Council's commitments within its Climate Change Action Plan contributing toward carbon emissions reduction and climate change mitigation be noted.

(Voting: Unanimous)

20.C.40 REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS (RIPA) ANNUAL REPORT

A report was submitted which provided an annual report on the use by the Council of its Regulation of Investigatory Powers (RIPA) powers.

During debate, the problem of surveillance of areas prone to fly-tipping was raised. It was felt the law meant that it was difficult to use surveillance cameras in fly-tipping hotspots. It was suggested that contact should be made with the government to make the point that the rural population needed this type of surveillance to make prosecution of fly tippers easier.

It was noted that the North Northamptonshire Council would determine its own RIPA policy in due course.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

(Voting: Unanimous)

20.C.41 **MOTIONS**

None

20.C.42 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS**

None.

20.C.43 **MATTERS OF URGENCY**

None.

20.C.44 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The final meeting of Kettering Borough Council would take place on 24th March 2021.

(The meeting started at 6.00pm and ended at 7.10pm)

Signed

The Mayor

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