

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL AND SPECIAL DEBATE MEETING

Meeting held: 24th November 2004

Present:

Councillor	Brace (The Mayor)	Councillor	Harrison
"	Adams	"	J Henson
"	Anderson	"	L Henson
"	Bayes	"	Hollobone
"	Brown	"	Humfrey
"	Bunday	"	Jones
"	Burton	"	King
"	Civil	"	Lamb
"	Coe	"	Malin
"	Corazzo	"	Padwick
"	Darby	"	Parker
"	Dearing	"	Pote
"	M Evans	"	Rennie
"	Freer	"	Smith-Haynes
"	Gordon	"	Tebbutt
"	C Groome	"	West
"	R Groome	"	Whitlam
"	Hakewill	"	Whyte
"	Hales	"	Wiley

04.C.40 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Beale, Don, T Evans, M Lynch, S Lynch and Titcombe.

04.C.41 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 28th July 2004 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor

04.C.42 **STATE OF THE BOROUGH MEETING**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the State of the Borough meeting held on 15th September 2004 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

04.C.43 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following declarations of interest of a personal nature were received:-

Councillor M Evans - Items 13 and 14
Councillor Whyte - Item 14
Councillor Hakewill - Item 13
Councillor R Groome - Item 13

04.C.44 **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Mayor announced that a Charity Bowling Evening was to be held on 14th December 2004.

04.C.45 **LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Leader of the Council announced that Chloe MacCreadie would be switching on the Christmas Lights at 5.30 pm on Saturday, 27th November 2004.

04.C.46 **EXTENSIONS OF PERIODS OF ABSENCE**

RESOLVED that extensions of the six-month periods of absence in respect of Councillors T Evans and Rennie (who later attended the meeting) be granted and the best wishes of the Council for a continued recovery be extended to the councillors concerned.

PERIODIC ELECTORAL REVIEW - APPROVAL OF THE COUNCIL'S DRAFT SUBMISSION

A report was submitted which considered the Draft Submission prepared by the Further Electoral Review Task and Finish Group and which sought approval for the Submission being forwarded to the Boundary Committee for England. The views of the Council were also sought prior to submission.

A petition, signed by 20% of the electorate in Geddington, Newton and Little Oakley was received. Petitioners had requested that their objection to the proposals contained in the draft submission in relation to the Queen Eleanor Ward be registered.

Councillor Malin summarised the work of the Periodic Electoral Review Task and Finish Group, and it was noted that minor amendments had been suggested by the Overview Committee. Amendments had been included by the Task and Finish Group.

It was noted that all submissions in respect of the Review must be with the Boundary Committee for England by 29th November 2004. Councillor Malin thanked the Task and Finish Group for their work.

Debate ensued on the guidance, tests and criteria which had been followed in conducting the electoral review and the Task and Finish Group's application of the guidance during the process.

In particular, the following points were made during the debate:-

- The Task and Finish Group were unable to reach agreement on the draft proposals
- The Boundary Committee for England had indicated that consultation was critical and the view was expressed that more public consultation should have been carried out
- The Boundary Committee for England could impose a solution if consensus was not reached
- Eleven Parish Councils and Rothwell Councillors had indicated that they did not agree with the proposals
- The total number of councillors should not be reduced at a time when the population was growing
- Councillors' workloads should be manageable, otherwise there would be difficulty in attracting people from all walks of life to be nominated for election

The Leader of the Opposition stated that it was intended to submit an alternative Submission to the Boundary Committee for England.

Those raising comments or proposals at the meeting were encouraged to forward them to the Boundary Committee for England.

It was proposed by Councillor Malin, seconded by Councillor Freer and subsequently

RESOLVED that the Draft Submission be approved and forwarded to the Boundary Committee for England by 29th November 2004.

(Voting: For the Motion 26; Against 11, Abstaining 1)

(Councillors Adams, Brace, Coe, Corazzo, Gordon, Hales, King, Padwick, Rennie, West and Whyte voted against the motion.)

(At this juncture the meeting adjourned for 10 minutes prior to commencement of the Special Debate)

04.C.48 **DEPUTATION AND PETITIONS**

Mrs Sue Yates of the Kettering Centre for the Unemployed and Unwaged presented a petition signed by approximately 1,000 users and members of the public on behalf of the users and Management Committee of the Centre.

Mrs Yates outlined the work of the centre, including fund-raising activities recently carried out.

(Councillor Padwick declared a personal interest in the following item)

04.C.49 **EDUCATION AND TRAINING**
(MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE LABOUR GROUP)

It was proposed by Councillor Whyte and seconded by Councillor Hales that:-

"The Conservative administration has failed the people of the Borough by reducing its commitment to education and training.

We believe that this council should be playing a bigger part in raising skills and so improving the economic and social well being of all its citizens.

We propose that the council should increase its investment and activity in education and training."

During the ensuing debate, the following points were made:-

- There were personal, social and economic benefits for the Borough if the Council were to offer funding towards education and training
- The Borough Council had a responsibility to contribute towards education and training in the Borough due to the poor level of literacy/numeracy skills and the 30% percentage of people in the area who had received no training or education since leaving school
- There was a need for a high level of training and education provision in the Borough due to the imminence of the growth area proposals
- More people should be encouraged to participate in further education and training, particularly in non-traditional ways and at venues not normally associated with education and training
- The Borough Council should actively seek out partners in the community to bring in new learners and also to take learning into hostels for the homeless
- Workplace learning should be actively supported
- Kettering Borough Council should be a catalyst to encourage learning
- The State of the Borough Debates in 2002 and 2004 had highlighted education and training as a priority
- There was generally a low level of vocational training available in schools
- There was a need to maintain or create partnerships with organisations that could take a holistic approach to people's needs
- The Council should tackle pockets of deprivation by making links with partners and this would also help to address anti-social behaviour
- The Council already worked in partnership with other agencies (eg NCC and the LSC)
- There was a need for the Council to adhere to its Community Strategy and also its corporate priorities

- A small Borough such as Kettering could not afford to finance education and training and should continue to act as an enabler through the Local Strategic Partnership
- Education was not a corporate priority of the Council

Voting on the Motion:

For: 13; Against 24

The motion therefore fell.

04.C.50

POLICING ISSUES
(MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE CONSERVATIVE GROUP)

It was proposed by Councillor Hollobone and seconded by Councillor Freer that:-

"Kettering Borough Council:

- (a) notes that Northamptonshire's Chief Constable has stated that at least another 200 police officers are required for the Northamptonshire Police
- (b) recognises the contribution that it itself has been able to make in the local fight against crime and anti-social behaviour with measures including:
 - (i) the part funding of 6 (and soon to be 8) Police Community Support Officers for the Borough
 - (ii) co-operation with the Police on introducing the Borough's first Dispersal Order, and
 - (iii) the establishment of a Taskforce on the night-time economy
- (c) thanks all local police officers and others who are involved in the fight against crime and anti-social behaviour for their dedication and hard work
- (d) calls on the Home Office:
 - (i) to provide the Northamptonshire Police Authority with a full and proper financial settlement to include the requisite funding for all the additional police officers

needed by the Chief Constable without passing the financial burden onto local council taxpayers, and

- (ii) to recognise the Borough Council's own role in the fight against crime and disorder by providing further funds to help expand its efforts, including more Police Community Support Officers."

Councillor R Groome proposed and Councillor C Groome seconded the following amendment to the motion:-

1. the following paragraph be inserted after paragraph (c)

"Supports local initiatives to reduce anti-social behaviour by engaging young people such as those in Broughton, Burton Latimer and Rothwell and acknowledges the work of Neighbourhood Watch."

2. the following words be inserted at the end of paragraph (c)

"and especially Parish Constables who have made so much difference in our communities"

3. the following paragraph after (d) (ii)

"(iii) calls on the Chief Constable to reconsider the current area structure with a view of enhancing the role and services provided by the Kettering Area Office located as it is in the second largest town in the county"

Debate ensued on the above amendments, subsequent to which the amendment (d) (iii) above was withdrawn by the proposer.

It was subsequently unanimously agreed to accept amendment No. 1 above to the original motion and to not accept amendment no. 2.

Following further debate it was proposed by Councillor Corazzo and seconded by Councillor Whyte that:-

1. the words "fight against crime" be replaced by "tackling crime" throughout the motion.

2. paragraph D1 be deleted and replaced with:-

"to thank the Home Office for the £12.1m of extra investment received over the last six years and urge them to look sympathetically on Northamptonshire Police"

Voting on the amendment

(For 9; 24 Against)

Motion Fell

The substantive motion, as amended, was then put to the Council and it was

RESOLVED that Kettering Borough Council:

- (a) notes that Northamptonshire's Chief Constable has stated that at least another 200 police officers are required for the Northamptonshire Police
- (b) recognises the contribution that it itself has been able to make in the local fight against crime and anti-social behaviour with measures including:
 - (i) the part funding of 6 (and soon to be 8) Police Community Support Officers for the Borough
 - (ii) co-operation with the Police on introducing the Borough's first Dispersal Order, and
 - (iii) the establishment of a Taskforce on the night-time economy
- (c) thanks all local police officers and others who are involved in the fight against crime and anti-social behaviour for their dedication and hard work
- (d) supports local initiatives to reduce anti-social behaviour by engaging young people such as those in Broughton, Burton Latimer and Rothwell and acknowledges the work of Neighbourhood Watch.
- (e) calls on the Home Office:
 - (i) to provide the Northamptonshire Police Authority with a full and proper financial settlement to include the requisite funding for all the additional police officers needed by the Chief Constable without passing the financial burden onto local council taxpayers, and

- (ii) to recognise the Borough Council's own role in the fight against crime and disorder by providing further funds to help expand its efforts, including more Police Community Support Officers.

04.C.51

DEMOCRACY
(MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE INDEPENDENT GROUP)

It was proposed by Councillor C Groome and seconded by Councillor R Groome that:-

"British democracy is more than a dictatorship by a party which has gained a majority in an election"

In introducing the motion, Councillor C Groome reminded the Council of the Conservative manifesto at the last election and the commitment to a return to the Committee system of administration. He also referred to the Milton Keynes and South Midlands Sub-Regional Strategy and the lack of reference to democratically elected bodies in respect of discussion on technical studies.

Debate then ensued and it was noted that a return to the Committee System of administration was not now achievable. However, the Council did focus on partnership working through the Local Strategic Partnership and, through the scrutiny committees and task and finish groups all members had the opportunity to contribute and make their views known.

Several specific issues were then debated, notably theatre provision, car parking in the town centre and recent proposals put forward by the Overview Committee in respect of constitutional amendments. It was noted that proposals in respect of constitutional amendments would be debated at the next meeting of the Full Council.

Voting on the motion was then held and the motion fell.

04.C.52

TWINNING
(MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE CONSERVATIVE GROUP)

It was proposed by Councillor L Henson, seconded by Councillor J Henson and, following debate, was subsequently

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) Kettering Borough Council recognises 50 years of twinning with Lahnstein in 2005 and offers its congratulations to the Twinning Committees for all their hard work and perseverance, resulting in securing a long-standing union and goodwill between our two towns.
- (ii) I understand that funds are being made available for a specific presentation to mark this anniversary and wish to thank the Council for this.
- (iii) I am sure that the incoming Mayor will enjoy being involved in the presentation when he visits Lahnstein next year.

04.C.53

RECYCLING
(MOTION SUBMITTED BY THE CONSERVATIVE GROUP)

It was proposed by Councillor Lamb and seconded by Councillor Bayes and subsequently

RESOLVED that

- (i) Kettering Borough Council recognises the professionalism of their officers and the help of householders in the seamless rollout of Phase One of the Borough wide recycling scheme, assisted by Consultants Page Media and the input of the Recycling Task and Finish Group;
- (ii) The success of this rollout would not have been achieved without the participation of the 12,000 households involved in Phase One and tribute should be paid to their willingness to be involved in this important project. The recycling rate for Phase One is over 50%; and
- (iii) The provisional recycling rate for the whole Borough has now gone up to around 15%.

04.C.54 **EKTA**

The Mayor announced that news had been received that EKTA had been shortlisted for a national award. The award ceremony would be held on 7th December 2004 and the Mayor would attend the ceremony.

RESOLVED that the congratulations and best wishes of the Council be extended to EKTA

(The meeting started at 7.00 pm and ended at 9.52 pm)

Signed
Mayor

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