

Kettering Town Council

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD IN THE TOLLER CHURCH ROOMS, MEETING LANE, KETTERING AT 7PM ON WEDNESDAY 24TH MAY 2023

Attendees :

The Mayor, Cllr Emily Fedorowycz (Chair) and Councillors Lloyd Bunday, Carolyn Carter, Robin Carter, Maggie Don, Alex Evelyn, Clark Mitchell, Anup Pandey, Mark Rowley James Towns, Sarah Tubbs, Keli Watts, Bev Wright, and Martyn York.

Speakers (8)

Lindsey Atkins, BHVA
Craig Fellows, Starlight Dance
Alison Holland, Brightwayz
Debbie Cox, Kettering Arts Centre
Monica Odzemir, Kettering Civic Society
Jane Calcott, Kettering Food Bank
Thuli Ndlovu, Hope UK
Mike Annable, Kettering Swimming Club

Other attendees (17)

NNC Cllrs Anne Lee and Paul Marks
Anne Albrecht, Kettering Kosmos WI
Pam Aston and Chris Clark, Kettering Lions
Evelyn Boyce
Oliver Healey, Teamwork Trust
Janet Hedges
Malcolm Hill, Lighthouse Theatre
Patricia Mason
Eleanor Patrick, Toller Church
K Petersen
John Perry, Accommodation Concern
David Rose, Kettering Civic Society
Jonathon Smith
J Sprotty
Lynn Wilson

Martin Hammond, Town Clerk, Emma Dezelu, Deputy Town Clerk, and Zuzanna Brzostowska, Admin Officer

Kettering Town Council

Item No	Item Description
1	<p>Apologies for Absence Cllrs Daniel Perrett and Craig Skinner, Josie Pearce and David Walsh, SS Peter and Paul Church Michelle Shaw, C2C Social Action/Kettering Womens Centre</p>
2	<p>Welcome from the Mayor The Mayor welcomed everyone to the Annual Town Meeting and thanked everyone for coming along</p>
3	<p>Minutes The minutes of the annual Town meeting held on 25th May 2022 were confirmed as accurate record and signed by the Mayor.</p>
4	<p>Presentation on the Town Council's first year</p> <p>Martin Hammond presented the main features of the Town Council's last year of operation, outlined the priorities within its corporate plan and some of the projects it was undertaking, as well as summarising last year's and the current year's budgets.</p> <p>It was agreed that the presentation would be provided to attendees by email.</p>
5	<p>Public Participation</p> <p>a) Lindsey Atkins, Becci Hurrell Voice Academy. Lindsey outlined the work that BHVA were leading on to acquire and restore the Gala Bingo Club building, to turn it into a local hub for public services, business support, performances and community activity. A crowdfunding page had been established and £3500 was needed to carry out a full feasibility study for the project.</p> <p>b) Craig Fellows, Starlight Dance. Craig has been asked to attend at short notice to set out the case for keeping Kettering Conference Centre open and running after the end of June. KCC provide vital facilities for local groups, who would not otherwise have a suitable venue, it contributed to the health and wellbeing of the town, and provided a theatre and sports facilities which could not be replicated or replaced by existing facilities elsewhere. It would be considerably more difficult to get KCC up and running again after a closure than it would be by keeping it open, and he urged everyone present to support the call for NNC to step in to save the building from closure. Imaginative way so managing the facility in the future, using local experience and knowledge, could be explore in such a way that NNC would benefit from a reduced subsidy over time.</p>

Kettering Town Council

In the ensuing discussion, there was widespread support from those present for keeping the building open and for the collaborative approach being proposed for its longer term management. The Town Council was urged to consider how it could support the campaign and NNC were called upon to step in now to prevent a closure in the very short term.

- c) **Alison Holland, Brightwayz.** Alison summarised the work on developing a local cycling and walking infrastructure plan and the consultation that had recently concluded. She also referenced the opportunity to vote for Kettering Station in the best loved local station awards – it had already reached the semi finals nationally – and celebrated the award of a Department for Transport Gold Award to Grange Primary school for all the work they had done, with Brightwayz, to promote road safety in the area of their school building.
- d) **Debbie Cox, Kettering Arts Centre.** Debbie outlined the work of the Arts Centre in the recent past and the programme going forward. Attendance numbers had recovered post covid and some events had sold out; they had a full programme, including involvement with Kettfest and the Literary Festival later this year and were investing in the building and its facilities to improve its functionality as an arts and performance venue. Some significant grants had been secured this year.
- e) **Monica Odzemir, Kettering Civic Society** Monica highlighted the main activities of the Civic Society this year including:-
- The installation of a copy of the Kettering Mosaic at the Cornerstone building, and the making of a film about the history of the mosaic.
 - The creation of a series of comics aimed at children detailing Kettering's history, funded by a Town Council grant
 - Works to improve the environment of the station, including the current competition to find the nation's favourite local station.
 - The forthcoming Literary Festival, planned for 16th September which was already proving very popular with speakers and authors.
- f) **Jane Calcutt, Kettering Food Bank** Jane set out the challenges the food bank was urgently experiencing with rising demand and reduced donations. She highlighted some of the contributions local businesses made to the service in kind or in cash, particularly KLM Taxis .

Kettering Town Council

	<p>g) Thuli Ndlovu, Hope UK. Thali explained that Hope UK was an ancient charity which was now headquartered in Kettering providing drugs education and working to help combat the scourge of county lines in town, which affected hundred of young people as couriers and users. She detailed the junior citizen scheme being launched in July.</p> <p>h) Mike Annable, Kettering Swimming Association Mike spoke about the need to upgrade swimming facilities in Kettering and about the serious impact that the closure of KCC would have on overall swimming facilities in the town. Membership of the club was growing, as was attainment through competitions, but the town's main swimming pool was dated and could not compete with neighbouring facilities in nearby towns. Covid had reduced the number of young people learning to swim. There was an opportunity to provide better facilities in town if KCC was kept open and allowed to expand its offer.</p> <p>General discussion</p> <p>Most people present agreed that the presentations they had heard tonight had provided them with new information and there was a general discussion about how local activities could be better communicated and celebrated. Solutions to this could be developed at a future town meeting.</p> <p>All the material presented tonight would be shared with attendees as quickly as possible.</p>
6	<p>Future meetings</p> <p>It was agreed that future themes for the meetings in September, November and February could include:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mental health (10 votes)- Leisure provision (9 votes)- Support for young people (not voted upon)- The Town Council's future spending (November). <p>(Crime and road safety also received a small number of votes)</p>
7	<p>The Mayor thanked everyone for coming along and meeting closed 8.35pm.</p>

Signed
Date

(chair)

Kettering Town Council