

# Kettering Town Council

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, BOWLING GREEN ROAD, KETTERING AT 6PM ON WEDNESDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2022

## Attendees :

The Mayor, Cllr Keli Watts (Chair) and Councillors Cllrs Carolyn Carter, Robin Carter, Dez Dell, Scott Edwards, Emily Fedorowycz, Clark Mitchell, Anup Pandey (from 7pm), Craig Skinner, James Towns, Bev Wright, and Martyn York.

Mike Annable, Kettering Swimming Club  
Russell Attwood, Kettering Allotment Association  
Richard Barnwell, Kettering Civic Society  
Jane Calcott, Kettering Food Bank and Neighbourhood Watch  
Harry Frankland, Headlands Neighbourhood Planning Group  
Alison Holland, Brightkidz  
Simon Jones, Kettering Refugee Assistance  
NNC Cllr Paul Marks  
Penny Moselely, Soroptimists  
Eleanor Patrick, Toller Church  
NNC Cllr Rusell Roberts  
Jo Selby-Green, Kettfest  
Rebecca Szoltysek, Kettering Arts Centre  
Greg Titcombe, Twinning Association  
Jamie Wildman, Kettering Eco Group  
Margaret Wright, Soroptimists  
Diane Zanger-Miles

Martin Hammond, Town Clerk, and Emma Dezelu, Deputy Town Clerk

Item No	Item Description
1	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> Cllrs Eve Edwards, Keiron Farrow and Daniel Perrett
2	<b>Welcome from the Mayor</b> The Mayor welcomed everyone to the Annual Town Meeting and thanked everyone for coming along
3	<b>Minutes</b> The minutes of the Town meetings held on 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2021 and 21 <sup>st</sup> September 2021 were confirmed as accurate records and signed by the Mayor.

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4	<p><b>Presentation on the Town Council's first year</b></p> <p>Martin Hammond presented the main features of the Town Council's first twelve months 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>Points were made by attendees on the wisdom of not trying to keep the council tax artificially low. A further point on the need to make temporary road closure orders more effective was also made.</p> <p>It was agreed that the presentation would be provided to attendees by email.</p>
5	<p><b>Public Participation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) Mike Annable, Kettering Swimming Association. Mr Annable described the association's 75<sup>th</sup> club championships and the success of local swimmers in county, regional and nation competitions. He was asked about the reasons why there had been a fall off in younger children learning to swim, and he explained that the pandemic had put a two year hole in the normal flow of children having lessons. He confirmed that the more limited "pandemic timetable" for use of the pool was now nearly back to the normal timetable, as the pool staffed back up.</li><li>b) Russell Attwood, Allotment Association. Mr Attwood described some of the improvements which had been put in place by the association, a trend towards smaller plots, partly to help address the waiting lists, and the remaining big challenge of getting NNC to clear the abandoned small-holding next to the Scott Rd allotments in order to convert this land into more plots.</li><li>c) Rebecca Szoltysek, Kettering Arts Centre. Ms Szoltysek described the programme of events that had taken the centre from pandemic conditions to now, and the likely highlights of the coming year.</li><li>d) Simon Jones, Kettering Refugee Assistance Mr Jones described the work of the group to support Syrian, Afghan, Uyghur and Ukrainian refugees</li><li>e) Harry Frankland, Headlands Neighbourhood forum, described the work to progress the neighbourhood plan and thanked the Town Council for its support. He expected that a referendum on the plans would take place later this year.</li><li>f) Jo Selby-Green, Kettfest – Ms Selby-Green outlined how Kettfest was shaping up for 2<sup>nd</sup> July and what the range of events and invited local organisations to engage and develop a presence within the programme as a way of reaching more people. She had also sought financial assistance from</li></ul>

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	<p>members through their ward initiatives monies and from the Town Council. Some members indicated they were able to respond positively to her request and suggested she also approach NNC members.</p> <p>g) Jamie Wildman, Kettering Eco Group. Mr Wildman described the extensive tree planting that had taken place, involving many local people, at Wicksteed Park and on the Ise valley north of Deeble Rd, and the associated educational benefits this had generated.</p> <p>h) Richard Barnwell, Kettering Civic Society – Mr Barnwell set out the aims and objectives of the society, described the progress in getting a version of the Oliver Budd mosaic re-created and erected at Kettering Railway Station, their role in the Heritage Action Zone and some forthcoming events. He emphasised the Society’s commitment in helping to raise the profile of Kettering and generating a sense of place amongst local people.</p> <p>i) Alison Holland, Brightkidz and Brightwayz. Ms Holladn explained that this was a social enterprise working across the country but based locally. She described local initiatives such as walking buses for schools, the recent Play Street project outside Grange School, and work to develop a travel plan for Kettering General Hospital. A plan to develop an active travel hub in the town centre was underway; volunteers were welcome. In answer to questions, she could not commit to any further Play Streets at the moment, although the one that had taken place recently had been very popular. She</p> <p><b>General discussion</b></p> <p>The Mayor was asked how the Council was finding its new role and circumstances. The Council was still finding its way in terms of how to exercise influence and to engage with people, as well as grow its service offer.</p> <p>Disappointment was expressed about the decision of NNC not to renew the Council’s lease within the Municipal Offices.</p>
6	<p><b>Future meetings</b></p> <p>It was agreed that future themes for the meetings in August, November and February could include:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Environment and sustainability</li><li>- Heritage</li><li>- The work of local service organisations – e.g. Rotary, Round Table, Soropomists etc</li><li>- The Town Council’s future spending (November).</li></ul>

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	The Twinning Association volunteered after the meeting to make a contribution in future.
7	The Mayor thanked everyone for coming along and meeting closed 7.17pm.

Signed  
Date

(chair)