

Kettering Town Council

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE OF KETTERING TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, BOWLING GREEN ROAD, KETTERING AT 7PM ON 20th January 2022

Councillors Present: Cllr Craig Skinner (Chair)
Cllrs Lloyd Bunday, Robin Carter, Maggie Don, Scott Edwards and James Towns,

Officers present:- Martin Hammond, Town Clerk

Also present:- Claire Humphrey, Andy Blackshaw, Keith Mays –
Whiteford Dive -or South End - Allotment Society
Russell Attwood, Kettering Allotment Society

Cllr Carolyn Carter (from 8pm)

Item Number	Description
FC21/060	Apologies for absence Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Anup Pandey
FC21/061	Declarations of interest None declared
FC21/062	Minutes The minutes of the meeting held on 16 th December 2021 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the chair.
FC21/063	Whiteford Drive Allotments The Chair welcomed representatives of the Allotment Society for Whiteford Drive (probably more properly called South End Allotments) to the meeting, to discuss remedial works to the allotments. Russell Attwood from the Kettering Allotment Association was also welcomed. The South End Allotment Committee members set out their current concerns and challenges and asked for certainty going forward about their lease, as the previous one had run out in early 2020. Current issues to address included boundary concerns about land both unhelpfully excluded from and included within the site boundary, the condition of the footbridge over the stream,

Kettering Town Council

	<p>flooding risk, tree remediation work on land owned by Southfields School, probable encroachment from a property on Thomas Rd, fly tipping and dumping from the direction of Gower Close. The Association outlined their financial position and what they thought would be a reasonable ask for rent in the future and were seeking a 15-20 year lease .</p> <p>The Association was assured that the Town Council had no other long term intention but to confirm a lease for the Association and to support the allotments to flourish in the future.</p> <p>After extensive discussion, the following actions were AGREED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The Town Council would seek to resolve the three boundary issues with NNC as soon as possible- That, once that was resolved, a new long term lease would be agreed with the Association- That this committee would consider the surveyor's report on the bridge at its next meeting, and that the report would be shared with the Association when received for comments before that meeting- That the clerk would approach Southfields School to ask them to review the condition of their trees on the boundary- That the EA and Anglian Water would be approached to understand their flood alleviation plans in relation to the brook as it affected the allotments- That the encroachment from property in Thomas Rd would be explored from a planning perspective initially
FC21/064	<p>Allotments Sub Committee report</p> <p>Cllr Towns and Russell Attwood referenced issues that were impacting on other allotment sites. There had been a break-in just recently at Scott Rd. Jeakins Weir were providing fencing and gates to the Scott Rd site as part of their work on new housing further down Scott Rd.</p> <p>NNC had not clarified whether they would be prepared to clear the fly-tipped site next to Scott Rd allotments, and had advised that it could cost up to £26,000 to clear it, depending on the level of contamination. It was possible that a capital item could be included in their coming budget – Cllr Bunday to establish if this was likely.</p>

Kettering Town Council

	<p>On Northfield Avenue, cabling works involving WPD has resulted in an offer made to the association to replace their southern gates and lay a gravel track. WPD had only made contact with NNC historically, so it was agreed that the clerk would establish with WPD what their works programme was.</p> <p>NNC had collected the rents for allotments earlier in this financial year and needed to pay them over to the Town Council. Cllr Bunday agreed to chase this up.</p>
FC21/065	<p>Markets Sub Committee report</p> <p>A consultation event on 6th March had been arrange to consider with interested parties how the general market could be revived.</p> <p>The clerk would follow up on securing a licence for Teenage Markets .</p>
FC21/066	<p>Events Sub Committee report</p> <p>The Sub Committee was due to meet next week. The “Views of the High Street Exhibition” was opening on 28th January in the Newlands Centre.</p>
FC21/067	<p>NCALC Asset Management Project</p> <p>A report was submitted which outlined the availability of project funding to audit the assets and services provided by North Northamptonshire Council within Kettering Town area, It was understood that approximately £4000 might be available to support such an audit, the purpose of which was to inform choices and options about which assets and services might be transferable in the future from the unitary council to this council.</p> <p>Members were provided with more material that NCALC had produced to guide the process, although there was still more detail expected.</p> <p>Members were reminded that the Corporate Plan adopted at Council on 19th January did not set out to secure transfers of assets or services from NNC as a broad policy objective and that such transfers were always on a case by case basis.</p> <p>RESOLVED that</p> <p>a) The availability of funds be noted</p>

Kettering Town Council

	<p>b) That this committee act as the management body for any project work undertaken.</p>
FC21/068	<p>Public Toilets location</p> <p>The Committee was advised that a short list of four potential sites had been submitted to North Northamptonshire Council as possible locations for new public toilets. Informally, NNC had advised that one of these sites appeared to be acceptable.</p> <p>Before the meeting, members had toured all four sites.</p> <p>AGREED that the preferred site, of those available, was the one off Wadcroft Car Park behind the Peacock public house.</p> <p>Cllr Bunday would mention our interest in the Dryland St site to the NNC portfolio holder.</p>
FC21/069	<p>Community Lottery Update</p> <p>The committee was advised that an agreement with Woods Valldata had now been signed and that a licence application to NNC for a gambling licence was in preparation.</p> <p>The clerk provided a summary of the arrangements for the community lottery and the service that Woods Valldata would provide to it; the Council remained legally responsible for the lottery and its operation and would also be responsible for promotion and advertising it.</p> <p>There were a number of steps that that needed to be taken before the lottery could be set up and promoted, and a number of initial decisions were made by members.</p> <p>RESOLVED that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) The lottery be called the Kettering Town Lotteryb) Promotional costs should be deducted from the proceeds, along with the prize money and Woods Valldata's charges, leaving an amount of approximately 60p in the £ for good causes.c) The clerk would circulate the draft constitution for members' comments, prior to it being submitted for approval to the next full Council and that this would be the vehicle for determining the good causes that the lottery would supportd) That a start date should be in April

Kettering Town Council

FC21/070	Budget monitoring statement and bank reconciliation The committee received and noted a statement of income and expenditure as of 11 th January 2022.
FC21/071	Invoices A report was submitted detailing invoices due, which was updated verbally at the meeting. Members also noted the invoices that had been paid under delegated powers since the last meeting. RESOLVED that the following invoices be approved for payment:- <ul style="list-style-type: none">• NNC election costs £34,000 now and a further £17,103 either by the end of March or in early 2022/23 financial year depending on the Council's overall financial position at the end of March.• Rob Adaway Structural Solutions inspection of the bridge at Whiteford Drive Allotments £150.00• NCALC – appointment of internal auditors £450• Cllr S Edwards, Mayoral expenses year to date £126.25• Legacy Leisure, Corn market Hall booking; market consultation event £61
FC21/072	Items for the next meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Policy on grants and ward initiatives fund- Bridge repairs, Whiteford Drive/South End allotments- Monitoring of corporate plan action plan
	Meeting closed at 8.44 pm

Signed.....

Date.....