



MINUTES OF THE FULL KETTERING TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOLLER CHURCH ROOMS, MEETING LANE, KETTERING AT 7PM ON 7<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2023

Attendees: Cllr Emily Fedorowycz (Mayor) (Chair)

Cllrs Lloyd Bunday, Scott Edwards, Alexander Evelyn, Clark Mitchell, Anup Pandey, Daniel Perrett, James Towns, Sarah Tubbs, Keli Watts, Bev Wright and Martyn York.

Town Clerk: Martin Hammond

No of Public Present: Approximately 50 including 1 member of the press.

Item No	Item Description
2023/18	<b>Apologies for absence</b>  Apologies for absence were received from the Deputy Mayor and Cllrs C Carter, R Carter, Dell, Don, E Edwards, Farrow and Rowley,
2023/19	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>  <b>None</b>
2023/20	<b>Minutes</b>  The minutes of the annual meeting held on 17 <sup>th</sup> May 2023 were approved and signed as a correct record,
2023/21	<b>Public Speakers</b>  Notification had been received from people asking to speak on item 2023/24 as follows <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Janine Simper – Anderson School of Dance</li><li>- Isabel Holmes – KCC Community Support Group</li><li>- Cllr Anne Lee – NNC</li></ul>
2022/22	<b>Threatened Closure of Kettering Conference Centre</b>  The meeting had been called to address the risk that the Kettering Conference Centre might close on 3 <sup>rd</sup> July unless a rescue package could be put together.



The three speakers listed above all addressed the meeting and made the following points

- Janine Simper – NNC should ensure the conference centre did not close by using its convening power to broker a deal and if necessary provide short term support to keep it open.
- Isabel Holmes – a survey of over 400 respondents had demonstrated that even a temporary closure would have a negative impact on the ability and commitment of existing users to maintain health and fitness regimes, particularly amongst older people, parents carers and people with disabilities/neurodivergence. There would be a loss of cultural capital for young people, and long term damage to local businesses.
- Cllr Anne Lee – it was incumbent upon the leadership of NNC to ensure the continuation of KCC.

Cllr Mitchell moved and Cllr Pandey seconded:-

“Kettering Town Council is concerned at the potential closure of Kettering Conference Centre shortly. It strongly believes that the best chance for the centre to flourish in the future is to avoid even a temporary closure now. There is an urgent need to find a consortium of interested parties who can pick up and manage the centre and the organisation best placed to convene such a consortium is NNC, which retains a strong interest in the provision of sport, leisure, economic development and the overall welfare of Kettering, of which this building is an important feature. KTC urges NNC and other parties to work closely together to find a workable solution before the building is shut”

Cllr Wright moved and Cllr Mitchell seconded an amendment to the motion as follows:-

That the final sentence of the motion be replaced with  
“KTC urges NNC to convene an extraordinary meeting of its executive to discuss this vital issue before it is too late to find a workable solution.”

FOR THE AMENDMENT	5
AGAINST	6

Amendment lost

Cllr York moved and Cllr Mitchell seconded an amendment to the motion as follows



That the third and fourth sentences of the motion be amended so that the whole motion read:

“Kettering Town Council is concerned at the potential closure of Kettering Conference Centre. It strongly believes that the best chance for the centre to flourish in the future is to avoid even a temporary closure. There is an urgent need to find a solution and KTC is heartened by the NNC announcement that it recognises its position as an enabler and broker to drive forward a solution and that it remains committed to working with all parties to find a positive outcome for the people of Kettering and the wider area. KCC is a prominent provider of sport, leisure, economic development, and the overall welfare of Kettering. KTC supports NNC in its ongoing efforts with other parties to find a workable solution.”

FOR THE AMENDMENT 11

AGAINST 0

Amendment carried

The meeting discussed the amended substantive motion, and members addressed the history of the site, the complex legal arrangements which applied to its ownership and management and the importance of ensuring the facility di not close because of the damage this would cause to the artistic and sporting profile of the town, and the ability of people to improve their health and well being in a supportive environment. The economic impact of closure, and the inability to do anything else with the land and building because of the covenants applying would generate irreparable harm.

It was reported that NNC were engaged in discussions with Phoenix Leisure and Compass which entailed the sharing of commercially sensitive information and this had prevented a wider sharing of the progress of those discussions with the public. Nevertheless, efforts were in place to seek to save KCC from closure.

FOR THE SUBSTANTIVE MOTION 12

AGAINST 0

**RESOLVED** that the motion as amended above be approved and communicated to North Northamptonshire Council.



# Kettering

TOWN COUNCIL

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	<p>The meeting was closed at 8.10pm.</p> <p>The Mayor then chaired an informal public meeting whereby those present were able to make additional points or ask questions about the legal, practical and financial aspects of the current centre.</p>

Signed .....

Date .....