

Kettering Town Council

MINUTES OF THE FULL KETTERING TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, BOWLING GREEN ROAD, KETTERING AT 7PM ON 23RD MARCH 2022

Attendees: Cllr Scott Edwards (Mayor) (Chair)

Cllrs Lloyd Bunday, Carolyn Carter, Robin Carter, Dez Dell, Maggie Don, Eve Edwards, Alexander Evelyn, Kieran Farrow, Emily Fedorowyz, Clark Mitchell, Daniel Perrett, Mark Rowley, Craig Skinner, James Towns, Keli Watts, Bev Wright and Martyn York

Town Clerk: Martin Hammond

No of Public Present: None

Item No	Item Description
2021/136	Apologies for absence Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Anup Pandey and Sarah Tubbs.
2021/137	Declarations of Interest Cllr Bunday declared an interest in the item on market management as he had a business relationship with the employment agency referred to.
2021/138	Minutes The minutes of the last meeting held on 16 th February 2022 were approved and signed as a correct record.
2021/139	Public Speakers None
2021/140	Announcements from the Mayor The Mayor referenced the vigils for Ukraine that had taken place in Kettering and thanked those members who had helped organise it. He also referred to the tree planting that had taken place on the Ise Valley earlier in the month, organised by members and the Kettering Eco-Group.

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2021/141	<p>Announcements from the Leader</p> <p>The Leader advised Council that an appointment had been made to the new post of Deputy Clerk Events and Communications and that the post would be filled during April.</p> <p>He also paid tribute to the police who had successfully managed a bomb alert in Avondale-Grange ward in the recent past.</p>
2021/142	<p>Motion – Conflict in Ukraine</p> <p>Cllr Bunday moved and Cllr Fedorowycz seconded that</p> <p><i>Kettering Town Council supports North Northamptonshire Council’s statement that unreservedly condemns the unprovoked aggression of Russia in invading the Ukraine and stands in solidarity with the Ukrainian people and supports the British Government in its diplomatic and economic measures against the Russian State. In doing so we recognise that our Town has residents from the Ukraine and other, Baltic, countries who choose to live in our democratic country in peace and harmony.</i></p> <p>It was unanimously</p> <p>RESOLVED accordingly</p>
2021/143	<p>Nomination of Deputy Mayor for 2022/23</p> <p>Cllr Bunday moved and Cllr Mitchell seconded that Cllr Emily Fedorowycz be nominated as Deputy Mayor for the next municipal year.</p> <p>RESOLVED unanimously</p>
2021/144	<p>Revision of Financial Regulations</p> <p>A report was presented proposing a revision to the financial regulations, to bring them in line with recent decisions and with the Councils’ practices as they had developed since last May. The exercise to revise the regulations had been recommended by the internal auditor in her interim report, and had been considered by the Finance and Governance Committee at its last meeting.</p> <p>Members identified some minor errors in the drafting and subject to these being corrected, it was</p> <p>RESOLVED that the revised financial regulations be approved and adopted.</p>

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2021/145	<p>Ward Initiatives Fund</p> <p>A report was presented setting out the proposed rules for the use of the ward initiatives fund, which had been agreed by the Finance and Governance Committee at its February meeting.</p> <p>Members sought clarification on aspects of the scheme. It was noted that all monies from each member's allocation needed to be at least committed by the end of December in each year and spent by the end of March each year (or earlier in a whole council election year).</p> <p>RESOLVED that the ward Initiatives Policy and guidelines as set out in the report be approved.</p>
2021/146	<p>Small Grants Policy</p> <p>A report was presented setting out the proposed criteria and rules for the award of grants under this fund, which had also been agreed by the Finance and Governance Committee at its February meeting.</p> <p>It was noted that the range of activities which the grants policy sought to support could be met in a number of ways and were intended to encourage projects which satisfied several objectives simultaneously.</p> <p>The policy would be subject to review after its first year.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the small grants policy and governance as set out in the report be adopted.</p>
2021/147	<p>Crime and anti-social behaviour figures for February 2022</p> <p>These were noted</p>
2021/148	<p>Market Management</p> <p>A report was circulated at the meeting setting out the current issues with regard to the transfer of responsibility for the management of the general market from 1st April 2022. NNC had decided it did not wish to continue providing a service to the Town Council to install and remove market stalls each market day, and had asked the Town Council to employ the existing staff directly or through an agency.</p> <p>Given the time left before the transfer date, and that negotiations with the staff concerned and the agency were still underway, the clerk sought authority to conclude those negotiations within an overall financial envelope.</p> <p>RESOLVED that :-</p>

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	<p>a) the clerk be given authority to negotiate an employment package, either directly or through an employment agency, which contains the total employment cost of erecting and dismantling market stalls on each day to £23,500 or less.</p> <p>b) If the employment agency route is chosen, then authority be given to enter into a contract with the current supplier used by NNC, without seeking alternative quotes from other suppliers, pending a review during the next six months.</p>
2021/149	<p>Planning Committee</p> <p>The Chair, Cllr York, outlined the proceedings of the Planning Committee meeting in March, and summarised the decisions arrived by the planning authority and the extent to which they reflected the Town Council's views.</p> <p>He, Cllr Mitchell and Cllr Rowley also commented on the reasoning and decision by NNC to approve the application on the Hogs Head site which the Town Council had opposed.</p> <p>Members endorsed the idea that a town centre plan was required to better guide development across the central urban areas of the town.</p>
2021/150	<p>Finance and Governance Committee</p> <p>The chair, Cllr Skinner summarised the activities of the Finance Committee across its last two meetings, in particular on allotments, markets and events. It was further</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>a) That the Council's insurance policy with Zurich Municipal in the sum of £1486 be approved</p> <p>b) That the national pay award for local government staff of 1.75% be applied from April 2022.</p>
2021/151	<p>Staffing Committee</p> <p>The minutes of the Staffing Committee were summarised by the chair, Cllr Bunday.</p>
2021/152	<p>Climate Change Working Group</p> <p>Cllr Fedorowycz outlined work on various elements of the climate change advice on the website and some good practice taking place locally. It was agreed that meetings of the working group would be put</p>

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	in the calendar of meetings and that public attendance at these meetings, which were usually held remotely, would be enabled.
	The meeting was closed at 7.40 pm.

Signed

Date