

# Kettering Town Council

MINUTES OF THE TOWN MEETING HELD IN THE TOLLER CHURCH ROOMS ,  
MEETING LANE, KETTERING AT 7PM ON 15<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2023

## Attendees :

The Mayor, Cllr Emily Fedorowycz (Chair)  
Councillors Lloyd Bunday, Carolyn Carter, Robin Carter, Dez Dell, Maggie Don,  
Clark Mitchell, James Towns, Sarah Tubbs, Keli Watts, Martyn York and Bev Wright

Bill Burton  
David Brown, Friends of the Art Gallery  
Karen Hayes, Citizens Advice  
Kevin Marchand, Headlands RA  
Eleanor Patrick, Toller Church  
Jonathan Smith, Kettering Mind

Martin Hammond, Town Clerk, Emma Dezelu, Deputy Clerk, Zuzanna Brzostowska,  
Administrative Officer

Item No	Item Description
1	<p><b>Apologies for Absence</b></p> <p>Apologies were received from Cllrs Eve Edwards, Evelyn, Pandey and Skinner.</p>
2	<p><b>Welcome from the Mayor</b></p> <p>The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was for the council to consult on its budget for 2024-5, to up[date on mental health collaboration since the last meeting and to consider whether the format and style of town meetings should be reviewed and changed.</p>
3	<p><b>Town Council's Budget for 2024-5</b></p> <p>The clerk gave a presentation on the proposed budget for next financial year and the meeting discussed the proposals for new activities and the consequent increased in precept and budget. The presentation also reviewed what had taken place over the last calendar year.</p> <p>Cllr Keli Watts proposed a vote of thanks to officers of the Town Council for the way in which they had managed their work in 2023, and the significant, and popular, increase in the events programme which had resulted. This was supported unanimously.</p>

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	<p>Issues which arose from the discussion included:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• how a running event might be provided, what the known demand was for such an event and whether it could be expanded to include other activities on the day. The ability, or otherwise of local clubs and schools to support such events, with volunteers, was discussed. There would need to be a relationship with Park Run which happened every week at Wicksteed Park</li><li>• -whether other suppliers, e,g, the Green Patch, might be able to contribute to future planting displays in the town centre</li><li>• -whether there was a significant need for more speed devices and whether they had an effect on traffic speeds. The local view on Pytchley Rd was that lorry speeds in particular had been improved by the device there.</li><li>• How the events programme had been assembled and how the costs were broken down between events. Some clashes of events had occurred and the planned Kettering Cultural Consortium would help co-ordinate and promote events.</li></ul> <p>A suggestion was made that town centres elsewhere had benefited from public wi-fi coverage and that this was something the town council could explore. There was support for more free parking days.</p> <p>A further comment was that there was a need to revive inter-school sporting activities, but that there was a shortage of coaches, volunteers and resources.</p>
4	<p><b>Mental Health Collaboration</b></p> <p>The Mayor updated the meeting on work she and others had been doing to capture the range of services which provided support to people in Kettering under the broad aegis of mental health. This had flowed from the previous town meeting in September. The objective was to increase awareness of what was available in a structured format and it linked closely to the work of the Local Area Partnership who were also addressing the information deficit about the range of public and community services in town. The Mayor showed some examples of what had been produced to date.</p> <p>It was suggested that the information collated should be road tested on mental health professionals and with the NHFT</p> <p>The Council was also thanked for its help in unblocking the planning application by Kettering Mind for their premises in Beatrice Rd.</p>

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5	<p><b>Kettering Town Meetings – format and future subject matter</b></p> <p>The Council was seeking views on whether it should review the way in which Town Meetings were convened and run and whether this was the most effective way of engaging with local people and organisations.</p> <p>Various options were proposed and debated. It was agreed that meetings should continue to be themed, but that their focus should be more on interactive problem resolution than simply relying on a series of presentations followed by networking. The size of attendance was likely to be crucial to their success, so there needed to be a limit on numbers coming. Alternative venues round the town were also proposed. The Mayor demonstrated a tool (Slido) which might help enable group discussion, and people present were shown how it could be used.</p> <p>The following subject matters were identified for future meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Leisure, activities and sport, particularly for schools</li><li>• Arts and Events programmes and promotion</li><li>• Supporting local pubs to expand their offer of events and activities and to help revive Pubwatch.</li><li>• Street scene concerns – litter, graffiti, pavements obstructed by bins and parking</li><li>• Neighbourhood planning for the town centre and beyond</li></ul>
	<p><b>Meeting closed at 8.25pm</b></p>

Signed  
Date

(chair)