

ROTHWELL TOWN COUNCIL

A Meeting of Rothwell Town Council was held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday, 12th April 2016 in the Market House, Market Hill, Rothwell.

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Councillor R Wilson Councillor M E Cox Councillor C W Cross Councillor R V Davis Councillor I F Jelley Councillor Mrs M E Talbot County Councillor J Hakewill	<u>In the Chair</u>
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148 CHAIRMAN OF THE MEETING

It was MOVED by Councillor Mrs Talbot, SECONDED by Councillor Jelley and RESOLVED that Councillor Wilson should take the Chair for this Meeting.

149 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from the Town Mayor, the Deputy Town Mayor, Councillors Goodwin, Mills, Newman and Spendlove, and from the Revd Canon John Westwood.

150 COMMUNITY POLICING

Crime Figures

No Police Officers were able to be present at this Meeting. The Police are also updating their system of recording crime figures so the usual statement had not been received, but the day after this Meeting the Clerk received an E-mail from the Police Safer Community Team with the following figures:-

- Burglary dwelling – 7
- Burglary other - 3
- Theft of motor vehicles – 1
- Attempted burglary dwelling – 1.

Speeding

A Press Release had been received from the Police & Crime Commissioner that he had approved a Crime and Disorder Reduction Grant of £67,925 to the County Council to help reduce speeding offences at several sites in the County.

151 MINUTES

It was MOVED by Councillor Cross, SECONDED by Councillor Jelley and RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th March 2016 be confirmed and signed.

152 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

(1) 9-11 High Street: Mr Jeremy Sharman, who is local to this area, confirmed he is investing in property here, including Nos. 9-11 High Street. He was disappointed to note that the Town Council had objected to his planning application and wanted to see if we could sort this out. The Borough Council said they would be happy for his application to be granted. He had spoken to Councillor Sumpter who felt Mr Sharman could talk to the owner of the Rowell

Charter Inn to see if the occupiers of 9-11 High Street could use their car park. He also thought there was a proposal to have more parking in the High Street area. It was pointed out that there was already planning permission for two houses in the yard at the rear of these premises and if the shop premises were turned into flats there would be more cars parked in the High Street. Mr Sharman said you cannot get a car up the yard at the side, but Councillors pointed out that this has been done. Mr Sharman was happy to have one flat and have a shop on the ground floor. He has always been able to park in this area as there are also the spaces at Sun Hill. It was felt that even if he obtained permission to use the ancillary car park at the Charter Inn, the residents might not use this. Some Members felt that a shop and one flat would be acceptable and we would like more retail premises in this part of Rothwell, but there was also concern about customers parking here. Councillor Cox had noticed some building work at this property.

Councillor Wilson confirmed that the Town Council would re-consider any revised application and would prefer a retail outlet.

(2) Aztec Football Club: Mr Toby Howell reported that the Aztecs are having a Presentation Day on Saturday, 25th June at the Corinthians Club ground, starting at about 11.45 am and with a barbeque and an evening disco. They will ask the Town Mayor to this, and they would like the Police to attend. It was AGREED the Clerk will ask if the mobile Police Station could be taken to this event.

The presentations will be for all the age groups and about 300 children have joined the Aztecs. One team is going to Holland this year and the Town Council might like the Aztecs to take something over as a gift. Mr Howell will E-mail the Clerk with all the details.

153 REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

(1) Northern Relief Road: Councillor Hakewill is finding it hard to discuss this with Persimmon but he still felt that this road has to come in with the proposed development at Rothwell North and West. The County had approved having a 7 metre road there and might assist with the costs. He will talk to Councillor Mrs Talbot about this and see what progress they can make before any work starts. The County has some capital and the Borough will sometimes finance a capital improvement, and then they get the money back from the developer.

(2) Town Plan: Councillor Hakewill noticed the Town Council had recently had a Meeting with Julia Baish of the Borough Council and it was AGREED the Clerk would send him a copy of the notes of this Meeting. As this item had been raised by the County Councillor, it was AGREED to discuss the Town Plan now rather than later in the Meeting.

Councillor Cox felt strongly that we should go for the Neighbourhood Plan as this would have more power because it would be a statutory document that is given consideration when determining planning applications as it is part of the Local Plan and has legal weight. The Clerk had copied an item from the NCALC Update for Members of the Town Council and this said a Neighbourhood Plan is a statutory document that is given consideration, but this does not mean the Planning Authority will always abide by the policies in the Neighbourhood Plan. It would also cost a lot more and take much longer than a Parish Plan to prepare so a Neighbourhood Plan might be too late to be considered when a decision is made on Rothwell North and West. Some Members felt we should go for a Parish Plan and others felt a Neighbourhood Plan would be much better. Julia Baish did say that Parish Plans can be used to influence decisions taken by the Planning Committee.

County Councillor Hakewill said that Town and Parish Councils are not listened to but the current Government said if you have a Neighbourhood Plan in place it will be part of the Law and this is the first time Town and Parish Councils can have a legal input with a Neighbourhood Plan but the Planners rarely refer to Parish Plans when they consider issues.

The Clerk pointed out that a Neighbourhood Plan would take much longer to complete than a Parish Plan, and so it could be completed too late to be taken into account when the final application on Rothwell North and West is considered.

As to schooling, Councillor Hakewill said some time ago there was £15,000 allocated for Rothwell and he believed the finances are still there. There are now 140 Neighbourhood Plans in the country and these have to be taken into account on issues, such as the northern bypass and the schools can be influenced by these. In the Minutes Councillor Jelley said there was a meeting of the County Council and the schools, and Councillor Hakewill would have liked to have been invited. Councillor Jelley explained he was only invited at the last moment and this meeting was at Montsaye. Councillor Hakewill said there is already land available for a new primary school near Montsaye and this is the kind of issue which could be in the Neighbourhood Plan to ensure there is adequate provision.

Councillor Hakewill has been discussing the County budgets and £5m has been taken out of the total. The Community Interest Council started this April and tried to get the County and the various agencies to look after older people. There are likely to be changes in the Local Government structures in a few years but it is still about providing services for local people. It was asked what would happen if Desborough had a Secondary School and this would make things easier for Montsaye. Councillor Hakewill could not envisage an extra secondary school in Desborough but there has always been provision for a new primary school at Rothwell North but Councillor Jelley had been told this would not happen.

It was MOVED by Councillor Cross, SECONDED by Councillor Wilson and RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting with Julia Baish held on 14th March 2016 be confirmed and signed.

(3) Footpath, Well Lane Recreation Ground: Councillor Cox said the Borough Council was going to look at the lights on the footpath here, down to Columbus Crescent. The Clerk had heard from Michael Chester at the Borough that this is now on the list of work and he hoped it would be done soon. There is also the path which is to be upgraded by Bovis from Well Lane Recreation Ground right down to Gordon Street. Councillor Mrs Talbot will get in touch with Brendan Coleman about these matters.

154 ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITY

Town Centre Partnership

Copies of the Report of the Meeting of the Town Centre Partnership had been circulated prior to this Meeting. It was MOVED by Councillor Cox, SECONDED by Councillor Cross and RESOLVED that the Report be approved and adopted.

Blythe Close Play Area

Dave Lane has confirmed that the Rothwell scheme for play equipment for disabled children here has come first and has been chosen by Tesco customers to receive the top grant of £12,000. They will send Mr Lane the formal offer and the conditions by Friday, 15th April. The Clerk had immediately informed the parents who originally raised this request.

Annual Litter Pick

This is taking place on Saturday, 23rd April 2016, meeting at the Market House at 1.45 pm and the Scouts are going to help. Councillor Wilson has arranged to get the necessary equipment from the Borough Council.

Adrian Coles from the Scouts had asked whether we wanted them to do the recreation grounds, or they could focus on the street (and be publicly visible). The Town Council felt it would be best if the Scouts cleaned up the recreation grounds as this would be safer for young people and the Public Liability Insurance could be adversely affected if they were on the streets. We will ask if they can start in Manor Park, then do the footpath up to Well Lane Recreation Ground and clean in there as well. If they have time, they could then move into Columbus Crescent open space and do some work there. We will ask the local media for some suitable publicity.

Skateboard Ramp

The Clerk had been informed by a resident that there was a hole in one of the platforms of the ramp, and two fire extinguishers had been put down there; it was not known where the fire extinguishers had come from, but perhaps these had been taken from the Community Centre. The Clerk had informed Dave Lane, and the resident had subsequently confirmed the repair had been done.

Visit to Marlow House

The Clerk had E-mailed Marlow House to ask if it would be convenient for Members of the Town Council to visit at 7.30 pm on Thursday, 12th May but has not yet received a reply. It was AGREED the Clerk should ask them again.

Pollution Watch

An E-mail had been received from Anglian Water about this scheme. It was AGREED to take no action here.

Coach House

The Secretary of the Citizens Welfare Committee had asked the Clerk to publicly thank Councillor Mark Cox and his two helpers for tidying up the Coach House and sorting out the items stored there. They are very grateful and believe it is now tidier than it has been for about twenty years.

155 PLANNING

Notifications

The following Approvals had been received:-

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| KET/2016/0068 | 18 Sharman Way – Garage to habitable accommodation. |
| KET/2016/0098 | Middle Lodge, Violet Lane – Demolition of barn and side extension. |

Applications

The following Application had been received and the Town Council's observations submitted as stated:-

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| KET/2016/0126 | 5 Bell Hill – Change of use to bakery, extraction unit and fire door.
No objection. |
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Enforcement

The Clerk had informed the Borough Council that work was being carried out on the land adjoining the Cricket Club but the fence had not been erected. This fence is only required before the use as a car valet service is actually started and they are now only preparing the area.

156 HIGHWAYS

A14 Lay-by

Copies of the E-mail from Highways England had been circulated prior to this Meeting and this explained the current situation as follows:-

“Highways England have considered the alternative of fully closing the eastbound lay-by to the east of Rothwell; however there are significant reasons why we feel the emergency lay-by is the most preferable option:

1. The lay-by currently contains an emergency telephone. Whilst Highways England are aware that many people now carry mobile phones, their use is not universal. And many of us have been caught out by phone batteries which run out during the day. Where there is an emergency telephone already in place, it would take a very special set of circumstances to justify removal of this.
2. If the emergency telephone is to be retained, the safest place for it to be is within a lay-by (even one such as this which is substandard width). A future Road Safety Audit may well find that a telephone without a lay-by is unsafe. There are some other surfaces which can be used which would provide some form of hard standing for a vehicle in an emergency; however these are significantly more expensive to lay, as well as to maintain. And it still may not discourage a driver from using it inappropriately if they are close to their limit on the number of hours they can drive and know they will be automatically fined if they carry on driving.
3. In order to progress the conversion of this lay-by, Highways England are required to consult with all relevant stakeholders, which includes freight organisations such as the Freight Transport Association and Road Haulage Association. They appear to have (grudgingly) accepted that the lay-by is not suitable for regular use due to its position and width; however by proposing to ban its use outright we run a significant risk of getting objections along the lines of point 1 above and Highways England would struggle to justify a full closure on that basis.
4. I do accept that some drivers will still stop in this lay-by outside of emergencies (and reaching the end of their allotted driving hours does not constitute an emergency). However, by doing so they would be taking a significant risk, namely that there isn't a Police vehicle passing by during the course of their break. HGV drivers are not allowed to simply cut short their breaks because they see a Police vehicle approaching and would again be automatically fined for doing so (their tachograph would pick up that they had taken insufficient break). Whilst I don't expect Police vehicles to be patrolling the A14 all the time, I would hope that if a patrol car saw a vehicle in an emergency lay-by, they might pull over and see what the issue was – and if there was no emergency, give the driver a ticket accordingly. Highways England have consulted with Northamptonshire Police, who have noted that resources would not enable them to provide regular specific enforcement; however I would hope that they might be able to investigate usage of the lay-by soon after conversion (when in the area) and get the message across early on that abuse of the lay-by will not be tolerated.

Highways England are not allowed to cone off the lay-by (as with any part of our network) without giving notice to stakeholders, apart from in the case of an emergency. A TTRO

(Temporary Traffic Regulation Order) would be required for this. This also takes time to bring about, whilst there are substantial costs too for maintenance of the temporary closure.

Ultimately, the main reason why there are so many issues with HGV parking in and around Rothwell comes down to a lack of available parking in the area. I am aware planning permission has been given for a lorry park at Rothwell but this has yet to be built.”

Old Lighting Columns

The Clerk had asked if one of the old lighting columns could be given to the Arts & Heritage Centre for them to put in their garden, but a reply had been received from Balfour Beatty that they do not give out any old columns or material in regard to the upgrades taking place.

Community Enhancement Gangs

The usual communication had been received from KierWSP about the Community Enhancement Gangs and the work they can carry out. As there was a deadline of Friday, 8th April the Clerk had consulted the Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor and had sent in a request for work to be done in Glendon Road as follows:-

(1) Verges: The western verge at the bottom of Rock Hill has been badly cut up by lorries turning in that area. We have ascertained the company responsible which has now been asked to stop their drivers turning there but we would be grateful if this could be tidied up and re-planted as necessary. If the eastern verge could also receive some work so they are both in the same good condition, this would be a bonus.

(2) Footpaths: Both the footways in Glendon Road need siding out and especially that on the southern side.

(3) Clearing of Vegetation: The footway on the southern side desperately needs to have the vegetation cut back/cleared with some areas being worse than others. We would therefore be grateful if the weeds, bushes and overhanging trees could be cut back, together with any other vegetation encroaching on the footway (including a lot of ivy in one section). We do appreciate that some of the bushes actually belong to the owners of the properties behind the fences along sections of this road but a lot of these owners are now elderly and unable to carry out this work.

We had not yet heard whether the Community Enhancement Gangs would be able to carry out all or any of this work.

It was reported that some of the vegetation has been cut back, and it was thought that Pells had done this work.

Traffic Conditions

An E-mail had been received from a resident of Tebbutt Close who was very concerned by the number of road traffic incidents he had witnessed in Bridge Street and he felt that the parking area should be removed and double yellow lines installed before someone is hurt or worse. It was AGREED to reply that this area has been looked at and it is not thought anything can be done which will make the area safer.

The resident also mentioned Glendon Road and the Clerk will confirm that it is proposed to have some double yellow lines in the area of Churchill Close, because the dip in the road does obscure visibility there.

Squires Hill

Councillor Jelley said a disabled resident had told him that the surface of the roadway in Squires Hill is now very rough and it is difficult for her to go up there in her mobility scooter. It was thought that this is not a highway but an access road to Manor House, Manor Park and the Church so it is probably the responsibility of the Borough Council. There are footpaths here which people in mobility scooters should use. It was thought this is about 30 feet long, and it was AGREED to ask Ian Boyes if anything can be done in the interests of safety.

Footpath, Harrington Road

Councillor Spendlove had asked the Clerk about our request to have a new footpath put in Harrington Road, from the new estate road there up to the access to Orton House (now Wallis House). The Clerk had E-mailed the Borough Planning Department but had not received a reply.

157 MATTERS OF BUSINESSRockin' Rowell

Councillor Wilson said that this year the event is likely to be held at the rear of the Conservative Club and it is proposed it will take place on Saturday, 6th August.

Horses in Fields

There are now some horses in a field off Harrington Road: this land is owned by Persimmon and they have been informed and are planning to take action.

Northants CALC

The Clerk had circulated copies of the questionnaire from NCALC and asked the Members of the Town Council to complete this and either return it direct to Danny Moody, or to let her have the completed form and she will return this. She has sent in the Clerk's copy and understood that they will be sending out reminders to anyone not returning this.

We have also just received the invoice for the year 2016/17 in the total sum of £2,087.27 (including £200 for the Internal Audit) and this will be put forward for payment at the next Meeting.

Signs for Rothwell House Hotel

It was reported that these have gone from the gable end wall of the Arts & Heritage Centre, and most of those on the Hotel itself. Councillor Sumpter had reported this to the Borough Planning Enforcement Officer who has dealt with this.

158 FINANCIAL REPORTGeneral Statement

The Clerk submitted a written statement as attached. It was MOVED by Councillor Cross, SECONDED by Councillor Jelley and RESOLVED that the statement be approved and adopted and the following amounts paid:-

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Goods or Services</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Ricoh UK Ltd (Pd.31.3.16)	Copier/Printer Maintenance	£21.16

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Goods or Services</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Mrs C E Mackay	Clerk's Salary	£612.00
Inter County Cleaning Services	Cleaning Market House	£40.80
A B Mackay	Reimbursement for polish for oiled floor	£52.80
Cash	Petty Cash	£20.00

Annual Governance Statement 2015-16

Copies of this Statement had been circulated prior to this Meeting. It was MOVED by Councillor Mrs Talbot, SECONDED by Councillor Jelley and RESOLVED that the Statement be approved and signed by Councillor Roger Wilson as Chairman of this Meeting.

Accounting Statements

The Clerk had completed these for approval, but had not put this item on the Agenda as she was not certain that they would be finished in time for this Meeting. It was AGREED to put this on the Agenda for the May Meeting.

Printing by the Borough Council

Notification had been received that in future the Borough will make the following charges for printing by them:

- 6p + VAT per printed copy (mono)
- 10p + VAT per printed copy (colour).

The Borough has now also stopped providing the paper free of charge for use by the Town Council. Councillor Cox mentioned that Colemans will deliver paper free of charge.

159 ADMISSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC

In view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it was AGREED that the Press and Public be asked to leave the Meeting.