

ROTHWELL TOWN COUNCIL

A Meeting of Rothwell Town Council was held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday, 11th April 2017 in the Market House, Market Hill, Rothwell.

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Councillor C W Cross Councillor R V Davis Councillor T Morrissey Councillor Mrs M E Talbot Councillor R Wilson County Councillor J Hakewill	<u>In the Chair</u>
-----------------	--	---------------------

310 PRAYERS

Before the business of the Council commenced, the Revd Canon John Westwood said Prayers and referred to the Town Council and the agenda for the Meeting, and also for the community in Rothwell as we are approaching Easter.

311 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from the Town Mayor and Councillors Mrs Brown, Cox, Goodwin, Jelley, Newman and Spendlove.

312 COMMUNITY POLICING

General Report/Crime Figures

PCSOs Kirsty Ellerby and Jason Parish were present at the Meeting, and copies of the list of crimes were available. There were four incidents of Burglary Dwelling, with two gaining access to a property and two not. It was confirmed that the crime numbers are down in the town as a lot of the incidents happened on the A14. As to the burglaries, they have not yet caught anyone so they do not know if they are local. The area around the Community Centre is now being patrolled regularly but this area does need better lighting and possibly CCTV cameras as well. It was AGREED that the Clerk should write to David Lane and Martin Hammond at the Borough Council with this request.

They have done speed checks in Greening Road and it seems that it is only a perception that the vehicles are speeding. There are still sufficient speed humps there which prevent drivers going too fast and the parked cars also slow vehicles down.

The Town Council wants to hold a special Meeting to discuss the traffic arrangements during Rowell Fair week with all relevant people including the Lord of the Manor's Bailiff. It was AGREED this would take place at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, 25th April in the Market House.

As to the Women's Cycle Tour through Rothwell on 7th June, Councillor Hakewill asked about inviting local people and the Clerk said the Tour organisers usually let us have publicity material.

The Clerk had received information about the speed sign indicator system being organised by Corby Borough Council, for which there is a cost for the devices and the service and the maintenance of the cameras. It was AGREED that the Clerk should circulate this information for the next Town Council Meeting.

Police & Crime Commissioner

Notification had been received of the regular Meeting with Councillors with the Police & Crime Commissioner, and this has been arranged for 7.00 pm on Tuesday, 18th April in the Lecture Theatre at Wootton Hall. This is also the date of the Working Party Meeting regarding Rothwell North and the Neighbourhood Plan and no-one was available to attend from Rothwell.

313 MINUTES

It was MOVED by Councillor Wilson, SECONDED by Councillor Davis and RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th March 2017 be confirmed and signed.

314 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Taylor's Factory: a resident asked if the Town Council knew anything about the proposals for re-development of these premises. It was understood that Richard White is part of a consortium and they are buying this and considering having sheltered housing on the site. Councillor Wilson will try and find out what is happening. The neighbouring residents should be notified if and when a Planning Application is submitted.

315 REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

(1) Rothwell North: Councillor Hakewill said this is still the major issue and he wondered if we would have any opportunity to obtain finance from Persimmon and it was confirmed that the next Meeting on this issue would take place on 18th April. Councillor Hakewill had noticed that Leisa Russell had gone to the Desborough Meeting and got support from that Town Council. Persimmon cannot do the traffic assessment and start work until the A6 bypass is fully re-opened. As to the road being extended to the Rushton Road area it seems this adds to the cause for having the main road on the development as a bypass. Perhaps the Corinthians car park could be made into a park and ride stop.

The land between the bypass and Moorfield Road is owned by Persimmon and Councillor Hakewill thought that, if we cannot get off the bypass, perhaps this could come off the Harrington Road. The Clerk explained that planning permission has recently been refused for development of this land, and one of the reasons for this is because it is possibly an important archaeological site. The Clerk had recently been informed that a large digger was going across this site and the Borough Council immediately sent out a Planning Officer to check, but this vehicle was only going over the land for access and this does not cause any damage to an archaeological site underneath, but any work which included digging down can be harmful. Councillor Hakewill said perhaps this land could just be used for access but it was pointed out that Harrington Road is already very congested to consider another junction.

As to the proposals for the town centre as part of the s.106 benefits, perhaps our Borough Councillors could look at this. Rothwell is going to get these houses and this is a major development so benefits for the town centre are essential to deal with the traffic problems and other issues. Councillor Hakewill said he would write to the Managing Director of Persimmon to see what can be arranged. Councillor Cross repeated that there needs to be an alternative road to the north of the town. As to moving the Fire Station and having this area for parking perhaps this could be for park and ride. Councillor Wilson also wondered if there could be additional parking near the Gordon Street and Charter Park area.

(2) A6 Bypass closure: there are now the matrix signs in this area. Councillor Hakewill would like to see if we could get some of the drivers prosecuted for ignoring the weight limit and other signs and he will continue to focus on this issue.

316 ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITY

Blythe Close Play Area

The Clerk had confirmed the order for the new play equipment here as soon as she had received written confirmation from the Borough that the grant of £8,000 was agreed. This had since been paid into the Town Council account and the company providing the equipment is in touch with Dave Land at the Borough Council to make the necessary arrangements for delivery and installation but it is understood work needs to be carried out for the bases.

Women's Cycle Tour

We had now received details of the route for the Cycle Tour, which is slightly different to last year. It was assumed that the Town Council would receive the packs of posters, flags etc. as we did previously.

Cycle Stand

An E-mail had been received from Ian Boyes, our Highways Community Liaison Officer with the drawing of the proposed cycle stand to be placed in front of Tesco Express. It was AGREED to give a copy of this E-mail and drawing to the Tesco Manager for their comments.

Refuse/Recycling Bins

A response had been received from the Borough Council that the bins in Castle Hill belong to Frank's Butchers and the yellow bin is for the collection of raw meat. Unfortunately they do not have anywhere else to store the bins but they continue to be very conscientious about this and regularly wash the bins to minimise the problem of smells, and they also keep them pushed back as far as they can to leave as much room as possible on the footpath.

Litter Pick

This has been arranged for Saturday, 22nd April meeting at the Market House at 2.00 pm. We had invited the Scouts to participate in the litter pick again this year but a reply had been received that due to seeing the litter come back so quickly, the Scouts themselves are reluctant to do this again.

Double Decker Buses

A long reply had been received from the Stagecoach Operations Manager for this area explaining the situation which has led to them using slightly more double decker buses through Rothwell and this information included specifying the dimensions of the double and single decker buses. All the route 19 journeys are scheduled to be operated by single deckers, but route X10 has two double decker buses scheduled to operate through Rothwell during morning and afternoon peak times. They are unable to completely stop using the larger vehicles, but they will make every effort to ensure that no additional ones are used in the case of any breakdowns.

Phone Kiosk, Market Hill

The Clerk had been in touch with two separate people at British Telecom and apparently they are running a remove programme for this type of kiosk and so it will not be repaired. The Clerk has asked for a newer model phone kiosk to be placed there, but has not yet received any assurance that this will be done.

Tree, Hospital Hill

Fisher German have a firm which deals with trees on their behalf and have given the Clerk the contact details and has asked if the Town Council would get in touch and ask them to confirm the species of tree and also quote for submitting a planning application to the Borough Council for removal of the tree. It was AGREED that the Clerk should obtain more details and the cost of submitting a planning application.

ASDA Activity

An E-mail had been received about an ASDA activity form 25th April to 1st May in that a fruit van will be travelling around the areas of NN14 and NN9 handing out fruit to passers-by. They attached a map but this was not of Rothwell. It was AGREED to take no action here.

Greening Road Park

It was reported that there are still no bollards around this park to stop vehicles being driven over from Tennyson Road and the football posts have been taken away. Councillor Mrs Talbot will look at these matters. Councillor Wilson subsequently informed the Clerk that a fence had been put all around the park but with gaps so that people could still walk into this park.

Football Teams

Councillor Cross asked if any of the teams still played football in Well Lane Recreation Ground but this was not known.

Healthcare Group

Councillor Mrs Talbot had a newsletter from the Rothwell & Desborough Healthcare Group giving various details of how to contact the Healthcare Group, and this included a statement that they have vacancies on the Patient Participation Group and people should ask at reception for details of how to volunteer.

317 PLANNINGNotifications

The following applications had been withdrawn:-

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| KET/2017/0009 | Land adjoining 74 Glendon Road – Detached dwelling. |
| KET/2017/0062 | 25 Bridge Street – Change of use of first and second floors from storage and office to residential. |

The following Approval had been received:-

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| KET/2017/0098 | 56 Harrington Road – Extensions and alterations. |
|---------------|--|

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

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| KET/2017/0189 | Pollards Orchard, 39 Rushton Road – Extension to house lift shaft.
No objection. |
| KET/2017/0229 | 34 Terry Smith Avenue – Conversion of garage to habitable room and widening of driveway.
No objection. |

- KET/2017/0242 1 Kipton Field – Single storey side extension.
No objection.
- KET/2017/0248 17 Slade Valley Avenue – Extensions.
No objection, provided the amenities currently enjoyed by the
neighbouring properties are not adversely affected.

Rothwell North/Neighbourhood Plan

It was arranged to hold a Meeting at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, 18th April in the Market House with representatives from the Town Council and the community regarding Rothwell North and the proposal to create a Neighbourhood Plan. The Clerk will put copies of the various issues on the table for this Meeting. It was confirmed there was a Meeting at Market Harborough about Neighbourhood Plans.

Councillor Mrs Talbot will find out who is the correct contact for the Plan and the Clerk subsequently received confirmation that this is still Julia Baish but she thought one of her colleagues in the Development Management Team would probably be better able to answer questions relating to Rothwell North.

318 HIGHWAYS

A6 Bypass

It has been confirmed that the bypass will be closed at least in one direction until the end of the school summer holidays.

Definitive Map Revision

A letter had been received from Northamptonshire Highways that they are currently revising the County Rights of Way Improvement Plan and they attached a questionnaire for the Town Council to complete and return by 1st July 2017. Councillor Wilson said he would look at this to complete the questionnaire in which they wanted us to include the top 10% by usage, and the bottom 10% by usage, of the rights of way within Rothwell Parish. Councillor Mrs Talbot suggested that members of the public could also be consulted.

Right of Way UH10

A resident had E-mailed the Clerk that the owner of the land over which this right of way from Rushton Road to past Hospital Farm runs, has fenced the stile so this is no longer accessible for dog walkers and she asked the Town Council to intervene. The Clerk had raised this with the County Council and received a reply that there is no legal requirement for the landowner to ensure that stiles are accessible for dogs so there is no action the County can take to make the stile dog friendly. The resident had then asked if the Town Council could pursue this. It was AGREED to reply that the Members of the Town Council regret that they do not have the authority to take any further action.

Right of Way UH11

The Clerk had reported that this right of way from Rushton Road to Cross Street was overgrown and had received a reply that the Rights of Way Officer had visited the location and confirmed that at the present time the weeds on the edge of the path have barely started to grow and are not causing any concern.

319 MATTERS OF BUSINESS

Venue for Annual Parish Meeting

This is due to be held at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, 16th May 2017 and it was AGREED that this would be in the Arts & Heritage Centre.

Date of June Town Council Meeting

At the last Meeting it was agreed the June Meeting would be held on the 20th to avoid Rowell Fair, but this would mean there were six weeks between the May and June Meetings, and then three weeks between the June and July ones. The Clerk suggested the June Meeting should be held on the 6th and then the July one on the 11th which would mean four and five week gaps instead and this was AGREED.

Contingency Plan for Clerk

Councillor Jelley had sent an E-mail dated 10th April to raise an issue from the Minutes of the March Meeting, as follows:-

“Councillor Newman mentioned the issue of succession management for the Clerk’s job and asked for it to be added to this month’s agenda. This was not in the minutes or has been added to the agenda for tomorrow night. Can we please make sure this added and is discussed”. The Clerk explained that she had not minuted this because it had already been dealt with in that the Town Council had contacted the Borough Council and Northants County Association of Local Councils and both authorities had confirmed if the Clerk was suddenly taken ill, they would assist as much as they could to ensure that the Town Council could continue to operate until a new Clerk was appointed. The following is the Minute from the 11th October 2016 Meeting:-

The Clerk had received a reply from Danny Moody of NCALC setting out what they could do to assist if the Clerk was suddenly taken ill and unable to work and this was circulated. It was AGREED this was helpful, and with the assistance the Borough had also said they would try and give it was satisfactory and would allow the Town Council to continue to operate.

The Clerk confirmed that she was thinking she should retire fairly soon and we would then get the assistance of NCALC to follow the proper procedure to appoint a new Clerk and she would continue to work until this had been achieved: during the first month after she had started work for the Town Council, the previous Clerk had worked with her to ensure a smooth handover and this had worked well.

Good Friday Service

The Revd Canon John Westwood had asked if they could have power from the Market House for the Good Friday Service as usual and this was AGREED.

Public Toilets

Councillor Wilson reported that there is still the electricity wire hanging down in the gents toilet and the Clerk confirmed that Michael Chester of the Borough Council had been informed and had all the keys to the toilets so he would check and label these and also arrange for the wire to be put back properly.

Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

Councillor Mrs Talbot had the Spring Newsletter for this scheme and the Annual General Meeting would be held at 7.00 pm on 27th April at the Police Social Club.

It was AGREED to ask Jan Calcott, the NHW Liaison Officer, to be in touch with the Town Council if there is anything specific we need to know or to let us have a report for the Meetings.

Workshop by Historic England

The Clerk had received an E-mail from ACRE that Historic England in conjunction with Locus Consulting and Northamptonshire ACRE intend to run a workshop on “Making the most of your local heritage through Neighbourhood Plans” on Thursday, 8th June in the Methodist Church. The Clerk will inform them that they will be setting up the Fair on that day so access would be difficult.

320 FINANCIAL REPORT

General Statement

The Clerk submitted a written statement as attached. It was MOVED by Councillor Mrs Talbot, SECONDED by Councillor Wilson 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>
Mrs C E Mackay	Clerk's Salary	617.60
Inter County Cleaning Services	Cleaning the Market House	42.00
Rothwell Youth Club	Grant	500.00
Rothwell Preservation Trust	Part Electricity Bill for Market House	910.05
Northants CALC	Annual Subscription & Internal Audit	2191.18
Cash	Petty Cash	30.00

Clerk's Salary

It was PROPOSED by Councillor Cross and AGREED that the Clerk's Salary should be increased by £240 a year to £8,460.

Audit 2016/17

Copies of the Annual Governance Statement the Asset Register and the Risk Assessment for 2016/17 were available at this Meeting. It was MOVED by Councillor Mrs Talbot, SECONDED by Councillor Wilson and RESOLVED that these three documents be approved and signed on behalf of the Town Council.

The Meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

Chairman

Date