

ROTHWELL TOWN COUNCIL

A Meeting of Rothwell Town Council was held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday, 11th August 2015 in the Market House, Market Hill, Rothwell.

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs C M Brown Town Mayor
 Councillor M E Cox
 Councillor C W Cross
 Councillor R V Davis
 Councillor T M Goodwin
 Councillor A J Mills
 Councillor L D Newman
 Councillor K D Sumpter
 Councillor R Wilson

 County Councillor J Hakewill

40 APOLOGIES:

Apologies had been received from Councillors Jelley and Talbot, and from the Revd Canon John Westwood.

41 COMMUNITY POLICING

General Report

Sgt Scott Little confirmed that there were 41 reported crimes during July as follows:-

- Burglary dwelling - 2
- Burglary other - 7
- Criminal damage - 8
- Theft from motor vehicles - 5
- Theft/handling - 8
- Violence offences - 11.

Sgt Little explained some of the incidents of the burglary other offences were from a building site on the 14th, 15th and 16th July so this was probably by the same person. The criminal damage was mainly to vehicles, and also to the Library but this was not picked up by the CCTV. A lot of theft from motor vehicles was from the A14. Two of the violence offences were old reports from a meeting which the Police attended, and theft/handling also had two old reports included in this month's figures. Therefore crime is up from the same time last year, but not as much as it looks. They are doing foot patrols to advise people to lock their vehicles. There was theft of mail when a package was taken in by a neighbour but not passed to the correct person some months ago. They have a suspect for the damage to three shops. The Parish Constable is back and hopes to expand the school meetings.

Councillor Newman joined the Meeting at 7.05 pm.

Councillor Hakewill said he now has a camera on the front of his car and he caught the image of one of the continental lorries going through Rothwell to the Great Bear distribution centre in Desborough. Sgt Little asked Councillor Hakewill to pass this film to him and they should be able to trace the lorry owner although it was felt it might be difficult as it was a foreign lorry: the Clerk said the General Manager at this centre has been helpful previously in tracing where a lorry was going.

Councillor Newman asked about Michael Small and Sgt Little confirmed he is still in custody awaiting a date for his trial.

Police & Crime Commissioner

The Town Mayor is not now able to meet Adam Simmonds on 25th August as her husband has booked a surprise short break then. It was AGREED that Councillors Cox, Mills, Sumpter and Wilson will meet him, and County Councillor Hakewill said he would like to come if he is available and Adam Simmonds agrees. It was felt we should cover the following issues:-

- (1) the staffing levels at Desborough Police Station;
- (2) the problems we have had with the residents of Orton House Children's Home, although this is currently empty;
- (3) an update on the new Custody Suite and the proposal to merge the Fire and Police Stations.
- (4) With the additional 100 houses in Harrington Road and the proposed 700 at Rothwell North and West, it is wondered if the Police are receiving a fair proportion of the s.106 and Community Infrastructure Levy funds to enable another Officer to be based at Desborough.
- (5) It was decided later in the Meeting we could also ask for Police signs saying "No Parking" at the lay-by just past the Esso garage on the A14.

42 MINUTES

The Clerk pointed out there was an error on page 17 paragraph 29 in that Councillor Jelley was stated as both moving and seconding the motion. This was in fact moved by Councillor Jelley and seconded by Councillor Goodwin.

43 MATTERS ARISING

Medical Centre: Councillor Jelley was to pursue this matter with NHS England as we need to know if the Rothwell Medical Centre is meeting the minimum standards which are required. The Town Mayor will ask Councillor Jelley about this.

44 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

(1) A14 Footpath/Cycleway: Mr Britton has raised this issue previously but the situation is still the same in that lorries park in front of McDonalds and the Service Station, and also in the lay-by just past this area, which means they are on the footpath/cycleway and pedestrians and cyclists have to go on the A14 itself. Sgt Little was still at the Meeting and it was mentioned that one of his colleagues had challenged a lorry driver some time ago and he said he had to stop because of this tachograph. Sgt Little said that technically the driver should have got someone else out to move the lorry out of the way but it is difficult to insist on this. He felt it should be possible for the Police to put up signs saying No Parking there, and perhaps they could have cones out for a little while. It was felt the Police could also ask to see the tachograph if this is used as an excuse and not just accept what the driver says. Councillor Hakewill has looked at this and he did not know why they have to park on the path because there is sufficient width for two lorries to pass in this area. It is the Highways Agency and not County Highways which is responsible for the A14. Councillor Hakewill has followed this up with Highways England through Philip Hollobone MP but is finding it very hard to get a response. Mr Hollobone wrote to the Highways Agency in Birmingham but they never got back to him and Mr Britton said he is going to ask Mr Hollobone not to write to the same person, and he felt no-one had done anything and this includes the Town Council. Councillor Hakewill will let the Clerk have the name and address of the person to contact.

It was AGREED that the Town Council will write to McDonalds and Esso and ask them to be good neighbours to Rothwell and provide off-road parking for lorries.

Having the Police car parked there from time to time did not make a difference. Councillor Hakewill said there is no progress on the lorry park but this might not have helped with lorries travelling eastbound on the A14. There is an area behind the Esso garage which could perhaps be turned into a small lorry park but Councillors were not sure this would be a good idea and perhaps it could be discussed further at the next Meeting and Councillor Hakewill will try and find out who owns this. Mr Britton said in Cornwall they have Police signs in similar locations which say "No Parking" and this works in that County. It was AGREED to include this in the discussion with the Police & Crime Commissioner.

(2) E-mails: Peter Weston said he had tried to E-mail the Town Council via the address on the website but could not get through. The Clerk said she was still receiving E-mails, probably fewer in the last few weeks, but assumed this was because it is holiday time. The following day the Town Mayor and the Clerk checked the E-mail address on the website and this is right and the Clerk was getting E-mails that day, including the test one from the Town Mayor.

(3) Library Garden: Mr Weston referred to Minute 17 from the June Meeting, and Minute 32 of the July Meeting about this matter. These are actually just the Minutes expressing the Town Council's dis-satisfaction with the work carried out by Mr Tibbles, and the Clerk explained later in the Meeting that the Minutes where the quote was discussed are actually Minute 601 on page 487 from the Meeting held on 10th February 2015, and Minute 612 on page 501 from the Meeting held on 10th March 2015 and these will explain the situation. The questions Mr Weston asked were as follows:-

1. What agreement exists between the land owners (Northamptonshire County Council) and Rothwell Town Council regarding the maintenance of the garden.
2. Was the work carried out by Mr Tibbles the subject of a tendering process and if so where was it advertised.
3. Who drew up the job specification for the work.
4. Was the quote from Mr Tibbles the subject of scrutiny by the Town Council and if so who was responsible for awarding the work to him.
5. Was there a written contract for the work between Mr Tibbles and Rothwell Town Council.

It was confirmed there is no written agreement between the County Council and the Town Council but the Town Mayor had raised this with the County Library Service some years ago and this was agreed. She also used the Payback scheme and the Henley Centre people to do some work, paid for plants, and planted up the trough donated by Councillor Spendlove. This particular work by Mr Tibbles was done in a hurry to have this looking good for Rowell Fair and the Civic Service. There was no tender but Mr Tibbles works with Councillor Sumpter and it was explained we wanted a membrane put down, which Councillor Jelley had received from the Borough Council and Mr Tibbles was told about this but did not pick it up and use it. Councillor Newman said we are still chasing this and he proposed that yet another letter is sent by registered delivery to him home address asking for payment within seven days. Councillor Mills explained that this garden got in a bad condition again and the Town Council had this done by Jim French in time for the Women's Cycle Tour so the town looked good then. Councillor Cross said Rothwell people help to pay for the work in Kettering through the Council Tax but we have to pay ourselves for work to this garden. There is the same situation with the public toilets but if the Town Council did not do anything we would lose these and have an untidy town. The Town Mayor confirmed that the Town Council has learnt from this experience.

(4) Dog Fouling: Jillian Coleman confirmed that the Borough Council has now put signs at the bottom of Kipton Field but recently there were still four piles of dog mess. It was explained that there are the Borough generic Wardens and they would like to catch the offender. Members of the public should telephone 01536 410333 and report any dog fouling. Councillor Mills will also take this up with the Borough Dog Warden.

(5) Glendon Road Bollards: Miss Coleman telephoned about the traffic calming bollards in Glendon Road which are now plastic but these keep getting damaged and so they will be replacing them and putting up signs.

(6) Street Lighting Upgrade: Miss Coleman reported that there was a problem at the end of Littlewood Street at the junction with Kipton Field and this has been like this for at least two months. Councillor Hakewill said there has been a massive delay between digging the holes and actually putting the lights up. They do not necessarily do the whole town at the same time. There might also be a problem with Western Power connecting these lights and Councillor Hakewill suggested telephoning Street Doctor. It was reported there are other streets which still have the old orange lights and the Clerk said they have not even started the work in Desborough Road. Councillor Sumpter explained the difficulty in actually connecting the electricity. It was AGREED to contact Ian Boyes to see if we can get a copy of the programme of works.

45 REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

(1) Travellers: Councillor Hakewill did not think there were any illegal encampments. The Town Mayor said there are horses in the field but they are not doing any harm. Councillor Sumpter said they have taken out a piece of the fence and put a gate in. It was reported that the landowner has the right to detain the animals and sell them within a few days.

(2) Tresham Street: the double yellow lines have still not been completed. There has been congestion here from time to time and if this is a major issue Councillor Hakewill will re-convene the working group.

(3) Old Lamport Road: He still wants to get this area for public use.

(4) Hedge, Harrington Road: Councillor Cross said this is very overgrown and is over the pavement. The Clerk had reported this to Street Doctor after the last Meeting, and had said it was the hedge on both sides of the Moorfield Road junction which needed attention which Councillor Cross confirmed was correct. The Clerk reported it is no longer Sheila Gilder who deals with trees and hedges for the County, but is now Lara Inglott and it was AGREED to contact her about this hedge, with copies to Ian Boyes and Councillor Hakewill.

(5) Library Garden: Councillor Sumpter reported that there is a tree here that has some rotten branches and Councillor Hakewill said he would look into this.

(6) Green Area, Glendon Road: Councillor Sumpter reported that there is a green in front of the Council houses at the junction of Glendon Road and Bell Hill and this has a small ironstone wall around it which has been damaged. He wondered if this could be removed and the area lowered because lorries going into the Co-op car park often clip this low wall. It was AGREED to ask for this to be done.

46 ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITY

Skateboard Park

Copies of the Report of the Meeting held on 22nd July 2015 had been circulated prior to this Meeting. It was MOVED by the Town Mayor, SECONDED by Councillor Mills and RESOLVED that the Report be approved and adopted.

The Clerk had written to Pia Bellamy about this and the s.106 obligation by Bovis. These issues will now be dealt with separately as the second one is being handled by Duncan Law of the Development Services Department.

Ms Bellamy was generally in agreement that the skateboard facility should be provided somewhere in the area of the existing ramp and was pleased that concrete was supported. The concern we had many years ago was that it should not be too near the sheltered accommodation. She also asked that the Town Council considers the design and cost from Fouronefour as indicative only as when the project detail has been agreed, the Council will need to follow the Borough Council's procurement policies and guidelines. The land is in the ownership of the Borough and they would need to procure and deliver the project but there is no reason why others could not make a funding application and state that it is delivered by Kettering Borough Council. Ms Bellamy does have some funding already that may be allocated to this project. She asked for a Meeting with Town and Borough Councillors as soon as possible and said that play areas could be discussed at the same Meeting. The Town Mayor and Councillor Mills have already arranged to meet Ms Bellamy the following Friday.

Councillor Mills felt that the ramp which would cost £48,500 seemed to have everything that was wanted and would be suitable for the land available. He has spoken to Ms Bellamy about the money coming from the former Football Club development money and some of this is going for improvements to the Community Centre with new changing rooms. It was AGREED that the Town Council's preferred option is to have the skateboard ramp which would cost £48,500, although this might cost a bit extra for the ground works because of the slope.

Play Equipment

Duncan Law and the Clerk had exchanged E-mails about the Bovis s.106 Agreement as follows:-

- (a) Combined footpath/cycleway from Gordon Street to the Community Centre: the specification for this is dictated by the signed legal agreement which stated that the developer is to provide a 3m. combined cycle and foot way and the Borough is trying to get this delivered in the near future.
- (b) Open space next to the Bovis development: the Clerk had understood that Bovis was to hand this over the Borough Council and asked if Bovis would do any work to drain this area as it is quite damp. Mr Law will check but could not recall such an obligation.
- (c) Children's play area next to the Bovis development: Mr Law sent a copy of the plan of the latest LEAP as agreed by Community Services.
- (d) Multi-use Games Area: Mr Law sent a plan showing the location and layout of this area.

Councillor Mills had been told by Ms Bellamy that they only want access through from Hawkins Close but the plan seems to show a path from the Bovis development.

Town Centre Partnership

Copies of the Report of the Meeting held on 29th July 2015 had been circulated prior to this Meeting. Councillor Mills referred to the fact that it had been agreed at the Partnership that there are to be some bands in Market Hill Square on Saturday mornings for a cost of up to £200. He managed to get the Dave Johnson Band and Rachael Johnson to come for two weekends at a cost of £235 each. Barry Hales would also like to come the following weekend and would charge about £100. The Clerk explained the finances of the Partnership and the expenses already agreed.

It was MOVED by Councillor Sumpter, SECONDED by Councillor Newman and RESOLVED that the Report be approved and adopted and it was in order for the music to cost this much this month.

Councillor Mills said there is also the large screen outdoor cinema which he could book from the Borough Council at no cost and it was AGREED this would be a good idea.

Library Garden

The Clerk had E-mailed Mr Tibbles about a refund of half the £1,600 paid for this work, and had the same reply as previously that this was the agreed price and the Town Council should ask Councillor Sumpter about this. It was AGREED to send a 'signed for' letter and ask for a refund.

Children's Activities at the Library

Guy Holloway, the Borough Acting Head of Community Services had sent a long E-mail in reply to our query as to why Rothwell children should be required to pay for the activities, and from this it was obvious that there had been a misunderstanding between the previous Library Manager and the Borough and Town Councils. Rothwell and Desborough had put forward a proposal to the Borough to pay the Council the entertainment costs so that it could be offered free to their visitors as they were very keen not to charge users of their Library service. The Borough agreed and they do also advertise and promote these sessions and provide one play leader at no additional cost to assist the Library staff for the duration of the sessions.

Women's Cycling Tour

The Clerk had written to Steven Edwards and Russ Howell at the Borough, and also Councillor Heather Smith at the County (with a copy to County Councillor Hakewill) to express the Town Council's appreciation for their organisation of this Tour through Rothwell, and to ask for the Tour to come here again next year with, if possible, a special section in Market Hill Square. A reply had been received from Councillor Smith thanking the Town Council for its support, but no decision has yet been made on the start and finish towns or the route for 2016, but if this is close to Rothwell they will look at the feasibility of including the Square as part of the route.

In connection with cycling, there is to be an event in Well Lane Recreation Ground on Friday, 14th August, organised by the Kettering Cycling Club and as time was short the Clerk had asked the questions she felt the Town Council might like answered. She received a reply from Steven Edwards that there will be no parking at Columbus Crescent (as mentioned in the details) and all parking will be at the Community Centre. It was mentioned that there was to be clearance at the bottom of the Recreation Ground but they will use the natural paths that have already been cut into the Pocket Park and the only cutting back is to trim any overhanging branches or any trails that are deemed dangerous. There will be a route pegged out which the Cycling Club will ask dog users and walkers to avoid but there will still be plenty of areas that people can walk their dogs, for children to play and the cyclists will not go near the play area. Mr Edwards has also asked that the route steers clear of the football pitch to avoid any damage.

Seats, Squires Hill

An E-mail had been received that these seats are covered in bird dirt, as well as looking as though they had not been painted for years and the resident felt they should be cleaned and improved without delay. Councillors Mills confirmed these have been cleaned several times and he will ask Mr Woods if they can be done again.

Ball's Foundry Cart

Phillip Bailey, who is restoring one of the Ball's Foundry trailers, had sent the Clerk some photos of this which is now nearly finished, and also of the plaque which he has restored and put back.

Well Lane Recreation Ground

A resident had E-mailed that he was disappointed at how untidy the Recreation Ground was the previous weekend as there was a lot of litter over the majority of the area. It was AGREED to reply that we understand this is in a better condition now.

Newland Street, Kettering Bus Station

There are to be new bus shelters here, and people are asking if the bus stops were going to move, but it was understood they would remain the same while the work was being carried out.

Nosehill Footpath Lights

These are out and the inspection chamber covers are missing. Councillor Sumpter will look at this area and check that it is safe. It is hoped that the work by Bovis will start soon to upgrade this path and the lights should be replaced then.

Councillor Wilson left the Meeting at 9.05 pm.

47 PLANNINGNotifications

The following Approvals had been received:-

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| KET/2015/0290 | 1 Hawkins Close - Replacement garage to rear. |
| KET/2015/429/483 | Sunday School Building, Market Hill – Reinstate windows and interior alterations. |

The following Refusal had been received:-

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| KET/2015/0403 | 9 Bridge Street – Variation of opening hours. |
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The following Applications had been received and the Town Council's observations agreed as stated:-

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| KET/2015/0456 | 15 Bridge Street – Illuminated fascia, projecting sign and holders.
Rothwell Town Council feels that the proposed illumance level is too high for this site in the Conservation Area, and would ask that the lights are on a timer to be switched off at 11.00 pm each day. |
| KET/2015/0643 | 9 Bridge Street – Variation of condition 2 of KET/2015/0031 in respect of opening hours.
Rothwell Town Council supports the extended opening hours and would mention that it is likely there will be more noise much later from people coming out of the licensed premises in the area. |

Neighbourhood Plan

Councillor Mills had spoken to Howard Fillingham about coming to a Meeting to agree the changes to the Plan and he would be happy to do this any evening convenient for the Town Council.

48 HIGHWAYSWhiteman Lane

The National Transport Casework Team had replied to the Town Council's objection to the stopping up of the section of highway at the junction of Whiteman Lane and Droué Court that they cannot interfere with the Planning Consent which permitted this. The Borough also confirmed this, and the Clerk had received a telephone call from Northamptonshire Highways that the plan was taken from the Ordnance Survey so this must have been correct. The Order has therefore been made.

A14 Roundabouts

An E-mail had been received from a resident complaining about the first A14 roundabout when heading out of Rothwell to Kettering as he felt this was unsafe. The Clerk had asked him whether he was referring to junction 3 or junction 4 of the A14 but had not received a reply.

49 MATTERS OF BUSINESSNorthamptonshire County Association of Local Councils

Notice had been given of the Annual General Meeting of NCALC on Saturday, 17th October 2105 at The Forum, Towcester commencing at 10.00 am and ending by 1.00 pm.

The Clerk had also received details of the various training sessions being organised during September.

50 FINANCIAL REPORTGeneral Report

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

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Goods or Services</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Mrs C E Mackay	Clerk's Salary	£597.80
Inter County Cleaning Services	Cleaning the Market House	£37.20
Cash	Petty Cash	£30.00

Signatory

A new signatory is needed for the Civic Ball Account at the Nationwide and as Councillor Wilson is already a signatory for the Gala Committee Account at this Building Society, it was **MOVED** by Councillor Cox, **SECONDED** by Councillor Sumpter and **RESOLVED** that Councillor Wilson be added as a signatory on the Civic Ball Account.

51 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 withdraw.