

## ROTHWELL TOWN COUNCIL

A Meeting of Rothwell Town Council was held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday, 9th August 2016 in the Market House, Market Hill, Rothwell.

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Councillor K D Sumpter Councillor Mrs C M Brown Councillor M E Cox Councillor T M Goodwin Councillor I F Jelley Councillor L D Newman Councillor Mrs M E Talbot Councillor R Wilson	<u>Town Mayor</u>
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### 202 PRAYERS

Before the business of the Council commenced, the Revd Canon John Westwood led a minute's silence as a tribute the late Councillor Alan Mills whose funeral had been held the day before, and mentioned the work he had done for the town.

### 203 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Councillors Cross, Davis and Spendlove.

### 204 COMMUNITY POLICING

#### General Report/Crime Figures

The Clerk had circulated an extract from the report to the A6 Towns Forum with some of the crime figures on, and had since received an E-mail from PCSO Margaret Lawson with the following breakdown of their report as they were not able to be present:-

- 1st Glendon Road- Insecure summer house entered, nothing taken
- 2nd Wales Street- Insecure back door, property entered, handbag stolen
- 3rd Glendon Road- Attempt garage break, nothing stolen
- 6th Littlewood Street- Garage break, x2 pushbikes stolen
- 12th Victoria Court- Glass panel to garage door smashed, nothing taken, house alarm activated
- 12th Newham Close- Glass smashed to back door, entry gained, jewellery stolen
- 13th Columbus Crescent- Glass panel smashed to back door, no entry gained to property
- 15th Scott Avenue- Attempt break to back door, no entry gained to property
- 20th Crispin Street- Theft of vehicle registration plates
- 22nd Greening Road- Vehicle broken into, handbag stolen
- 27th Leys Avenue- Back door glass smashed, entry gained to property, bracelet stolen.

The Clerk had received an E-mail dated 14th July from Major Richard Cook of the Salvation Army about the growing rate of crime in the town, including the fact that they had had another break-in at the Well and Bridge and the difficulty in getting anyone to attend when there is a burglary. The Clerk had circulated this E-mail to the Town Mayor, County Councillor Hakewill, Sgt Scott Little and the Police & Crime Commissioner.

The Clerk had also received a long E-mail from Sgt Scott Little dated 8th August 2016 and copies were available at this Meeting. He said that PC Broxton had contacted Major Richard Cook and addressed the concerns he had.

Sgt Little went into detail about these matters and agreed that there is sometimes a problem recording crimes by phone. He had checked the reported theft of a go-cart and this has been reported and the go-kart recovered. People are still putting crimes on Facebook but not contacting the Police and they do need this information to be passed to the Police so that they can make sure they are targeting the right areas and suspects. They are tackling the burglaries and thefts in two ways: prevention with insecurity patrols during the day and night and he had just finished four weeks of night shifts during which he closed people's windows and doors where they have been left open and this is then followed up the next day by a visit from a PCSO to offer crime advice. The same has been done with vehicles where he had woken people up at 2.00 am to ask them to secure their car. Where a crime has been reported they have visited that particular area to increase people's awareness and have left leaflets on this. They have started a monthly update to Neighbourhood Watch to inform them of crimes and sent some information for them to circulate. This has worked well this month as a member of the Neighbourhood Watch in another town sent in a CCTV of someone trying their door handle and that person has been identified and sentenced to four months in prison. They have increased the number of patrols in Rothwell, both high visibility and other tactics. Some of these have involved contacting the housing provider for the suspects and asking for the tenancy to be reviewed. A number of arrests have been made in relation to all these offences and in the past few weeks they have seen a decline in offences being reported. At the time of writing they have recorded a burglary at the Conservative Club and they have a suspect in custody for this offence.

Sgt Little hopes that next month he will be able to provide an update around some of the suspects who are on bail as a number of them will hopefully be charged with offences. He mentioned that there was an article in the Evening Telegraph of a number of arrests throughout the sector.

The Town Mayor said this shows that if you report offences, this will mean additional patrols in the area. It was reported that there were three people on the roof of the Primary School and Councillor Jelley did contact the Police about this but they did not come until the next day. County Councillor Hakewill agreed about people reporting on Facebook and there were also three offences in Mawsley and Broughton so there is a lot of this in the whole area. Councillor Goodwin had tried to report incidents a couple of months ago but did not get a reply on the phone after two hours.

#### Rothwell Library

There have been problems of vandalism and anti-social behaviour around and inside the Library (including a report that youths were on the roof of the Library late at night) and the Police have made efforts to deal with these issues. There is the CCTV camera at the top of Market Hill, but the tree in front of Tesco Express obscures vision of the front of the Library, and the Clerk had a copy of the image from the CCTV. It was suggested that this tree could be removed but the Town Mayor suggested it could be trimmed right down instead. County Councillor Hakewill wondered if there could be a camera inside the Library and in addition, perhaps one of the buildings opposite could have a camera on. Councillor Newman agreed there needed to be a static camera aimed at the front of the Library and the Town Mayor said there is a new one which is 360° and he has a trial one which he could place in Rothwell.

It was AGREED to E-mail Mr Brendan Coleman at the Borough Council, with copies to Michael Chester, and Councillors Sumpter, Newman and Hakewill, asking for a Site Meeting to look at the options to ensure that the CCTV images of the Library can be seen.

Councillor Jelley said he had asked the County Council to put grilles or shutters on the Library windows.

205 MINUTES

It was MOVED by Councillor Mrs Brown, SECONDED by Councillor Wilson and RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th July 2016 be confirmed and signed.

206 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

(1) Crime Prevention: Mr Green said that the go-kart had been recovered by the people who own it and he thought the townspeople were disappointed with the Police and wondered what the Town Council was going to do about getting Police Officers here. He thought the surgeries should be publicised more effectively. The Town Council will ask if the mobile Police Station could come to Market Hill Square. Councillor Newman thought it was important to have a Police presence at the Meeting, and if they could let us know if they cannot come. Mr Green wanted a senior Police Officer here. Another resident felt that communication was an important issue. It was AGREED to thank Sgt Little for his full report.

(2) Rothwell North: a resident of Rushton Road was concerned about the proposed development at Rothwell North but she was surprised to note the reply in the Evening Telegraph. This has been a proposal for about ten years. The following issues were raised:-

(i) it was thought that phase 1 of Rothwell North might be started within the next three years and the plans have been changed. There are no plans for the land to the east of the B576 yet.

(ii) as to school places, we want good access to the existing primary schools and there is also a proposal for an extra two-form primary school at Rothwell North. Councillor Hakewill thought 237 houses could be built before the northern link road goes in. He was surprised to see that it is advertised that there is land available for development in the Shotwell Mill Lane area as this is not within the Rothwell town boundary. The necessary infrastructure is essential.

(iii) Employment Land: this has been reduced to 2.8 hectares and the Town Council is trying to insist that there are only small business units on this land, rather than having another large warehouse in the area which provides very few jobs. The Town Council has been making these arguments for several years. The developers now have Outline Planning Permission and will have to submit detailed plans. The resident wanted development which was compatible with a market town.

207 REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

(1) Speed Limit: a resident thought that the whole of Rothwell should have a 20 mph speed limit. It was not thought this would be possible from the Highways Department point of view as it would not be enforceable. Councillor Hakewill said it might lower the speed of vehicles and they would then go at 30 mph. This could be put on a future Agenda.

(2) Footpath, Harrington Road: the Clerk had recently received an E-mail from Pritesh Shah at the Borough Council that they have contacted the County Council, and in particular Lesley Elkington who is dealing with this there. As the footpath has yet to be resolved and constructed to highway standards, she has advised that the County take this up with their own legal team to ensure the works are done by Morris Homes, especially as they might have other agreements with Morris which would make this a more sensible approach. She has advised the Borough Legal Advisor of this approach and will keep the Town Council updated. The Clerk will forward Councillor Hakewill the E-mail.

(3) Crispin Street: this has a very poor surface on the road, and Councillor Hakewill is taking this up.

(4) Northern Relief Road: he does not have any further information about this, but the developers are constructing their end of this road.

(5) A14 Lay-by: Councillor Hakewill also has not got any update on closing this lay-by, but Councillor Sumpter raised this at the A6 Towns Forum and the Borough Council is now looking at having cycle paths on all new developments. Councillor Hakewill hoped the new truck stop at Welford could assist in preventing lorry drivers parking on the lay-by outside Rothwell.

## 208 ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITY

### Skateboard Ramp

Councillor Mrs Brown reported that there was a Site Meeting the previous week and there is no problem with the land. The person from Bendcrete who won the contract said they are very busy at the present time but should do this work at the end of August or the beginning of September.

### Blythe Close Play Area

This scheme for all the play equipment here to be suitable for disabled and able-bodied children has won a grant of £2,500 from the Borough Council, and with the £12,000 from the Tesco Bag Fund and the £2,000 promised by Rothwell Town Council there is a total of £16,500 for the equipment and this was AGREED. The Borough Council will make up the shortfall in the region of £1,000. Dave Lane said we now need to agree what equipment we will have when the Town Council should pay their £4,500 and HAG's will invoice us separately for the respective amounts.

### Parking on Market Hill Square

The Clerk circulated a plan, and the notes from her discussion with Olney Town Council as follows:-

Olney has two long stay car parks in their town centre, and one smaller short stay car park in Market Place, Olney. They have a market on a Thursday, and a notice is put out the evening before to warn people when they will not be able to park there for some hours on that day. They have also produced their own small notices to put on cars where people have stayed for longer than the three hours. They were not certain if it would be possible to have no parking for ten days, which Rothwell would need for the Fair. It is assumed that we would need the permission of the Lord of the Manor to restrict parking in Market Hill, Rothwell.

The Olney scheme is managed by Napier Parking of Milton Keynes, who come out to Olney twice a month to do the ticketing and this costs Olney Town Council £25 a month. Napier have now also produced a smart app where a Member of the Town Council or other authorised person takes a picture of the vehicle and its registration number when a car has been parked in the short stay car park for too long and this can be sent direct to Napier who will then fine the vehicle owner. Napier's contact details are 01730 828103, or [dawn@napierparking.co.uk](mailto:dawn@napierparking.co.uk).

The problem with having the Market Hill as a short-stay car park only is that there are no other car parks in or near the town centre whereas Olney has two larger long-stay car parks. The survey on Market Hill, Rothwell was carried out at about 8.00 am when it was largely empty. Councillor Newman will investigate further and carry out another survey. We do not want to discourage people from shopping here.

Dog Control Order

The Borough Council is undertaking a review of its dog controls through the use of a Public Space Protection Order and sent a questionnaire for completion. Councillor Mrs Brown had already returned her questionnaire and it was AGREED that the Town Council accepted all the additional proposals to restrict dogs from various locations or insist that dogs are on their leads in areas such as cemeteries and the questionnaire will be returned in accordance with the replies submitted by Councillor Mrs Brown.

Tree Packs

An E-mail had been received from the County Council that they and the Woodland Trust are providing tree packs again this year. The Town Council planted some of these trees before but they were very small and did not survive. It was AGREED to take no action here.

Litter, Market Hill

Councillor Newman has been speaking to the young people who congregate in this area about the litter in the street and they did pick this up.

Christmas Gala

Councillor Mrs Talbot confirmed this would be held on Friday, 2nd December in Market Hill Square. She has arranged for the St John Ambulance to attend, and has also asked the Pipe Band to attend. John Hollis is no longer able to act as Father Christmas but it was felt that as there are other people playing this role at a couple of locations it was not necessary to find someone else.

Seats

Councillor Wilson confirmed that Wayne Woods will shortly be moving the seat from Squires Hill to the top of the recreation ground as requested. The seat which was moved to the area in front of the Chinese Takeaway is being well used.

209 PLANNINGNotifications and Applications

The following Refusal had been received:-

KET/2016/0367      Land at Nunnery Avenue – One dwelling.

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

KET/2016/0448      Rothwell Service Station, Kettering Road – Installation of ATM.  
No objection.

KET/2016/0501      23 Columbus Crescent – Side and front extensions.  
Rothwell Town Council objects to this application as it is considered this would be over-development and would have an adverse impact on the neighbouring properties.

Neighbourhood Plan

At the last Meeting it was reported that Desborough Town Council has appointed Lathams of Nottingham to prepare their Neighbourhood Plan. It was AGREED to hold a Meeting at 7.30 on 17th August to decide who to appoint as Agents for Rothwell.

Signs/Lights in the Town Centre

The Clerk had reported to the Borough Council the unsatisfactory sign on the Chinese Takeaway at the top of Market Hill Square and the flashing coloured lights in front of Rothwell House Hotel. They did ask for photographs of these, but it was not thought any Councillor had yet sent in any photographs, as requested. These matters are being dealt with by Alison Riches.

210 HIGHWAYSSchool Lane Direction Arrow

A reply had been received from Ian Boyes that he agreed a “direction arrow” would be useful outside the primary school access to remind drivers of the one way system. He will therefore place an order for these works with their road marking contractor.

Yellow Markings

As to the suggestion that the square with yellow markings on the road at the back of the Market House might not now be necessary as we have the disabled parking spaces opposite the Red Lion, Ian Boyes had inspected this area but advised that these markings should remain in place. Although there are the designated disabled parking spaces, there will be other users who will require access to the dropped kerbs at this point, including parents with pushchairs/buggies and residents accessing in mobility scooters, as well as general users of the car park who need access here so they do not have to squeeze through a narrow gap between parked vehicles, especially when en route to the Church. Also, if the disabled spaces are full people might park in the main car park and need this access. This was AGREED.

7.5 Tonne Weight Limit

Councillor Wilson reported that the 7.5 tonne restriction notice on the barrier at the roundabout for junction 4 of the A14 is missing. The barrier was knocked down and this has been replaced but not the 7.5 tonne weight limit sign. It was AGREED to ask for this to be put back.

Roundabout, Greening Road

Councillor Wilson reported that there were deep potholes on the mini-roundabout at the top of Greening Road and it was AGREED to report this to Street Doctor. Before the Clerk was able to do this, these potholes were repaired.

Shotwell Mill Lane

Councillor Newman said that Shotwell Mill Lane (the Folly) is now very overgrown which makes it difficult to walk. This is Public Right of Way UH13 and it was AGREED to report this to the County Council and ask them to clear it.

Cricket Field Hedge

Part of this has now been cut back, but the rest needs to be done. It was AGREED to ask Councillor Cross if he could deal with this.

Double Yellow Lines, Glendon Road

Councillor Goodwin was unhappy that these lines were not being done straight away despite the dangerous situation here.

There are parking spaces at the top of Columbus Crescent which could be used instead of parking on this road. Councillor Jelley said he would hand deliver another lot of letters to the residents of this part of Glendon Road and remind them of these parking spaces.

## 211 MATTERS OF BUSINESS

### Register of Interests Forms

There are now only the forms completed by Councillors Newman and Spendlove to be returned.

### Rothwell United Charities

Councillor Mrs Talbot reported that she had taken over as Secretary to the Rothwell United Charities and they now want to have Robert Denton as an additional Trustee but the Town Council needs to approve this. It was **MOVED** by Councillor Sumpter, **SECONDED** by Councillor Mrs Brown and **RESOLVED** that Mr Denton be approved a Trustee.

### Northants CALC

Notification of the Annual General Meeting on 8th October 2016 had been received: no-one was able to attend. The Clerk had circulated a copy of the E-Update and had a hard copy available at this Meeting. A further update had been received regarding several issues including The Future of Public Parks.

## 212 FINANCIAL REPORT

### General Statement

The Clerk submitted a written statement as attached. It was **MOVED** by Councillor Sumpter, **SECONDED** by Councillor Mrs Talbot 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>
ACC Limited (Paid 23.7.16)	Picture of HM The Queen	£25.00
Mrs C E Mackay	Clerk's Salary	£627.40
Inter County Cleaning Services	Cleaning Market House	£40.80
A B Mackay	Reimbursement for floor polish	£52.80
British Telecommunications	Phone and Broadband	£198.16
Cash	Petty Cash	£40.00

The Clerk reported that the start button on the computer had become dislodged and Edward Freestone had sorted this out, but he advised we should have a new case as the button is now balanced on the top of the case. This would cost in the region of £40 and it was **AGREED** to purchase a new case.

### Insurance

The Clerk had asked Zurich about the amount of the Insurance premium as mentioned at the last Meeting, and they will review this when the policy comes up for renewal next year.

## 213 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.