

ROTHWELL TOWN COUNCIL

A Meeting of Rothwell Town Council was held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday, 8th August 2017 in the Market House, Market Hill, Rothwell.

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Councillor C W Cross	<u>Town Mayor</u>
	Councillor M E Cox	
	Councillor R V Davis	
	Councillor I F Jelley	
	Councillor Mrs M E Talbot	
	Councillor R Wilson	
	County Councillor J Hakewill	

355 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Councillors Mrs Brown, Goodwin, Morrissey, Newman, Spendlove and Sumpter and from the Revd Canon John Westwood.

356 COMMUNITY POLICING

Crime Figures

The list of crimes were available at this Meeting, and PCSO Keith Miller said he had been on other duties all day so was not able to ascertain which had been detected. There was one incident of two digger buckets being taken from the Harrington Road area and it was thought this should have been noticed but there was not any further information about this.

Public Spaces Protection Area

John Kinloch, the Borough Community Safety Officer, was present at the Meeting and he and PCSO Keith Miller had met with the Clerk earlier to explain that the Borough has been looking at some of the anti-social behaviour and Rothwell is the only town which did not have a Designated Public Spaces Order put in place. This is now changing to a Public Spaces Protection Area and he had brought plans showing the proposed area: this includes Well Lane Recreation Ground and Manor Park, the High Street from Squires Hill to Bridge Street, and along Bridge Street (taking in the Fire Station and Library), Bell Hill and down Coronation Avenue to the east of the Community Centre. This Order can chase up people drinking in public places and it does not have to be of anti-social behaviour. The Borough Council will do all the work to implement an Order and they could enforce this with the help of Police Officers, PCSOs and the Borough Wardens. There could be a fixed penalty notice of £100 but this does not give a young person a criminal offence. They have to look at the area carefully and there must be specific and persistent problems which are also unreasonable. The maximum period for a Public Spaces Protection Area will be three years but this could be made shorter or longer. Once the Order is made the problem tends to disappear. This will apply to everyone and is not targeted at any specific group. This has to be done in conjunction with the Police and they would like the approval of the Town Council. The consultation period is about six weeks. Mr Kinloch would like to get this in place by October. They have looked at a bigger area because once an Order is put in place often the problem will move. This will target the following problems:-

- Drinking
- Taking Drugs
- Off-road motor cycles

A resident asked if the Order could also include Greening Road Park, and Mr Kinloch said it is not currently in the plan but he will inspect that area to see if it was suitable. It was confirmed that Greening Road Park is now fenced off to stop people driving vehicles over the park.

Mr Kinloch will send the Clerk a copy of the final plan. As to funds, whatever money is received will go towards the administration of the Order and if there is any extra this will go back into the area. The Members of Rothwell Town Council would support this scheme.

357 MINUTES

It was MOVED by Councillor Wilson, SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Talbot and RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th July 2017 be confirmed and signed.

358 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

(1) Rothwell North: the Revd Margaret Mossman from the Rothwell North Working Party referred to the s.106 benefits from this development as the Working Party was asked to come up with a wish list and they have discussed this and sent an E-mail to Peter Chaplin, the Borough Development Manager, and copies of this were available at this Meeting. Money is to be allocated for improvements to the Bridge Street area, but they thought this was for the Fox Street junction and they did not want any further traffic going from there up Greening Road past the busy school entrance. They will let the Town Council have more information about this in due course as there are various options but there are not yet any details.

(2) Planning Application: another resident would like to comment during the Planning section of the Town Council Meeting on a specific application and this was AGREED.

359 REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

(1) The A6 Bypass: this is still on track to be completely re-opened by the end of August. Once this happens the County will have to re-consider the signs and make sure the Officers have kept a clear record of the costs. The bypass was constructed by the Highways Agency (now Highways England) and Councillor Hakewill therefore thought they should pay for the essential repairs. There is a dip in the middle of the road but apparently this does not meet the criteria for repair; however there are now some road cones there so he hopes they will deal with the dip whilst the bypass is closed.

(2) Truck Stop: Councillor Hakewill has been assured that all the conditions will have to be met before this is opened. The residents at the Miller Homes development were concerned about this lorry park being on the opposite side of the A146 but he confirmed that he and the Town Council had objected to this planning application because of the existing residents at the time. Mulberry Developments is still the owner of this land and he will try and ensure that they comply with the relevant conditions, such as hours of work. Mulberry and CERTAS are doing this work and the hard-core has been put there. The main problem on the A14 in this area at the present time is the fact that lorries are being parked near McDonalds.

(3) Rothwell North: Caroline Wardle from Persimmon went to the recent planning meeting and said that it was not viable to build the relief road until half way through the development. Councillor Hakewill has asked Peter Chaplin, Borough Development Officer, for details of the dates given on this, but there were no notes taken at the meeting and Ms Wardle has now moved jobs so we do not know the reasons. Closure of the bypass means there has not been a traffic survey. There will be a Traffic Management Plan. Councillor Hakewill explained further the circumstances of the New Homes Bonus and he has arranged a meeting at County Hall.

360 ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITYAir Quality

Details of the air quality results at RW1 by the mini-roundabout at High Street/Bridge Street and RW2 by the Post Office (including for June) had been received from the Borough Council and circulated to Members of the Town Council. There had also been an E-mail from Mr Green which was reported at this Meeting. The Borough will continue to send the results for the next few months and these will be monitored to see if there is any change once the A6 bypass has been re-opened.

Rothwell Post Office

A further letter had been received from the Post Office that the Rothwell branch would close at 12.30 pm on Friday 19th August and scheduled to re-open on Monday, 4th September. They also sent an information leaflet which outlines the main comments they have received.

Public Toilets

Councillor Wilson has done his best to keep the toilets open, but he reported that these are now being constantly vandalised and are filthy. He is therefore no longer able to continue to ensure these are opened and closed. Residents can use the toilets in the Library when this is open. It was AGREED to write to Brendan Coleman and ask for this to be discussed at the Borough Council. In the meantime, the Clerk will write to Wallgate Limited that the Town Council is not now taking over maintenance of the toilets so will not be able to enter into the proposed contract.

Manor Park

An E-mail had been received from the Rothwell Citizens Welfare Committee that they would like to propose the building of a bandstand in Manor Park and asked if the Town Council would have any objections. There used to be a stage put up for the Carnival but this has not been done for some time. It was AGREED to ask Citizens Welfare to look into this matter further and come back to the Town Council with more details.

361 PLANNINGNotifications

The following Approvals had been received:-

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| KET/2017/0387 | 17 Norton Street – Garage conversion and extension. |
| KET/2017/0415 | 6 Gibbons Drive – Extensions. |
| KET/2017/0423 | 12 Gibbons Drive – Extension and retaining wall. |
| KET/2017/0426 | 1 The Maltings – Replacement windows to front. |

Applications

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| KET/2017/0158 | 1-3 Bell Hill – Two apartments (amended plans).
No objection. |
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| KET/2017/0582 | 78 Columbus Crescent – 1.98 metre fence to extend garden area. |
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The applicants were present to explain they had been told that this was considered to be amenity land. However, they do own the land as shown on their Deeds.

It was AGREED that Rothwell Town Council had no objection to this application as similar applications had been granted Planning Permission.

Rothwell North

Copies of the E-mail from the Borough Council, and the notes from the last Meeting of the Rothwell North Working Party had been circulated prior to this Meeting. Copies of the reply from the Working Party to Peter Chaplin at the Borough Council had just been received and copies were available at this Meeting.

Planning Applications Procedure

The Borough Council now wants to deal with all but the largest planning applications by electronic means but the Clerk was still concerned about whether Rothwell would be able to comply with this, especially as the photocopier would only do A4 size copies and three Members of the Town Council did not have access to a computer. She had therefore written to the Borough Development Services Department with her concerns. Councillor Cox offered to copy any plans which are larger than A4 so these could be available at a Planning Meeting. This offer was gratefully accepted and the Clerk will go back to the Borough Council that Rothwell will be able to deal with applications sent by electronic means.

Charter Park

Another complaint had been received that Bovis had still not completed the required work to the communal areas/roads at Charter Park, and the Clerk had passed this to the Development Officer. A reply had been received that the Development Team Leader visited the site on 14th July and met with Bovis and a representative of the Highway Authority. Assurances were given that the highway works would be re-commencing within two weeks and the other work done. There are still procedural matters to be sorted out as to the upgrade of the footpath that runs from Gordon Street to the Community Centre, but there is a firm commitment from Bovis for this to be provided.

Land to the south of the A14

At the last Meeting it was reported that there were excavators and other equipment on this site, which has permission for a truck stop. The Clerk contacted the Borough Council and had a reply that the groundworks being undertaken here since the end of June are associated with the permission on this site at KET/2014/0558 which was approved on 4th September 2014.

Desborough Neighbourhood Plan

Councillor Mrs Talbot felt that Rothwell should be in touch with Desborough regarding their Neighbourhood Plan, in particular about the construction traffic coming through the town. We do need the link road before any more houses are constructed in this area. The next Meeting will be on 1st September in Desborough Library. We had now received a notification that the Desborough Plan can be found on their website at www.desboroughnp.org.uk or viewed at their Town Council Office in the High Street, Desborough and submissions will be accepted until 17th September.

Former Football Club Development

There was a sign by this new development using the name Trinity Place, but this could be confusing because there is already Trinity Road and Trinity Court on the other side of the town.

The Clerk had reported this to the Borough Building Control Department and a reply had been received that this is not to be used as one of the street names at this site, but the selected names are Cheaney and Dale. They were not able to use the Town Council's suggestion of Linnett because it would be a duplication of an existing street name within the Borough.

362 HIGHWAYS

Pedestrian Crossing for Kettering Road

A reply had been received from Ian Boyes to this request and he agreed we had looked at this towards the end of 2011 to see if a formal pedestrian crossing (either zebra or signalled) could be provided but it was decided this would not be appropriate due to the width of the bays and the proximity of the Jubilee Street junction. The proximity of the A14 junction would prevent a crossing to the south of Horse Fair Lane. However, he confirmed that the request for a refuge and associated works to the adjacent bays remains on their list of outstanding requests for network improvement schemes. This is a budget to fund larger works such as zebra crossings, footways, refuges etc. and requests are put forward into an annual bidding process for funding from a central countywide pot of money. These schemes are then prioritised on the number of benefits the scheme gives and the value for money they offer. This process is generally undertaken in January/February each year (subject to confirmation of budgets). It must however be pointed out that the number of requests they receive each year far exceeds the available budget; however all outstanding requests remain on the list for subsequent years. Being on their wish list helps to highlight locations where they have had scheme requests should developer funding become available at a future date. It was AGREED to ask for this to be given priority because of the danger here.

Cycle Rack, Market Hill

We had written twice to Tesco to ask if they had any objections to the cycle rack being placed in front of their premises, but had not received any reply. It was AGREED this means they do not have any objection, and we will let Northamptonshire Highways know we would like to proceed and to find out the precise cost of the rack and installation, and ask for confirmation that the County Council will remove the tree stump and railing at no further cost.

New Notice Board

Councillor Cox reported that the Town Centre Partnership wanted to purchase a solar powered notice board to be placed on the island at the top of the parking area in Market Hill and they have chosen one for which they can obtain a 15% discount. The cost is £2,150 and the Partnership can pay half the cost, so the Town Council contribution would be just over £1,000. It was MOVED by Councillor Jelley, SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Talbot and AGREED that the Town Council would pay half the cost.

363 STORAGE, MARKET HOUSE

The Clerk reported that there are now many items stored on the ground floor, and in fact some of these block access to the cupboard there. This area is shared with Help for Heroes and the Preservation Trust also has some storage and it is now difficult for the room to be used. There are a lot of cables and other electrical equipment so she felt that Councillor Sumpter would need to assist with this. It was suggested that these cables were necessary for lighting for the Gala Evening but Councillor Cox said it is likely they will be changing to LED lights so the cables would not be necessary. The minutes from about 1974 are stored there and some years ago the County Archivists said they would like to have these rather than them being thrown away and the Clerk will find out if they are still interested in taking these.

It was AGREED the Members of the Town Council would arrange for the ground floor room to be inspected and for some items to be removed.

364 FINANCIAL REPORT

General Statement

The Clerk submitted a written statement as attached. It was MOVED by Councillor Jelley, 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>
Mrs C E Mackay	Clerk's Salary	633.60
C W Cross	Reimbursement for Civic Service horses	500.00
British Telecommunication	Phone Bill	190.95
Inter County Cleaning Services	Cleaning Market House	44.40
Cash	Petty Cash	30.00

Market House Licence Agreement

Kettering Borough Council is now refusing to pay the rent for the Town Council to use the Market House and a letter had been received from Joanne Spendlove of Berrys, the Agents for the Preservation Trust, setting out details of the historic arrangement the Trust had with the Borough Council. She asked if the Town Council wanted to continue to use the Market House and to sign a new Licence Agreement and suggested she could attend a Meeting if the Town Council wanted this. It was AGREED to arrange a Meeting with Joanne Spendlove at 7.30 pm on either the 6th or 7th September if possible.

365 RETIREMENT OF CLERK

Councillor Morrissey was to have taken the lead on this issue, but he was recovering from his recent operation and so the Clerk asked for another Councillor to take this over as she was retiring by the end of 2017. She has prepared a draft to explain the main duties and will send this to NCALC. She also felt that the office equipment needed to be upgraded for the new Clerk.

366 MATTERS OF REPORT

Councillor Mrs Talbot had a copy of the Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter and she will arrange for a copy of this to be sent to the Clerk regularly.

Councillor Davis reported that he was having problems at the Arts & Heritage Centre as their posters were being taken down from the notice board and he was told by the Environmental Health Team that they could not charge for tea and coffee so they had to refund this and have to register the tea room so they can do more at these premises. They asked for guidance from the Borough Council but were only told to look on the website.

The Meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

Chairman

Date