

ROTHWELL TOWN COUNCIL

A Meeting of Rothwell Town Council was held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday, 8th December 2015 in the Market House, Market Hill, Rothwell.

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| <u>PRESENT:</u> | Councillor Mrs C M Brown Councillor M E Cox Councillor C W Cross Councillor R V Davis Councillor T M Goodwin Councillor A J Mills Councillor Mrs M E Talbot Councillor R Wilson | <u>Town Mayor</u> |
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93 PRAYERS

Before the business of the Council commenced, the Revd Canon John Westwood said Prayers and mentioned the Advent and Christmas events in the town and also gave thanks for the Gala evening.

94 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Councillors Jelley, Newman, Spendlove and Sumpter.

95 COMMUNITY POLICING

General Report

PCSO Kirsty Ellerby was present at the Meeting and confirmed there were 26 reported crimes during November, down from 37 in October. These were as follows:-

- Burglary dwelling- 3
- Criminal damage – 4
- Other offences – 1
- Theft from motor vehicles – 3
- Theft/handling – 9
- Violence offences – 6.

PCSO Ellerby said the burglary dwelling offences are still undetected, and the thefts from motor vehicles are mostly on the A14. One of the criminal damage offences was the Library window. County Councillor Hakewill said the Police have put up the signs on the A14 but these are being turned round. It was confirmed that five lorry drivers have been ticketed today by PCSO Ellerby. The Police go up there every day for about an hour and when they ticket a driver they also notify their company. Councillor Hakewill felt this lay-by needs to be closed and the previous evening there were four lorries parked over the pavement and he confirmed that the Highways Agency is now considering closing it. PCSO Ellerby confirmed that there have also been tickets issued on the double yellow lines in Bridge Street. It was reported that people are still parking in Wales Street opposite the Whiteman Lane junction and this obscures visibility and it was confirmed this is also an issue in other towns and villages.

Disabled Parking Spaces

The Clerk explained that she had received an E-mail from someone whose wife is disabled and when they came to Rothwell at about 7.00 pm on Tuesday, 1st December for a meal here all four disabled parking spaces were occupied by vehicles which did not have blue badges displayed,

including a black open backed truck: this was the fourth time this had happened when they came out to Rothwell in the evening. The Clerk had E-mailed the local Police about this, and had monitored the situation and the same truck had parked in a disabled space on Wednesday and Thursday. Sgt Little had come to Rothwell on the Friday for the Gala when the same truck was there and he had gone into the Red Lion Inn, found the driver and made him move his truck. The Clerk had gone back to the person who complained and explained what had happened and he was grateful for the action taken and hoped that the drivers would be fined if they did this again. This evening there was a small white lorry parked in a disabled space and PCSO Ellerby will deal with this when she leaves the Meeting.

The Town Mayor reported that objects are being stolen from vehicles when there is no sign of entry because people are now buying scanners on the internet and using these to open people's car doors. There is another type of scanner which can read the information used to lock a car electronically.

Commissioner's Award 2016

An E-mail had been received today about this scheme, but it was not thought we could nominate anyone for this.

96 MINUTES

It was MOVED by Councillor Wilson, SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Talbot and RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th November 2015 be confirmed and signed.

97 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

(1) Street Lighting: Jillian Coleman said there are still some streets which have the old orange lights. County Councillor Hakewill explained there is a programme and some were done three years ago. If they are County lights, they will be in the programme and it is intended to complete the scheme by September 2016. Councillor Mrs Talbot said that the Norton Street lights belong to the Borough Council. The Town Mayor said that Drake Close and Scott Avenue are the same because these houses were built in 1969 when it was the Rothwell Urban District Council. There has been a debate about the Borough looking after these lights since 1974 and the County do not think these are on their list. Councillor Cross confirmed that the lights in Fox Street and Harrington Road have now been completed.

(2) Flag Stones: Miss Coleman said other residents are complaining about the York stone slabs in Market Hill and some people have problems walking there. It was AGREED to ask Street Doctor to inspect and remedy any defects.

(3) Parking, Glendon Road: people are still parking there but it was explained that the County will put forward the Traffic Order for some double yellow lines in the spring.

(4) Land off Slade Valley Avenue: The Town Council will not know anything more unless and until a Planning Application is submitted.

(5) Skateboard Park: Mrs Joyce and some of the young people were present at the Meeting and the Town Mayor brought this item forward on the Agenda. She and Councillor Mills had a good meeting with Dave Lane and Pia Bellamy at the Borough Council and discussed this matter in full. There now needs to be a consultation with nearby residents which will take time and this has to be extensive. The questionnaires need to be distributed and there will be a press release and perhaps an item on social media. Then there will have to be a Public Meeting which the Borough intends to do in February and we need to get comments in now.

The new skateboard ramp will be quieter than the existing wooden ramp. Once the contract has been let, the precise details of the ramp will be decided. The Town Mayor would like as many of the skaters as possible to be at the presentation to explain why this new ramp is needed. The scheme is in the Programme of Work for 2017 at present in case we get a lot of objections. Obviously the work cannot be done in the winter. The finance is already there. The Town Mayor also explained the other work which will be carried out on or near the Bovis site.

(6) Rothwell North development: Andy Jones was present and he had sent an E-mail to the Town Council, with the Borough and County Councillors copied in, complaining it was now proposed to have only 2.2 hectares of employment land at Rothwell North and West instead of the original 11 hectares and suggesting that the Town Council should have tried to fight this. The Clerk had sent a preliminary reply that the Council had said it would accept a minimum of 5 hectares for a business park (which would produce more worthwhile jobs than a larger area with only sheds for distribution companies) and had sent a copy of the relevant part of the statement to the recent Independent Examination into the Soundness of the NNJPU Joint Core Strategy. Mr Jones was not content with this latest action by the Town Council and thought the Town Council should respond to the latest Planning Application. The Town Council had met David Burrows from the Northamptonshire Enterprise Partnership but they were not able to help because they only brought back into use empty commercial premises for a new use, but Rothwell does not have any of these. He also said they could not assist with new build because Rothwell still does not have any identified employment land. Malcolm and Andy Jones thought that something near the A6 would be an obvious site and the Town Council has always thought this.

Councillor Hakewill said the Borough Council could allocate land but cannot force people to develop this. Cransley Park was approved for B2 use and Business Park but it is now down to sheds again, as this site was available for ten years.

The Clerk had drafted a full reply on what the Council has done over the years and copies were available at this Meeting for consideration by the Members. The reply as follows was approved later in the Meeting under the Planning section:-

“Your severe criticism of Rothwell Town Council because it has not yet succeeded in obtaining more jobs for Rothwell is extremely unfair but you obviously do not know the history of the work which has been done. For at least 30 years, successive Town Councils have lobbied for more jobs as it has always been obvious these are desperately needed. Rothwell also actively supported the planning application for an industrial site to the south of the A14 near junction 3 and very much regretted that the Borough Council refused permission for this. The same plot of land now has planning permission (on appeal) for a truck stop which will put many more heavy vehicles on the A14, and also probably through Rothwell itself, but will produce relatively few jobs compared with an industrial site, and most of those will be low paid.

The Town Council supported having 11 hectares for employment use as included on the original application, but when this was reduced to 2.20 hectares, decided to demand that there should be a minimum of 5 hectares as this seemed to be achievable to be included on any planning permission. You will also note that the Town Council is asking for a business park to be constructed on the site because, if planned appropriately, this would provide a wide range of more worthwhile jobs, the majority of which could be well paid and bring back some prosperity to Rothwell. You state that Councillors should have asked to retain the proposal for 11 hectares but size does not mean quality and it was felt that there would be big storage and distribution warehouses only on such a large site, which will not attract the type of employment which is so badly needed in Rothwell.

I can confirm that Town Councillors had a meeting with the Northamptonshire Enterprise Partnership at the suggestion of an ex-Councillor but this only confirmed that the NEP was set

up to bring back into use redundant and empty commercial properties, but there are not any of these in Rothwell so they could not help which is why we have to concentrate on new build.

You copy an extract from the Joint Position Statement which says they have had meetings with many people including Rothwell Town Council but I can confirm Persimmon did not meet with us and Kettering Borough Council only sent us the application for observations, as it is obliged to do with every application on land or property in the Parish of Rothwell. We do not know why you think the Town Council has not yet looked into the applications – I can confirm that Rothwell's further observations on application KET/2007/0461, as amended, were submitted on 1st October 2014.

Unfortunately all the power to deal with planning applications is held by the Borough Council, to a lesser extent by the County Council, and by the Planning Inspectorate if there is an appeal. Since its inception the North Northants Joint Planning Unit has also had considerable power to influence what will be permitted and this is why it was felt by the Members of Rothwell Town Council to be essential to submit the statements on various issues to the Examination in Public on the NNJPU Joint Core Strategy, especially as this will be heard by an independent Inspector.

The Members of Rothwell Town Council now hope that you fully understand the whole situation and the efforts made by successive Town Councils.

Finally, you mentioned the NEP at the Town Council meeting yesterday evening, and I can confirm that David Burrows attended a meeting of the Town Centre Partnership on 21st January 2015 when it was agreed that he was not able to assist at that time because we had no empty industrial buildings and the proposed employment land at Rothwell North was not yet available. Everyone present at that meeting agreed they would be content with 5 hectares of employment land at Rothwell North if this provided sufficient jobs.

98 REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

(1) Junior School: Councillor Hakewill referred to the comment under Minute 82 in the November Minutes that there had been a loss to the community of over £2m of investment but in fact at Montsaye there will be a two-form entry instead of a one-form entry so the money which was going to the Infant and Junior schools is now going there.

(2) County Council Budget: the draft budget has been announced today and Councillor Hakewill explained some of the issues as follows:

- There is an increase in the need for adult social care
- Many more school places will be required
- There are nearly 25% more looked after children compared to 2012, and also the number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children has risen by 50% since December 2013.

The County still has to make savings as the Council Tax cannot be increased above 1.95% and the Nourish scheme for school meals is likely to be closed. The cost of adult social care and looked after children is likely to rise by 3.99%. The Boroughs and the County are looking to have some combined services where they have been doing the same things.

(3) Hedge, Harrington Road: Councillor Cross said this has been trimmed back now but he still felt it would be better to remove this completely.

(4) Winter Weather: Councillor Mrs Talbot asked if the County is ready for adverse winter weather and Councillor Hakewill confirmed they have supplies of salt, grit and molasses and they do have reserves to cope with this.

99 ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITYSkateboard Ramp

This item was dealt with earlier in the Meeting.

Town Centre Partnership

Copies of the Report of the Meeting held on 11th November 2015 had been circulated prior to this Meeting. It was **MOVED** by Councillor Cross, **SECONDED** by Councillor Wilson and **RESOLVED** that the Report be approved and adopted.

Gala Evening

Copies of the Report of the Gala Committee Meeting held on 18th November 2015 had been circulated prior to this Meeting, and that for the Meeting held on 1st December was on the table. It was **MOVED** by Councillor Wilson, **SECONDED** by Councillor Mrs Talbot and **RESOLVED** that the Reports be approved and adopted.

Councillor Mills thanked former Councillor Malcolm Jones for his help at the Gala with taking the stalls down at the end of the evening. This event is usually held on the first Friday in December, but the Town Centre Partnership is taking this over and the date might be moved so that it does not clash with that at Market Harborough. Councillors Mills said that Councillor Spendlove had suggested that instead of trying to put the stalls up and take them down ourselves, Stephen Chester should be asked to quote for doing this. There have been other suggestions for how the Gala should be organised, such as whether the stalls should be in a different location. These matters will be discussed at the Partnership Meeting to be held on 14th January 2016.

Medical Centre

We have received an E-mail from NHS England that we will receive a response from their Primary Care Commissioning Team. If any of the patients would like to make a complaint directly to NHS England they should write to NHS England, P O Box 16738, Redditch, B97 9PT, E-mail england.contactus@nhs.net, or telephone 0300 311 22 33.

Helicopters over Rothwell

An E-mail had been received from a resident complaining about low-flying helicopters over the area of Glendon Mead which are very noisy and as he works a night shift they wake him during the day. It was **AGREED** to thank the resident for his E-mail about the helicopters and for bringing this to the attention of the Town Council.

Parking, Glendon Road

Councillor Goodwin asked about the double yellow lines to be put along Glendon Road in view of the road fatalities which have happened here. It was confirmed that this has to go into the system for a Road Traffic Order in the spring. In the meantime, the Town Council is to write to the affected residents and confirm they can park in the Borough area off Columbus Crescent.

Light in Droué Court

Councillor Cross confirmed that this light has been fixed and is working and the Clerk confirmed she had reported this through Street Doctor.

Land in Desborough Road

It was reported that some of the hoarding on the former garage land at the top of Desborough Road has come down, probably because of the high winds, and we will ask the owners to put these back up.

Mineral & Waste Local Plan

The Town Council had received notification of the County consultation on their update of this Plan and this was noted.

Pocket Park Scheme

A letter had been received from the County Council that they are closing the Pocket Park scheme and will remove the currently vacant post of Pocket Park Officer from its employment list. Over the years the County has helped local communities establish, own and manage over 80 Pocket Parks across Northamptonshire but the demand for new ones has dwindled to virtually nil over the last five years which confirms that the scheme has been successful.

100 PLANNINGNotifications and Applications

The following approvals had been received:-

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| KET/2015/0233 | Town Football Club – 80 dwellings. |
| KET/2015/0695 | Rothboro, 5 The Avenue – External wall insulation. |
| KET/2015/0801 | Woodland Hospital – Chiller units. |
| KET/2015/0851 | Woodland Hospital – 29 car parking spaces. |

The following Refusal had been received:-

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| KET/2015/0802 | Land adjoining 44 Castle Hill – Detached dwelling. |
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Notification had been received of the extensions at Rothwell Infant School and an outline application for a neighbouring parish, for up to 147 dwellings at Willowbrook Stud Farm, Rushton Road, Desborough.

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

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| KET/2015/0873 | Land adjoining Rothwell Cricket Club – Change of use to car valet service. This site must be totally enclosed by a 2m high close-boarded fence so that none of the materials are blown off site to the neighbouring properties. |
| KET/2015/0947 | 9 Playford Close – Conservatory to side. No objection. |

Neighbourhood Plan

Members of the Town Council had met with Howard Fillingham and started to go through the amendments to the draft Town Plan and had dealt with just under half the document.

Mr Fillingham had sent a copy of the Plan as amended and this had been circulated to the Members. He was prepared to come to this Meeting to look through the rest, but we have quite a long Agenda so the Town Mayor decided it would be better to have another special Meeting and the date will be agreed at the January Town Council Meeting.

Councillor Mrs Talbot has gone through the responses to the questionnaire and has prepared a summary of these, which she will let the Clerk have to copy out so they can be added to the draft Plan. Councillor Mrs Talbot will also consult with Locality, who Julia Baish suggested would be the best people to help us. Councillor Mills thought we will need to have another consultation once the draft is finalised and Councillor Mrs Talbot said Julia Baish will help with this.

Rothwell North and West

As discussed earlier in this Meeting, E-mails had been received from Andy Jones about the need for employment land at Rothwell North and West and the Clerk had drafted a full reply to him. It was MOVED by the Town Mayor, SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Talbot and RESOLVED that the reply be approved.

101 HIGHWAYS

Street Lighting

This matter had been discussed earlier in the Meeting under the section on the Report of the County Councillor.

Speeding, Glendon Road and Desborough Road

Copies of the E-mail from the Police Safer Roads Team Manager had been circulated prior to this Meeting and his comments were noted.

Parking, Market Hill Square

The Clerk had drafted a letter and questionnaire to be handed to people parking here and Councillor Goodwin will distribute these in January to avoid the Christmas holiday period.

102 MATTERS OF BUSINESS

Community Grants

An E-mail had just been received on the Tesco Local Community Grants Scheme.

103 FINANCIAL REPORT

General Statement

A written statement as attached was submitted: it was MOVED by Councillor Mrs Talbot, and SECONDED by Councillor Goodwin that this be approved and adopted and the payments made:-

| <u>Payee</u> | <u>Goods or Services</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| Mrs C E Mackay | Clerk's Salary | £597.80 |
| H M Revenue & Customs | Tax | £222.80 |
| Inter County Cleaning Services | Cleaning the Market House | £37.20 |

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| Colemans | Stationery | £32.99 |
| Cash | Petty Cash | £20.00 |

Precept 2016-17

Copies of the Report of the Budget Meeting held on 16th November 2015 had been circulated prior to this Meeting. It was MOVED by Councillor Mrs Talbot, SECONDED by Councillor Wilson and RESOLVED that the Report be approved and adopted and that the Town Council would apply for a precept of £30,000 for 2016-17, which for a Band D property would incur a cost of £12.54 for the year.

104 ADMISSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC

In view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, the Press and Public were asked to withdraw.