

ROTHWELL TOWN COUNCIL

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

<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 I F Jelley Councillor M W Spendlove Councillor K D Sumpter County Councillor J Hakewill	<u>Town Mayor</u>
-----------------	---	-------------------

122 PRAYERS

Before the business of the Council commenced, the Revd Canon John Westwood said Prayers and mentioned the Town Mayor, the Town Council and this evening's agenda.

123 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Councillors Mills, Newman, Mrs Talbot and Wilson.

124 COMMUNITY POLICING

General Report

There had been a Meeting with Sgt Little the previous night and he had said it was unlikely there would be anyone available to attend this Meeting. We had received the crime figures, showing there were 28 reported crimes during January as follows:-

- Burglary dwelling – 1
- Criminal damage – 3
- Theft from motor vehicles – 5
- Theft/handling – 11
- Theft of motor vehicles – 1
- Violence offences – 7.

Most of the theft/handling offences included in the figures for Rothwell are those which take place on the A14 at the service station. There was a robbery at Tesco's and Councillor Sumpter had spoken to Sgt Little about this at the A6 Towns Forum, and 20 minutes later there was another robbery by the same people in Rushden.

Safer Roads

An E-mail had been received from the office of the Police & Crime Commissioner about his plans to improve road safety following his visits to parishes in the County where issues such as speeding and traffic were brought to his attention.

125 MINUTES

It was MOVED by Councillor Cross, SECONDED by Councillor Jelley and RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th January 2016 be confirmed and signed.

126 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

(1) Traffic Conditions, Jubilee Street/Gordon Street: Mr & Mrs Antrobus gave a written explanation of the problems regarding parking and the traffic flow here because by necessity cars park on both sides of these already narrow streets. They had three suggestions which they felt would improve matters as follows:-

(a) the streets could be made one way, entering via Gordon Street and exiting onto Jubilee Street.

(b) at present vehicles park right at the end of Jubilee Street, and they understand it is forbidden to park less than 10 metres from a junction with a main road so they asked if double yellow lines could be put here.

(c) they live in the fairly modern houses near one end of Jubilee Street with off road parking, but entry and egress to and from the car park is often very difficult due to other vehicles being left by the access and they asked if it would be possible for white lines to be painted on the road outside, delineating the area required to be kept clear. Councillor Mrs Brown said we had looked at this area some years ago but a certain number of residents had to support this proposal. It was AGREED that the Town Council accepts this is a difficult area and we will ask Mr Boyes of Northamptonshire Highways if we could have a Site Meeting to see if this can be included in the forthcoming application for various Traffic Orders.

(2) Land off Slade Valley Avenue: Miss Coleman said that there were landscapers on this land and they confirmed this has to be an open space which cannot be built on. They are clearing the scrub and the area will be landscaped. There is an electricity sub-station and she did not know if some of the land belonged to the Electricity Board as they have not yet cleared the whole site. Councillor Spendlove said if there is a cable across the land, they would have a wayleave for this. Miss Coleman does not know who the landscapers are. It was AGREED to contact Persimmon and ask for the name of the landscaping company and whether they are going to finish this work, and also to ask for something at the entrance to stop travellers going there. We would also like to know what the long-term plans are for this area.

(3) Hedgerow, Glendon Road: Miss Coleman said that this hedge is now getting very high and there is a lot of rubbish there; there has been this problem for some years and the hedge actually belongs to the property owners of the fences behind. It was AGREED to ask Mr Brendan Coleman at the Borough Council to have this area inspected and the litter cleared.

(4) Grass Verge, Rock Hill: Miss Coleman said this verge has been cut up because vehicles park there, and mud is now getting on the footpath making this slippery. Councillor Davis thought this was caused by delivery lorries turning round there. Councillor Sumpter had some photographs and he will go into Tesco to ask about this as it was thought the lorries were making deliveries there.

(5) Skateboard Park: Mrs Joyce confirmed they met Mr Dave Lane in January and they have three designs to choose from. The following Monday they are meeting at the Red Lion barns again to look at these and when the young people have selected their favourite they will put this forward. If they are not able to use the barns, they can also contact the Clerk for access to the Market House. The Town Mayor thanked Mrs Joyce for the time and effort she has put into this scheme for the skateboard ramp.

(6) Bus Service A43: Councillor Cross had been asked by a disabled lady to enquire about the proposed alteration to this bus service as it is very useful for people living on the edge of Rothwell to use to come into the town centre to shop. Councillor Cross subsequently ascertained that it is only the times of this service which are to be altered very slightly so this should not cause a problem although passengers will need a new timetable.

(7) Litter Picking: Mr Adrian Coles from the 2nd Rothwell Scouts was present at the Meeting and had previously sent an E-mail that as part of their badge work the Scouts should be performing a public service. There is a lot of litter and dog mess in Rothwell and they would like to help get rid of this. Another resident explained the signs they have in Australia where there is very little litter or damage. The Scouts have nearly 100 young people in their group who could help. The Town Mayor explained that we have an annual litter pick and would welcome the help of the Scouts. Councillor Sumpter suggested some small signs and he has some Ward Initiative money available which he could let Mr Coles have. Another resident said there is a lot of glass on the ground which he picks up. Councillor Spendlove is in favour of putting official signs up and Councillor Sumpter will ask the Borough Council. Miss Coleman said there is a lot of glass and she is worried about her dog cutting his paws. The Scouts do not need to advertise their work as they can join up with the Annual Litter Pick and we can obtain the necessary equipment from the Borough Council. Councillor Spendlove thought the precept money could assist if Councillor Sumpter's Ward Initiative money is not sufficient. Councillor Cross said the Borough Council should deal with this the same as they do in the town of Kettering; it was thought this was a good argument but we should not let this stop the initiative.

127 ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITY

Medical Centre

Copies of the reply from NHS England had been circulated prior to this Meeting. The Primary Care Commissioning Team has reviewed our complaint and provided the following statement:-

"Thank you for your letter dated 29th November 2015 in which you raise concerns the Rothwell Town Council has about the service from Rothwell and Desborough Healthcare Group, particularly the Rothwell site. I have responded to your points below and provided a description of the process we will be following in taking this further with the practice.

You mention the patient who had presented in person to request an urgent same day appointment but was asked to contact the practice by telephone. We would agree that this is not acceptable and completely inflexible for patients. This is something that NHS England will be investigating with the practice. It would be helpful to ascertain whether a complaint was made directly to the practice as we will be able to audit the process the practice has taken in response to the complaint. We are encouraged that the appointment was available but as stated above, consider this approach unacceptable.

Thank you for the information provided from the Chair of the Patient Participation Group (PPG). We would recommend that an individual from the Town Council takes up the Practice Manager's suggestion of joining the PPG. This would be the most beneficial approach for members to discuss issues on a regular basis and ensure concerns are being addressed where appropriate.

With regards to the Flu clinics, the practice can organise these and usually do. It is not however stipulated contractually that they have to. That being said, we will be reviewing the communications to patients regarding these clinics or in the absence of them, how patients can access the service.

Having reviewed your correspondence together with previous complaints, the Patient Satisfaction scores and our own internal Quality Programme, my team will be recommending that this practice is prioritised for a Quality Visit, where we will be investigating key lines of enquiry including your points about recruitment, the disparity between quality at sites and the Practice Manager's involvement with the day to day running of the Rothwell site."

The Town Mayor is meeting the Chair of the Patient Participation Group shortly to discuss this. It was AGREED to write and thank NHS England for their letter and for the measures being put in place to improve the service at Rothwell Medical Centre. It was confirmed that there are still problems at both Rothwell and Desborough.

Town Centre Partnership

Copies of the Report of the Meeting held on 14th January 2016 had been circulated prior to this Meeting. Councillor Cross said the next Meeting has been arranged for 7.30 pm on Wednesday, 17th February but this is also the date of the Rowell Fair Society Meeting which some people might also like to attend. It was therefore AGREED that the Partnership Meeting would be held at 7.00 pm.

Councillor Cox is looking at the Public Liability Insurance for the Partnership. There is a suggestion for local businesses to have an exhibition at the Arts & Heritage Centre. The website is going well and they hope to have this transferred across within the next week or so. As to the former Football Club site, Councillor Cox suggested they could just leave an area unlocked for parking. It was thought William Davis had an option on this land but they are not proceeding.

As to the High Street shops, there are several people interested in the one next to Rowell Pets, and the shop next to Black & White's is going to be a tile shop. There is to be a cake shop in Bell Hill.

It was MOVED by Councillor Cox, SECONDED by Councillor Davis and RESOLVED that the Report of the Partnership Meeting held on 14th January be confirmed and signed.

Blythe Close Play Area

Copies of the E-mail from Mr Dave Lane of the Borough Council had been circulated prior to this Meeting. It is intended to try and have all the play equipment here suitable for disabled children and Mr Lane suggested a possible funding application: the Clerk had got details of the Mick George grant scheme, and there is also the Maud Elkington Fund. It was AGREED to hold a Meeting with Mr Lane and this was subsequently agreed to be held at 7.30 pm on Monday, 22nd February.

Orton/Wallis House

Copies of the Report of the Meeting held on 8th February 2016 with Ken Farrimond and Noel Beaumont from Homes2Inspire, and Sgt Scott Little, were available at this Meeting. It was AGREED that the Report be approved and adopted. The property is to be re-named Wallis House as a tribute to one of their colleagues who recently died of cancer.

The Town Mayor said this was a very good Meeting and there will only be five children there between the ages of 10 and 18, but they only have a four-year age range in any one home. They will start with two children so they can settle them in and then take the others. They will inform the neighbours and Councillor Davis suggested they could also have a public meeting with nearby residents.

Park & Stride Scheme

Councillor Jelley reported that about half the Primary School parents would be interested in this scheme, but people are not happy about walking their children to school because of dog mess. They wondered if we could have small white lines put down and thought that the Monday market took up more space than was needed.

A6 Towns Forum

Councillor Sumpter said he and Councillor Davis went to the A6 Towns Forum Meeting and asked about Rothwell North and West but they are not expecting any plans to come forward in the near future although they are likely to put a surveyor's report in just to keep the planning application open. As to the footpath lighting from Gordon Street to Hawkins Close, Mr Coleman is going to look at this. They also congratulated the Borough Council on their swift action on the new skateboard ramp.

There is land at the back of Brachers Allotments, behind Edinburgh Close but this is very overgrown and Mr Coleman said he would use his equipment to clear this.

There are about 50 horses on land at Shotwell Mill Lane so people are not using this area for walking. This is land which used to belong to Mr Handy but is now owned by a major building firm and they have let the grassland to a traveller on a short term agreement but it is considered that these horses are the best option for the time being.

Town Guide

The Clerk had received a telephone call from Mr Russ Collard on behalf of Local Authority Publishing about the revised edition of the Guide. The 2015-16 edition was published in August 2015 and he intends to start preparation in June or July this year ready for the 2017 edition.

Former Health Centre

It was reported that there was a job advertisement for that building and its future development. This was mentioned at the Meeting the previous evening and Sgt Little is looking into this. It was thought that perhaps they might be prepared to take some people with a criminal record. The Clerk will try and find out who the operator is and who the occupants are likely to be.

Coach House

A letter had been received from the Citizens' Welfare Committee that after the Gala Evening the equipment was not put back in the Coach House very tidily. Councillor Wilson was to have arranged this, but was not able to because he had broken his arm. We have asked Chesters to quote for putting up and taking down the stalls for the Gala, and it was AGREED to ask if they could let us have a price to stack the equipment properly so it can be taken out easily for the Carnival.

128 REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

- (1) Cransley Park: Councillor Hakewill reported that on the former Cohen's Yard land they want large units but state there will only be one HGV.
- (2) Bovis Development: He now has the Bovis contact detail which he will pass on.
- (3) County Budget: the County has reduced the proposed overspend, but this is still about £6m over the agreed budget, but they are working to vote this through. Before Christmas the Government took £6m away but gave some of this back.
- (4) A14 Footpath: lorries are still parking over this path and the lay-by further on needs to be closed. Councillor Hakewill has a number for the new operators of the Esso Garage and Spar shop. There is land behind the buildings which they used for the widening and this would be an obvious place for lorries to park. As mentioned previously in the Meeting, there is also a problem with lorries turning in Glendon Road and cutting up the verge at Rock Hill.

(5) Development at Desborough: Councillor Spendlove referred to proposed development south of Desborough and the pressure this would put on the traffic in Rothwell. Councillor Hakewill said the County is pushing for the Rothwell North bypass. There is no money to do this now but he felt it was urgent to have this built as soon as possible. We have always said there needs to be road priorities to encourage vehicles from Desborough to go straight to the A6 bypass. We could ask about this at the A6 Towns Forum. Councillor Jelley said the main access would be through Sycamore Drive off Rushton Road.

(6) Rothwell North and West: at present there is no sign of them actually going ahead and it will probably be about three or four years before this is done. Persimmon want the design limit to vary and have hired a retired design expert. Developers do not like bungalows or small houses. There is a primary school on the plans for Rothwell North and a proposal for a two-form entry school. Councillor Hakewill has asked to be included in any meetings on this matter.

(7) Bus Services: Councillor Cross referred to the proposed changes to the X43 service, and Councillor Hakewill said there is a £1.2m subsidy on bus routes but he did not think there was enough for Rothwell.

129 HIGHWAYS

Double Yellow Lines

The Clerk reported that she had received three telephone calls about the proposed double yellow lines in Glendon Road, but no-one had followed up with a letter or E-mail.

Road Closures

The County Highways Liaison Officer had written and apologised because the Town Council had not been notified of the recent road closure in Glendon Road. He has passed our comment to the Regulations Team who authorise the closures and asked them to keep us informed of any further closures affecting Rothwell.

Parish Satisfaction Questionnaire

A reminder had been received about the questionnaire concerning KierWSP performance for the year ending 2015. It was AGREED to take no action here.

The Clerk was taken ill at this point and was obliged to leave the Meeting so no formal notes were taken for the rest of the Meeting.

130 PLANNING

Planning Meeting

The Town Council had held a Meeting on 26th January 2016 to discuss various planning issues as follows:-

Town Plan

The Clerk had prepared a list of suggested amendments to the draft Plan which were discussed in some detail and some additions and deletions were agreed. It was also decided to change the font and the layout of the Plan to make it clearer to read. The Clerk will now prepare an updated draft for approval by the Town Council. As the changes were complicated the Clerk decided it would be easier for her to do this rather than asking Howard Fillingham. Representatives will then have a Meeting with Julia Baish of the Borough Council Planning Department for her detailed advice on the Plan.

Notifications

The following Approvals had been received:-

KET/2015/0805	North Kettering Business Park – Warehouse.
KET/2015/0942	Land off Harrington Road – Additional dwellings and amendments.
KET/2015/0947	2 Playford Close – Conservatory.
KET/2015/0960	Potters Cottage, 25 Littlewood Street – Rear extension.
KET/2015/0982	95 Littlewood Street – Alterations and rear extension.

Applications

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

KET/2015/0973	29 Littlewood Street – Single storey rear extension. No objection.
KET/2016/0015	8 Trinity Road – Single storey front and side extensions. No objection.

The Clerk had obtained the relevant plans for the proposed development in the Ise Valley, south of Desborough. It was AGREED this would be considered in detail at a later Meeting.

131 TOWN PLAN

The Clerk had prepared the new draft Plan and copies had been circulated prior to this Meeting. Councillor Jelley wanted to check some facts on the statements regarding the schools and he would do this as soon as possible. Apart from this the new draft Town Plan was AGREED.

132 ROTHWELL NORTH & WEST

An E-mail had been received from the North Northants Joint Planning Unit in connection with the consultation on the modifications to the Joint Core Strategy, from Wednesday, 3rd February until 5.30 pm on Wednesday, 16th March 2016 and copies of the entry for Rothwell North and West were available at this Meeting.

133 MATTERS OF BUSINESSPolling Stations

A letter had been received from the Borough Council that the elections to be held on 5th May 2016 for the Police & Crime Commissioner will take place at the Methodist Church, Market Hill, in order that the Infant School can remain open that day.

The referendum on membership of the European Union must be held before the end of 2017 and the Borough Returning Officer has indicated that the Infant School will be required as a polling station for this referendum.

Northants CALC Training Courses

The Clerk has received details of the various training courses being run by NCALC if any Councillors are interested in having a copy of these.

Queen's 90th Birthday

A letter had been received from the Revd Canon John Westwood that Churches Together in Rothwell has discussed the Queen's 90th Birthday and they wondered if the town had any plans to celebrate this and if so whether they contribute perhaps with a special service on the Sunday afternoon, 12th June. It was AGREED that the Town Council would be happy for this service to take place and we will ask for the flags to remain in place after Rowell Fair, and to have some Union Jack bunting up if possible. The Town Council has subsequently been informed that the Arts & Heritage Centre plan to have a tea party, possibly on Saturday, 11th June.

Rothwell Library

An E-mail had been received from the Library Manager, that she would welcome coming to a Town Council Meeting to tell Councillors about what they are planning there. It was AGREED to invite Ms Snow to the next Town Council Meeting.

134 FINANCIAL REPORTGeneral Statement

The Clerk had prepared a written statement as attached. It was MOVED by the Town Mayor, SECONDED by the Deputy Town Mayor and RESOLVED that the statement be approved and adopted and the following payments made:-

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Goods or Services</u>	<u>Amount</u>
H F Design (Pd. 28.01.16)	Town Plan Amendments	384.00
Mrs C E Mackay	Clerk's Salary	597.80
B T Payment Services	Phone and Broadband	193.39
Inter County Cleaning Services	Cleaning the Market House	40.80
Nene Secure Ltd	Repair to the Public Toilets Lock	90.00
H F Design	PDF Upload on Website	36.00
Cash	Petty Cash	30.00

Insurance Contract Renewal

The Clerk had received the quotes from Zurich with the costs for renewal of the Insurance Policy with premiums of £1,068.83 for one year, £1028.38 for three years, and £987.94 for five years. It was AGREED to renew the Policy for one year.

Phone/Broadband Renewal

A quote had been received from Onecom to transfer the line rental and broadband to them from British Telecom but no decision was made and Councillor Cox will look into this.

The Meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

Chairman

Date