

## ROTHWELL TOWN COUNCIL

A Meeting of Rothwell Town Council was held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday, 14th February 2017 in the Market House, Market Hill, Rothwell.

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Councillor K D Sumpter Councillor M E Cox Councillor T Goodwin Councillor I F Jelley Councillor M W Spendlove Councillor Mrs M E Talbot Councillor R Wilson	<u>Town Mayor</u>
	County Councillor J Hakewill	

### 289 MINUTE'S SILENCE

Before the business of the Council commenced, the Town Mayor called for one minute's silence as a mark of respect for ex-Councillor Roy Roebuck who had died recently.

### 290 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Councillors Mrs Brown, Cross, Davis, Morrissey and Newman and from the Revd Canon John Westwood.

### 291 COMMUNITY POLICING

#### General Report/Crime Figures

We had received a list of the recent crimes and PCSO Keith Miller was also present at the Meeting and explained some of these. There were seven burglaries but not all of these were of dwellings. There was a till snatch from the Co-op shop in Bell Hill and another robbery but the offenders have been arrested and are being dealt with. The extra patrols in Rothwell are continuing, and also on the A14 including around the lay-by there. Councillor Spendlove asked about the people who did the till snatch and Inspector Julie Mead said they were from Corby and were fairly young; they have all been arrested including the older ones who told them to do this.

Councillor Jelley reported that there is a boy who is going down Columbus Crescent on a quad bike. Councillor Sumpter mentioned the web page on Facebook so people can put incidents there when they are happening and they have over 1,400 members. Inspector Mead said people can also telephone 101 as well as putting items on Facebook. PCSO Miller did not have any information about young people trying doors in the Columbus Crescent area. It was reported there is a group of youths gathering behind the Community Centre and smoking cannabis in a dark spot where they cannot be seen very easily. These are the young people who used to meet outside the Library and not the young skateboarders.

#### Police Cadets

Inspector Julie Mead was present at the Meeting, together with Ann-Marie Lawson from the Northamptonshire Cadets, and three young Cadets were also present. Inspector Mead said this is the first Town Council Meeting she has attended since she came to this area. Ms Lawson said it is quite exciting for the County that we have something unique in that the three Services have joined forces with Cadets for the Fire, Police and Ambulance forces and these young people can help others change. They have charitable status and hope to become independent. She explained the core business and said that if the Members of the Town Council know anyone who would

make a good Cadet they should let them know. The three Cadets each gave a presentation on their work and one of them is now a Special at Corby and helping to teach other Cadets. They do the work the Officers do not have time for, such as checking vehicles and they will probably also do speed checks. They were with Fire & Rescue for nine weeks and that gave them a lot of experience. They have 150 cadets over the County and other young people do want to join, but they need more volunteers first and there is currently a waiting list, but they are starting one in a school.

## 292 MINUTES

It was MOVED by Councillor Wilson, SECONDED by Councillor Jelley and RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th January 2017 be confirmed and signed.

## 293 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Proposed Youth Club: Malcolm Jones and Claire Hughes were present at the Meeting and handed a letter to the Town Council explaining their plans to open a youth club in the town, and have a suggested opening night of 25th April. Initially they will look at having two separate sessions broken down into 8-12 years and 13-16 years to allow them to concentrate specifically on their age appropriate needs. The letter also specified the set-up overheads they will need, which amount to around £3,000 including the public liability insurance. They have some promises from Members of the Town Council but Mr Jones asked if the Town Council could make a donation to help set up this youth club. He has spoken to Mr Lane and Mr Edwards at the Borough Council about the use of the Community Centre and asked about the possibility of storage and to have a shipping container. They have an appointment with Barclays Bank the following week to set up an account for Rothwell Town Youth Club. The Town Mayor will ask the Borough Council about donating some of his Ward money to the Club. Councillor Jelley has asked Shirley Plenderleith, the Borough Head of Public Services about the cost of hiring the Community Centre to see if they could give a preferential rate. Councillor Spendlove wondered if the Town Council could agree to match funding. Councillor Cox said he could provide some stationery and some T-shirts. It was thought the NAYC could assist with Insurance and PCSO Miller considered the Police could possibly help with posters and circulate these.

As to the Town Council making an initial donation, there was not any provision for this in the Budget, or any contingency fund, so this might be against the Town Council procedures. This issue was discussed further later in the Meeting when it was MOVED by Councillor Spendlove, SECONDED by Councillor Cox and RESOLVED that the Town Council will make a donation of £500 this financial year which will be paid after the March Meeting, and another donation of £500 the next financial year which will be paid after the April Meeting and this would be in accordance with the procedures on the Budget and the Financial Regulations. It was FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Council will make a donation of £1,000 the following year and will include this in the Budget.

## 294 REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

- (1) County Budget: Councillor Hakewill confirmed this has been recommended to the full County Council but so many members of the public attended that they had to stop the Meeting. It is likely to be a 4.9% increase which includes the 3% from the Government for social care.
- (2) Rothwell/Desborough Bypass Closure: the County Council has tried to give everyone the information about this and the Frequently Asked Questions were also considered. The bypass had to be closed because the road had eroded each side of the bridge.

The diversion through Thorpe Malsor and Braybrooke has caused problems but this will be looked at and it is still hoped the bypass will be re-opened at the end of February. The railway bridge has also been inspected. The people at Great Bear are telling their drivers which roads they can now use.

(2) Rothwell North: this application will be going to the Planning Committee within the next week. There have been 12 letters of objection and they are refreshing the Outline Application. The relief road is being described as an estate road but we want Desborough traffic to use this to get to the bypass. Councillor Hakewill said there is enough land to build a proper relief road which will take the traffic away. The application stated they would complete this road by 2015 but this is now 2021/22. He felt the money should be put in first and then the cost taken back from the developers. From the beginning Rothwell Town Council has said this strategic link road must be constructed first and all the construction traffic use this.

Councillor Spendlove said the last plan we saw had minor roads coming off the relief road but Councillor Hakewill said the children living there would need to cross this to get to school, and he thought the Council could borrow the capital sum to build this road. Councillor Tebbutt from Desborough is also concerned about there only being one week to comment on this development which means there is not time to study this in detail. Councillor Hakewill also thought the strategic relief road should be a northern bypass and not go through the new development.

(3) Road Defects: Councillor Mrs Talbot said there are potholes and trenches in the roads and asked if the County Council has sufficient money to repair these, such as those in Glendon Road, as she does not get an answer from Street Doctor. Councillor Jelley said he would look at this issue.

## 295 ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITY

### Blythe Close Play Area

Councillor Mrs Brown had sent a written report that the climbing frame that the Borough bought in early January at half price is being installed in the play area and should be in use within a week. There are also the lay-on swing and see-saw at a total cost of £9,935 (plus VAT which we can claim back) and we have now received a grant offer of £8,000 from the Solar Farm. Councillor Mrs Brown had sent pictures of these pieces of equipment. It was AGREED that the additional cost of about £2,500 can be used from the £7,500 earmarked in the Budget for gym equipment at Blythe Close. The Clerk confirmed she had received confirmation from the Borough that we will receive the £8,000 grant but there is a slight delay. She had spoken to the equipment supplier and explained the reason for the delay and that she would confirm the order as soon as possible.

### Twinning Tree

The Borough Council thought they could delay planting the replacement tree until May when the party comes to Rothwell from Droué and the Clerk has informed the Twinning Committee. It is proposed to put this tree near the site of the old skateboard ramp.

### Redwood Tree, Hospital Hill

Councillor Spendlove had been informed that this is not in fact a redwood tree, but a swamp cedar: the Clerk thought that species seems to be an evergreen conifer tree so perhaps this really is a redwood. The Borough Council had sent an E-mail that as this tree is in the Conservation Area we would have to give notice for its removal and had sent planning application forms for notification of proposed works to trees in a Conservation Area. However the tree in front of Tesco Express and one in the Churchyard had recently been removed without notification.

It was AGREED to query the request for the removal of this tree to go through the planning process. It was FURTHER AGREED to contact Johnny Cordingley at Fisher German that we need more evidence of the need to remove this tree and perhaps they could get a tree expert to confirm that this does need to come down.

### Slade Brook

The Clerk had been contacted by Brendan Coleman at the Borough Council that he had met representatives from the Environment Agency and they are looking at the length of the Slade Brook, but the landowners are responsible for the section of brook adjacent to their land.

### Public Toilets

An E-mail had been received from the Borough Council that while they were responsible for the maintenance of the public toilets they had an annual contract with Wallgate Limited for the servicing of the units at Squires Hill for two scheduled visits per year to ensure the facility was safe and operational. Now that the Town Council has taken over the management, Mr Chester felt it would be fair for us to continue with these arrangements and he sent copy of the service contract agreement and quotation for the next year and this had been circulated to Councillors prior to this Meeting. This contract would need setting up before any visits are made by Wallgate. The cost would be £219 a year for each unit, making a total of £438 + VAT. It was AGREED by the Town Councillors that they did not want to take over this Contract.

Councillor Wilson said the Borough Council had still not moved the electricity cable in the gents toilet and the Clerk will remind Michael Chester about this

### Tasman Way/Nansen Close

Councillor Cox reported that at the bottom of Tasman Way The railings have been damaged so there is a gap in the fence. In addition at the top of Nansen Close/Tasman Way the kissing gate is not working.

## 296 PLANNING

### Notifications

An appeal has been lodged against the Refusal for 147 dwellings at Willowbrook Stud Farm, Rushton Road, Desborough.

The following Refusal had been received:-

KET/2014/0637      Harrington Road - Residential development for 200 dwellings with associated open space.

The following Approval had been received:-

KET/2016/0797      12 Underwood Road – Extensions.

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

KET/2017/0025      9 Nansen Close – Extensions.  
No objection, provided the amenities currently enjoyed by the neighbouring properties are not adversely affected.

- KET/2017/0039      34 Terry Smith Avenue – Conversion of garage to habitable room. Rothwell Town Council objects to this application because it would remove a parking space on a new development.
- KET/2017/0073      48 Manor Road – Garage conversion to habitable space and first floor side extension.  
No objection provided there is still adequate off-road parking as this property is on a bend.
- KET/2017/0098      56 Harrington Road – Extensions.  
No objection provided the amenities currently enjoyed by the neighbouring properties are not adversely affected.

### Planning Application Consultation Procedure

A letter dated 10th February 2017 had been received from Rob Harbour, the Borough Head of Development Services, that he had attended both the A6 Towns and Rural Forums with Peter Chaplin as to the consultation with Town and Parish Councils about their ambition to move towards a process of consultation on planning applications by electronic means. This letter specified what they considered to be the advantages of this system.

There was a questionnaire for Town and Parish Councils to complete and return to Mr Harbour and the Clerk will do this.

### Neighbourhood Plan

There has not yet been a Meeting to continue the work on setting up a Neighbourhood Plan. Councillor Spendlove suggested that those Members who voted in favour of the Plan form a Sub-Committee and progress this with their own Clerk, because the Town Clerk is not paid to do this. Julia Baish at the Borough Council has said she will assist.

It was AGREED that Councillors Cox, Cross, Morrissey and Wilson will form this Sub-Committee and arrange a date for a Meeting.

### Horse Fair Lane Estate

A complaint had been received from a resident of this new estate that Bovis had not completed the necessary work to the roads, footpaths and green areas. The Clerk had sent this to Rob Harbour and had received a reply that Christina Riley, Senior Development Officer, had been asked to look into this matter.

### New Street Names

A letter had been received from the Borough Council, asking for any suggestions the Town Council might have for two street names for the development site at the former Football Club. Councillor Wilson suggested Cheaney and Linnett. This was AGREED although Councillor Wilson will check the correct spelling of 'Linnett'.

## 297 HIGHWAYS

### Emergency Vehicle Signs

The Clerk confirmed that the ten signs are in the Market House. After this Meeting she checked and no ties were included with the signs. Councillor Jelley said he has some 20 mph signs.

A6 Bypass Closure

Northamptonshire Highways had kept everyone informed as to the closure of the bypass. Since this Meeting we had received notification that the road would now be closed until at least the end of April because they had found defects on the bridge over the railway line as well.

Lorries in the Town Centre

It had been reported that a lot of the Mick George lorries were going through the town centre despite the 7.5 tonne weight limit. The Clerk had spoken to the managers at Mick George and they promised to inform their drivers they should not do this. It was reported that the previous day there had been four Mick George lorries still going through the town centre.

298 MATTERS OF BUSINESSCommercial Waste Administration

The Clerk had asked for a replacement black waste bin because the lid had become detached from our old one. A reply had been received that if the Town Council wishes to continue having the refuse collected by the Borough Council we will need to set up a chargeable account for this. The cost for a 240 litre bin is £3.38 per empty and invoices are issued quarterly in advance. It was AGREED that the Town Council did not need a new bin and that the Members and Clerk would dispose of any refuse.

Former Health Centre

It was mentioned that the new building on this site looks very good and this was AGREED.

Royal Garden Party

We had received confirmation that Councillor Cross, accompanied by his daughter, had been invited to attend the Queen's Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on 23rd May 2017 and the formal invitation will be sent direct to him.

299 FINANCIAL REPORTInsurance Policy

Councillor Cox had obtained a reduction in the premium from Zurich Municipal and he felt we should renew this policy. It was RESOLVED to renew the Zurich policy at the revised premium of £817.16. It was FURTHER RESOLVED to inform Came & Company of this decision but to suggest that they might want to quote for the insurance the following year.

General Statement

The Clerk submitted a written statement as attached. It was MOVED by Councillor Mrs Talbot, SECONDED by Councillor Cox 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	£612.00
Kettering Borough Council	New Festive Lights and Installation	£5370.30
Inter County Cleaning Services	Cleaning Market House	£42.00
British Telecommunication	Phone and Broadband	£205.29

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Goods or Services</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Cassell Sports	Plaque Engraving	£11.90
H F Design	PDF Uploads to Website	£90.00
Zurich Municipal	Insurance Premium 2017-18	£817.16
Cash	Petty Cash	£20.00

The Meeting closed at 9.07 pm.

Chairman

Date