

## ROTHWELL TOWN COUNCIL

A Meeting of Rothwell Town Council was held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday, 13th January 2015 in the Market House, Market Hill, Rothwell.

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Councillor R Wilson Councillor Mrs C M Brown Councillor C W Cross Councillor Mrs K M Draper Councillor I F Jelley Councillor M E Jones Councillor A J Mills Councillor Mrs L A Russell Councillor K D Sumpter Councillor Mrs M E Talbot County Councillor J Hakewill	<u>Town Mayor</u>
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### 577 PRAYERS

Before the business of the Town Council commenced, the Revd Canon John Westwood said Prayers and mentioned the New Year, when he felt we should forget the mistakes of the past and renew our hope for the future.

### 578 SCHOOL CROSSING PATROL

Mrs Liz Chester, who has recently retired as the School Crossing Patrol Operator, was present at the Meeting. Councillor Wilson, the Town Mayor, said that the Town Council wanted to thank her for her many years at this job, keeping our children safe as they went to and from school, which has always been a difficult and often dangerous job with the speed of the traffic in Rushton Road. She will be very much missed and he was pleased to present her with a Service to the Community Award as a token of appreciation. All the Members of the Town Council agreed that this award was deserved and also expressed their gratitude.

### 579 APOLOGIES

An apology had been received from Councillor Matthew.

### 580 COMMUNITY POLICING

#### General Report

No Police Officer was able to attend, but we had received the crime list, which showed that there were 21 incidents during December as follows:-

- Burglary dwelling - 2
- Burglary other - 1
- Criminal damage - 5
- Theft/handling - 5
- Violence offences - 8.

Councillor Mills reported that there is a man who has recently moved here who is causing trouble in the town and he wondered if he was a Borough Council tenant, but it was confirmed he lives in Well Lane in one of the privately rented houses.

A letter was sent from the School to the parents about this. Apparently he has mental health issues and it was felt he needed to be sectioned. It was AGREED to E-mail Sgt McDonald about this person.

It was reported that there are two traveller families on the old Lamport Road, and County Councillor Hakewill will take this to the County Traveller Unit. Councillor Hakewill also said he was happy for people to be given his telephone number when necessary.

It was also reported that the Borough had put lockable lids on the recycling bins but today there was so much stuff dumped round the bins it was impossible to get to the allotments. Councillor Mills will follow this up with the Borough Council the following day.

#### Local Police Officers

We had now received a reply from Supt. Andrew Cox in response to our letter to the Chief Constable about losing two PCSOs as well as the Police Officers previously moved. No-one has seen PC Gareth Broxton in the town recently either. It was AGREED to invite Chief Inspector Murray to the next Meeting of the Town Council to discuss this further.

#### 581 REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

- (1) Lorry Park: some of the aggregate has come in but this has now gone quiet so Councillor Hakewill is not pursuing this matter at the present time.
- (2) County Budget: this is a big issue because demand for the Adult and Children's services has been expanding but the County has to save about £60m this year and they are looking at how this can be done. Councillor Hakewill had the draft County Plan for information and confirmed this is now out for consultation. No-one has commented as yet and Councillor Jones thought perhaps the Town Council should put some comments in. It was AGREED Members would meet at 7.30 pm the following Monday to look at this and decide on the responses.
- (3) Superfast Broadband: Councillor Hakewill thought this had been over-promised and he is chasing this. The County Council has put some money in for this and there is a cabinet in Harrington. Councillor Mrs Russell said Councillor Matthew was interested in this and perhaps Councillor Hakewill would like to contact him.
- (4) Tresham Street: Councillor Hakewill has asked the Police to look at the double yellow lines here and he felt the situation was better now.
- (5) Former Football Club: this planning application goes to the Borough on Tuesday, 20th January. The developers said they would try and assist with the access by construction traffic to the Primary Schools. The applicants told Councillor Hakewill they have had a positive discussion with the Planners. Councillor Jelley will ensure the issue is raised at the Meeting. Councillor Hakewill still hoped they could have a compound and access for the work at the schools and possibly a turning area at the top of Gladstone Street in the long term.
- (6) Anaerobic Digester: Neither the Members of the Town Council nor Councillor Hakewill had received any complaints recently. We did raise this and had received a response from Shaun Cherry of Fernbrook that on 20th December there had been a fire in the roof of the digestate storage tank and this had caused the problem. Mr Cherry explained what action they were taking, including installing an odour masking system around the top of the tank. Rothwell has not received any financial benefit from this digester, the way Burton Latimer does from their wind farm, and Rushton does from the Mick George site. Councillor Mrs Brown said there is a Facebook page about the bio digester. Some people went to the Planning Meeting, but Mr Cherry was apparently rude to them. Councillor Mrs Brown has visited another digester and there was no smell at all from that one, and she felt it must be bad management which has caused

the problems at Rothwell. Councillor Mrs Russell had met Mr Cherry and suggested he should put something back into the town, but he has not done this.

(7) County Empowering Grant: Councillor Hakewill is make donations to the Scouts, Marlow House, the Cycling Club, the Cricket Club, the Arts & Heritage Centre, the Guides, the Salvation Army, the Twinning Association and the Church Sunbeams. He has put some money into the villages as well.

## 582 MINUTES

It was MOVED by Councillor Sumpster, SECONDED by Councillor Mills and RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th December 2014 be confirmed and signed.

## 583 ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITY

### Anaerobic Digester

This item had been dealt with under the County Councillor's Report.

### Household Waste Recycling

Copies of the County bulletin had been circulated prior to this Meeting and this was accepted. Concern was expressed that the County is considering charging people to take items to the Recycling Centres because it was thought this would only lead to rubbish being flytipped.

### Northamptonshire Enterprise

David Burrows from the Enterprise confirmed that he would be attending the Partnership Meeting on 21st January.

### Borough Councillors' Grants

Councillor Mills said the youth of the town need some support if the Borough Councillors have any of their grant left. It was reported that the ground by the basket ball hoop in Well Lane Recreation Ground needs to be sorted out because there is always a muddy puddle there.

### Medical Centre

Councillor Jelley confirmed there is still a problem and he had to wait about 22 minutes to get an answer from their phone. Councillor Jones had been advised that for the time being people should use the Desborough number as the Rothwell one is being changed but they do not have a date for this as yet. Councillor Jones has applied to become a member of the Patients Consultation Group and hoped this should assist.

Councillor Jelley has spoken to NHS England and they will be going to a local number but we still do not have a date. He understood the Doctor First system had stopped but it is still going although you should now be able to make an appointment for three weeks' time. He had also mentioned Councillor Mrs Talbot's recent conversation with Nichola Warren, the Practice Manager, and confirmed Ms Warren had also refused to have a Meeting with representatives from the Town Council. The various problems, including that of getting an essential prescription were discussed. Councillor Jelley had also mentioned the increased number of people who will be living here with the housing developments being built or planned when there will be 19,000 people and they are not coping already.

Library Garden

Councillor Sumpter said some time ago we had asked Stephen Chester for a quote for work on this garden and for some planters in front of the town signs. We have not heard from him and Councillor Sumpter has details of another firm which could do this work. It was AGREED that Councillor Sumpter should ask this other company to quote for this work.

Skateboard Park

Councillor Mrs Talbot referred to two articles in "Clerks & Councils Direct" that Sileby in Leicestershire and Irchester had both managed to get new skateboard ramps. The one in Irchester cost £90,000 with donations from the Borough and Town Councils. Sport England also gave a grant for the one in Sileby.

Reindeer

An E-mail had been received from Rothwell Library, asking for the reindeer to be removed because they are having some maintenance work done and will need this space. Councillor Sumpter will do this the following weekend.

Street Lighting

An E-mail dated 12th January 2015 had been received from the County Council about the street lighting upgrade in Rothwell. They are now finalising the designs for our town centre and asked if the Town Council was still interested in heritage style lighting, which they could provide at a cost to the Town Council, but they now want to avoid attaching street lights to buildings but instead would be putting them on columns. If we required heavy duty columns in order to support banners or festive decorations or appropriate electrical sockets, they can do this but again it will be at a cost to the Town Council. They would appreciate details of our requirements as soon as possible, and certainly by 23rd January.

Councillors Mrs Russell and Sumpter said the Town Council had already decided to have heritage lighting in the town centre. The Clerk subsequently checked this and in fact the Town Council had only agreed to look at this possibility. The Clerk managed to obtain prices for these heritage street lights and it would cost a total of £23,000 + VAT to have heritage lights plus £960 + VAT for the maintenance and energy costs. At the Town Council Meeting held on 19th January 2015 the Members therefore agreed to have the standard lanterns and to agree to these being on columns.

Town Guide

Mr Russ Collard will shortly be visiting the various businesses and shops in the town. We will want to have contacts for the various town organisations and the Clerk had started to prepared a list and handed copies to Members for them to update the contact details.

584 PLANNINGPlanning Committee

A Meeting of the Planning Committee was held on 18th December 2014 to consider the following application, and the Town Council's observations were submitted to the Borough as follows:-

KET/2014/0645 Land adjoining 2 Whiteman Lane - Change of use from highway to residential use.

This 'D' shaped piece of land must remain as highway as there is no footpath on this side of Droué Court and the 'D' land is used a lot by pedestrians to wait to cross over to the footway on the other side - this is especially important for people with prams. As mentioned in the Sustainable Design Report supplied with Application KET/2012/0192, this area is used a lot at school times with pupils walking around this junction. These roads will have a significant increase in pedestrians and vehicles from the proposed new developments to the west of the town and from Rothwell North so this safe area will become even more essential.

It was MOVED by Councillor Mrs Draper, SECONDED by Councillor Jelley and RESOLVED that the Report of the Planning Committee be approved and adopted.

It was reported at this Meeting that the following approvals had been received:-

KET/2014/0656 26 School Lane - Replace windows.

KET/2014/682 34 Littlewood Street - Extensions.

We had received notification that the application for 80 dwellings at the former Football Club site would be considered on 20th January.

#### Rothwell West

Councillor Mills reported that the Borough is still calling the area off Harrington Road Rothwell South, although this is really Rothwell West because the development to the south of Harrington Road is Rothwell South. This is going to be refused because it is outside the town boundary. It will not go to Committee because it is to be refused as Rothwell already has the land supply for housing so we do not need this extra development.

He has also spoken to the Borough about the relief road and the road going through the part of the site to the east of Desborough Road will be adequate for a relief road, including the width.

#### Neighbourhood Plan

The draft questionnaire was available at this Meeting for approval. It was MOVED by Councillor Mills, SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Talbot and RESOLVED that the draft was approved and this should be printed and delivered by Rural Trader. The Borough Council has £20,000 for the Town Plan and Councillor Mrs Draper thought this was for the printing and delivery of the questionnaires, but the Borough has said they need to retain this money in case a referendum is needed. If we do not need this we will ask for the remainder of the £20,000 which the Borough has received to be sent to the Town Council. It had been agreed that each Councillor would take responsibility for various items and Councillor Jelley said he and Trevor Smith have photographs of everything.

#### BID Scheme

Councillor Jelley said he is still trying to find out what has happened to this Scheme.

#### Rothwell Website

This does need to be updated, and the Partnership had an offer from Mark Cox of Cox Scientific that he would do this at no cost to the Town Council as he does have an IT expert. He would get this up to date and also upgrade it. It was AGREED to accept this offer and ask Mr Cox and Mr Fillingham to discuss this.

Solar Farm

A letter had been received from Northfield UK Solar in connection with their proposal for a solar farm at the former RAF airfield at Desborough. The date of their public exhibition has now been changed to Wednesday, 11th February 2015 at Wilbarston Village Hall.

585 HIGHWAYSSurvey

An E-mail had been received from Northamptonshire Highways asking the Town Council to complete a survey on the maintenance works at Daisy Bank Avenue, Evison Road and Harrington Road. It was AGREED to take no action here.

586 MATTERS OF BUSINESSPolling Places

A letter had been received from Ian White, the Borough Electoral Services Manager, confirming the arrangements for the forthcoming elections as reported at the last Meeting that the hall at the Infant School and the Community Centre will be used as the polling places.

Borough Budget Consultation

A letter had been received that this Consultation Meeting would be held at 7.00 pm on Thursday, 22nd January 2015 in the Borough Council Chamber.

Transparency Code

An E-mail had been received from David Pope, the Borough Committee Administrator and Parish Liaison Officer that the Transparency Code for smaller authorities means that the Town Council needs to publish the following information:-

- Minutes, agendas and papers of formal meetings
- Location of public land and building assets
- All items of expenditure above £100
- List of councillor or member responsibilities
- Internal audit report
- Annual governance statement
- End of year accounts.

Anti-Bullying Policy

Councillor Mrs Draper has spoken to the Lead Teacher at Montsaye but this person has now changed and she is finding out about this.

587 FINANCIAL REPORTGeneral Statement

The Clerk submitted a written statement as attached. It was MOVED by Councillor Mrs Talbot, SECONDED by Councillor Sumpter 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>
Ricoh UK Ltd	Photocopier Maintenance (Paid 19.12.14)	£46.10

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Goods or Services</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Mrs C E Mackay	Clerk's Salary	£583.60
Zurich Municipal	Insurance Premium	£1131.32
Cllr R Wilson	Mayor's half-yearly allowance	£300.00
Rothwell T C Civic Ball Account	Balance of Mayor's allowance	£400.00
Inter County Cleaning Services	Cleaning Market House	£36.00
Rural Trader	Deposit delivery of Town Plan leaflet	£101.97
Cash	Petty Cash	£30.00

#### Budget 2015/16

As we are now delivering the questionnaire and have the costs of drafting this, the printing and delivery the Clerk asked if the Town Council should increase the amount allocated for the Town Plan to £4,000 and confirmed this will not alter the amount of the precept we need. This was AGREED.

#### 588 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 withdraw.