

ROTHWELL TOWN COUNCIL

A Meeting of Rothwell Town Council was held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday, 12th January 2016 in the Market House, Market Hill, Rothwell.

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Councillor Mrs C M Brown Councillor R V Davis Councillor T M Goodwin Councillor I F Jelley Councillor L D Newman Councillor M W Spendlove (7.20 pm) Councillor K D Sumpter Councillor Mrs M E Talbot County Councillor J Hakewill	<u>Town Mayor</u>
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107 PRAYERS

Before the business of the Council commenced, the Revd Canon John Westwood said Prayers and mentioned the Town Mayor and the Councillors, especially Councillor Mills who is unwell. This is the start of the New Year and Canon Westwood felt we should all forget the mistakes of the past and move forward in 2016.

108 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Councillors Cox, Cross, Mills and Wilson.

109 COMMUNITY POLICING

General Report

PCSO Kirsty Ellerby was present at the Meeting and confirmed that there were 37 reported crimes during December, as follows:-

- Burglary dwelling – 2
- Criminal damage – 7
- Drug offences – 1
- Other offences - 1
- Robbery – 1
- Theft from vehicles – 4
- Theft/handling – 12
- Violence offences – 9.

The criminal damage was mostly to vehicles and the theft from motor vehicles mainly of registration plates. The theft/handling charges were on the A14.

Councillor Goodwin said HGVs are still parking over the footpath on the A14 and PCSO Ellerby confirmed this is an ongoing issue which they do monitor and they have just moved another four HGVs on. We do need this area to be blocked off. Councillor Newman said Miss Coleman wanted him to report the issue of vehicles parking near the Rushton Road/Crispin Street junction which obstructs visibility but it was felt these are the vehicles belonging to the people who live there. In addition, the verge at the bottom of Rock Hill has been cut up which is causing mud on the path, but it was thought this is happening everywhere as it is so wet. It was not thought there was anything which could be done about these issues.

There was also a complaint about children outside the Library and again the PCSOs have spoken to them but they are using the free Wi-Fi and the Library cannot turn this off. Councillor Newman had also spoken to them about the litter there. The Library will not turn the Wi-Fi off because this runs the advertising board which they want to keep on. There is also the broken window at the Library and Councillor Newman said the revenue from the advertising will help pay for the repairs.

Councillor Sumpter said the red van and various cars are still parked in Glendon Road. The request for a Traffic Order should be submitted by the County in the spring although it will take some time for this to be implemented and the double yellow lines actually put down. In addition, Councillor Jelley is going to deliver the letters to the residents suggesting they can park in the Borough car park just off the top of Columbus Crescent.

110 REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

The Town Mayor said we would take this item now, as the County Councillor was obliged to leave as soon as possible because he had another Meeting to go to. Councillor Hakewill reported the following:-

- (1) Development at Desborough: there is an application for the land near the old Leisure Centre and he has written about this and the access off the old A6 and suggested they make a contribution towards the Rothwell Northern Bypass. He confirmed that the County Council is pushing for this bypass.
- (2) Primary Schools: he explained that what was previously going to be spent on these schools is now being put forward for the new school at Montsaye and he has received a positive comment about this.
- (3) County Budget Consultation: This is £546m and there was £8.5m as at the end of December for:
 - looked after children
 - unaccompanied children (refugees)
 - adult social care.

There is also the problem with the Health Service when people stay in hospital when they could be in a care home. Two of the County care homes will have to be closed, but the Government has realised that adult care is under-funded and the County is allowed to put 2% into this. Councillor Hakewill is scrutinising that Committee and he is keeping an eye on the local issues. Olympus Homes took over all these homes but some are older and not satisfactory and it is the older homes which will probably be closed and there are spare places elsewhere.

Councillor Spendlove joined the Meeting at 7.20 pm.

111 SKATEBOARD RAMP

Dave Lane, Senior Community Services Officer at Kettering Borough Council, was present at the Meeting to discuss the progress on the SK8 Project and had brought a written presentation on this and confirmed there is £58,500 s.106 monies for this ramp. There are quite a lot of things happening in Well Lane Recreation Park area, as Bovis are now being positive about the new play area on their site and the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) at the bottom of the park. The Borough Officers were concerned that if they added the ramp, residents might be concerned. They have therefore sent a letter out and went back with questionnaires which he and Mrs Joyce hand delivered to every house in the area. It was thought they might want to go for 2017 in case there were a lot of objections but this does not seem to be happening and, if possible, they now

want to have this completed for the summer holidays this year, but would prefer to have the right ramp rather than the quickest one. The roles will be as follows:-

KBC – Tender process and procurement and contract management.

RTC – Community Consultation and to provide the steer and vision.

Rowell SK8 – key role in design, working with the contractor, and keeping local young people informed through social media.

As to the consultation, 135 questionnaires were delivered in December 2015 and they had 22 responses by 8th January with the following comments:-

17 people had no concerns or were actively supportive of the scheme

4 concerns were raised, focussing on possible increased anti-social behaviour

1 clear objection only.

The community is therefore behind this project and there is the money for this. In the Ise Park area in Kettering and from evidence around the country the incidents of drugs or drink are much lower near skateboard ramps although there can be a problem with litter. There will be brushes etc. to clean the ramp when necessary and in Kettering these have been used properly. Mr Lane wants Rowell SK8 to come up with design ideas and to have these done by the end of February. This will enable tender documents to go out in March/April and then they can appoint the contractor. They will decide later if the Borough should put on a completion date. The work could then be done in the summer which is a good time. He will work with the SK8 group. There are design considerations because there is the large oak tree and the site is on a slope so it is essential to take these into consideration.

The ramp will be roughly in the same place as the existing one. Scooterists and skateboarders do not always get on well because of the age difference and this needs to be taken into account. There is a lighting column in the area but this is not sufficient for a skateboard park. If it was lit, it could be used in the darker nights which is both an advantage and a disadvantage. At the Ise Park they had a light on a timer which turned the light off at about 9.30 pm. The lighting would be an additional cost but the young people would like this. The Town Mayor reported that the Town Council has a put in the budget for next year a small amount of money as a contingency fund for the skateboard ramp in case this was found to be necessary.

Mr Lane confirmed that because this will cost over £50,000 it has to go through a full tender process. He has spoken to several contractors about different options, and Rowell SK8 has also come up with an option. Mr Lane will meet with the young people at look at the designs and the details. The Borough will have to deal with the tender process and check all the regulations. The access needs to be looked at carefully and this might affect the price. Mr Lane will discuss this with the young people and it was AGREED they would meet at 4.00 pm on Monday, 18th January in the Red Lion Barns.

112 MINUTES

It was MOVED by Councillor Mrs Talbot, SECONDED by Councillor Jelley and RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th December 2015 be confirmed and signed.

113 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

(1) Double Yellow Lines, Glendon Road: these have not yet been done, and it was explained that the application for the necessary Traffic Order will be submitted in the spring as the County Council does all these in the Kettering area together once a year because there is then one fee for all of them. The Town Council has written to the Glendon Road residents that they can park in the Borough car park at the top of Columbus Crescent instead.

(2) Seats, Market Hill and Well Lane Recreation Ground: we have not yet heard whether the Borough Council will be able to provide these seats.

(3) Glendon Road: a resident reported that this road was closed between the Rushton Road turning and Prologis on a couple of occasions going into Kettering but there was no notice in Rothwell to warn people of this. Carillion is the contractor and the closure also affected the buses. Councillor Newman said a car had been scraped by a bus in Glendon Road because the buses are too wide for this road. The verges do encroach over the road. It was AGREED to write to the Highways Department with a copy for Councillor Hakewill.

114 ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITY

Former Health Centre Site

A reply had been received from T Balfe Construction Ltd that they will be commencing work at this site in the New Year. They apologised for any inconvenience caused due to the current state of the land which will be cleared as soon as possible.

Land in Desborough Road

We had written to the agent that part of the fence around the former garage at the top of Desborough Road had come down and received a reply that our E-mail had been forwarded to the owner who would deal with this. It was confirmed that the panels had been put backup.

Medical Centre

We had not yet had a reply from the Primary Care Commissioning Group. This matter will be kept as a recurring item on the Agenda.

Land in Harrington Road

Councillor Spendlove asked if Councillor Hakewill had given any information about a Pocket Park on this land. The Borough Council has bought this because apparently it was not expensive. Councillor Jelley has been told that it was not acquired for a traveller site and it is an investment. It was AGREED to ask Councillor Hakewill if it would be helpful if the Town Council wrote to the Borough, and if so who is dealing with the matter.

115 PLANNING

Planning Meeting

The Town Council had held a Meeting on 31st December 2015 to discuss the various planning matters, as follows:-

Approval

The following Approval had been received:-

KET/2015/0873	Land adjoining Town Cricket Club, Desborough Road Change of use from petrol filling station to car valet service.
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Applications

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

KET/2015/0960	Potters Cottage, 25 Littlewood Street – Rear extension. No objection.
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KET/2015/0942	Land off Harrington Road – Additional dwellings to plots 114-116, re-arrangement of parking to plots 94-97, substitution to plots 93 and 96. No objection.
KET/2015/0982	95 Littlewood Street - Removal of lean-to and single storey rear extension. No objection.
KET/2015/1007	36 Daisy Bank Avenue – Single storey rear extension. No objection, provided the amenities currently enjoyed by the neighbouring properties are not adversely affected.
KET/2015/1008	18 Playford Close – First floor side extension. No objection.

Notice of Appeal

Notification had just been received of the appeal by Mrs Simpson in connection with the Refusal for various advertisement signs at Trinity Dental, Market Hill.

Future Development

The proposed residential developments at Desborough, in particular that at the Ise Valley, were discussed and it was decided that the Town Council could not take any action until formal planning applications were submitted. A further E-mail had been received from a Desborough resident about the three proposed applications for residential development in Desborough which would make an additional 500 houses on the south side of Desborough and even though two are in Rushton Road, Desborough this would generate a lot more traffic for Rothwell. It is believed that the planning applications are not yet in.

It was AGREED to thank her for this E-mail and for keeping us in touch. If she has not already done so, we suggest she sends her comments to Desborough Town Council and the Borough Planning Department as an individual resident. The Town Council will not be able to make any formal comments until the planning application is submitted and in case we are not notified by the Borough perhaps she could let us know when this happens and the application number.

Harrington Road Development

Councillor Spendlove pointed out that there is still no footpath up to Orton House which is only about 50 yards from the Harrington Road development access. It was AGREED to E-mail the Planning Officer and ask if this could be provided.

116 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Clerk had prepared possible amendments to the Burton Latimer Plan to make it more suitable for Rothwell, and had also listed the comments from the questionnaires which Councillor Mrs Talbot had collated. It was AGREED that the Clerk would circulate these and the Town Council would have a Meeting at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, 26th January 2016 to agree these before the next Meeting with Howard Fillingham.

The Clerk said she did not like the layout or the format of the Burton Latimer Plan and Councillor Spendlove said he was also unhappy with this. Rothwell has different issues such as less anti-social behaviour which he did not think was too bad in Rothwell at the present time. He also felt that if we want to be taken seriously we had to keep the Plan short. We also want a business park here.

Any development should include issues such as footpaths to the town centre, the Rothwell Northern Bypass, and adequate provision for the schools and the medical centre to expand. The secondary school will be an issue unless Desborough gets its own secondary school, especially as we now have pupils from Mawsley, and Rothwell young people are already going out of the town school. The Clerk has put the suggestion that there should be upper school premises in Desborough although this could be managed and governed by the Montsaye Academy. The Clerk had included a paragraph that the number of parking spaces for any new residential unit should not include the garage because most people now use this for storage or convert it into a habitable room, and the Government has recently advised that garages should not be counted as a parking space for these reasons.

County Draft Parking Standards

The County has recently come up with a draft Parking Standards Consultation document and the Clerk had circulated copies of this.

117 HIGHWAYS

Speeding, Glendon Road & Desborough Road

Copies of the E-mail from Mike Johnson, the Police Safer Roads Team Manager, had been circulated prior to this Meeting. He attached a copy of the traffic survey for Glendon Road and they are to liaise with Northamptonshire Highways regarding the review of the physical environment and engineering with a view to introducing proportionate and targeted enforcement as a temporary or permanent intervention.

A resident of Hawkins Close had written to the Clerk about the dangerous traffic situation in Glendon Road and the Town Mayor had asked the Clerk to reply immediately to let her know that the Town Council agreed and had a site meeting with a representative of Northamptonshire Highways, and the County will now be submitting an application in the New Year for a Traffic Order to have double yellow lines on the relevant sections of Glendon Road. The 30 mph signs have already been put up to remind drivers of the speed limit.

As to Desborough Road, the Community Concern Panel was supportive of the recommendation to consider the introduction of a Community Speed Watch Scheme and the Engagement Team Leader will pick this up for one of the Team to contact the Town Council in the New Year.

Parking, Market Hill Square

The Clerk has now prepared 80 of the letters and Councillors will get some suitable envelopes to put them in to keep them dry so Councillor Goodwin can hand them out.

Parking, School Lane

Councillor Jelley reported that as this is blocking access for local residents, the Infant School is going to try and set up a Park and Stride scheme, whereby parents will park in Market Hill Square and someone will meet the children and walk them the rest of the way to school. They are writing to the parents of the children in both the Infant and Junior Schools to ask if any parents would participate in this scheme and would walk the children to school and back in the afternoon.

They have been told that the Town Council is concerned about the amount of parking in Market Hill Square and have asked for feedback.

118 MATTERS OF BUSINESSFoodbank Survey

An E-mail had been received from Mr Gordon Morris asking if the Town Council would complete a short survey about foodbanks. It was AGREED to take no action here.

Borough Budget Consultation

A letter had been received that this consultation meeting will be held at 7.00 pm on Thursday, 21st January 2016 in the Council Chamber at the Borough Municipal Offices.

Holocaust Memorial

A letter had been received that this commemoration ceremony would be held at 2.00 pm on Sunday, 31st January 2016 in the Council Chamber at the Borough Municipal Offices.

119 FINANCIAL REPORTGeneral Statement

A written statement as attached was submitted. It was MOVED by Councillor Jelley, SECONDED by Councillor Spendlove 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>
Ricoh UK Ltd (Paid 31.12.15)	Copier-Printer Maintenance	£28.66
Mrs C E Mackay	Clerk's Salary	£597.80
Rothwell Gala Committee	Christmas Lights Grant	£2750.00
Cllr Mrs C M Brown	Town Mayor's half-yearly allowance	£500.00
Inter County Cleaning Services	Cleaning the Market House	£37.20
Cash	Petty Cash	£20.00

External Audit

Copies of a letter regarding the external audit from Danny Moody, the Chief Executive of Northants County Association of Local Councils had been circulated prior to this Meeting. This explained in detail the changes which will take place as from 1st April 2017 when the Sector Led Body (SLB or Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Ltd) will effectively carry out the function of the Audit Commission and will procure external auditors (probably the likes of BDO, Grant Thornton, Mazzards etc.) and oversee external audit arrangements. The default position (in law) is that all Parish and Town Councils are opted in to the SLB arrangements unless they specifically choose to opt out.

It was MOVED by the Town Mayor, SECONDED by Councillor Davis and RESOLVED that Rothwell Town Council will remain opted-in to the Sector Led Body arrangements for the procurement of external audit.

Partnership Insurance

The Clerk had contacted Zurich Municipal to see if the Town Council insurance would still cover the Town Centre Partnership when this becomes independent of the Town Council in April 2016 but this will not be possible. The issue will be put to the Partnership.

120 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.