

ROTHWELL TOWN COUNCIL

A Meeting of Rothwell Town Council was held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday, 10th January 2017 in the Market House, Market Hill, Rothwell.

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Councillor K D Sumpter	<u>Town Mayor</u>
	Councillor M E Cox (7.35 pm)	
	Councillor C W Cross	
	Councillor R V Davis	
	Councillor I F Jelley	
	Councillor R Wilson	

275 PRAYERS

Before the business of the Council commenced, the Revd Canon John Westwood said Prayers and mentioned the Town Council and the agenda for this Meeting, together with people with ill health and the start of the new year.

276 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Councillors Mrs Brown, Goodwin, Morrissey, Newman, Spendlove and Mrs Talbot, and from Councillor Cox who would be obliged to join the Meeting late.

277 COMMUNITY POLICING

General Report/Crime Figures

A list of crimes for December had already been sent to the Town Council, as follows:-

- 1 x Garage broken into quad and motor bike stolen
- 1 x ladders stolen from a van
- 1 x attempt burglary a shed door forced nothing stolen
- 1 x criminal damage where window of a car was smashed in the school car park
- 1 x burglary where ground floor window was forced and a purse stolen
- 1 x theft of motor vehicle where a car was stolen
- 1 x burglary non dwelling where the conservative club was broken into and the fruit machine emptied
- 1 x theft of vehicle where a motor bike was stolen from a garden
- 1 x attempt burglary where the post office door was damaged
- 1 x burglary non dwelling where a garage door was forced and a motor bike stolen
- 1 x burglary where the conservatory door was forced and a pedal cycle stolen
- 1 x vehicle crime where a van was left open and a handbag stolen
- 1 x criminal damage where a fence has been damaged
- 1 x burglary non dwelling where a shed had been broken into.

PCSO Paul Miller was present at this Meeting, and reported there had been a total of 38 incidents in December, which includes eight burglaries although five of these were not of dwellings. The thefts from vehicles were either fuel or the vehicle was insecure. Councillor Sumpter said he had telephoned 101 at the weekend because a girl said she had been approached by two young lads who were smoking something and offered her this cannabis. PCSO Miller said patrols had been increased in that area. The person involved in the till snatch at the Co-op has been arrested.

The Clerk had reported that Mick George lorries were coming through the town centre, despite the 7.5 tonne weight limit and PCSO Miller had pointed this out to the Company and they will be checking the sat nav systems and speaking to the drivers concerned.

He had also let the Clerk have the contact details of the Mick George Contracts Manager and she will get it touch with him direct if necessary in the future. PCSO Miller thought their lorries were coming from the former Football Club development, but the Clerk said they had come from the Glendon Road area and gone right down to the High Street.

Inspector Julie Mead was not able to attend this Meeting, because she runs the local Cadets that evening, but she could come to the February Meeting and bring some of the cadets with her to speak about the scheme for about 10 minutes and this was AGREED.

278 MINUTES

It was MOVED by Councillor Wilson, SECONDED by Councillor Jelley and RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th December 2016 be confirmed and signed.

279 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

(1) Proposed Youth Club: Malcolm Jones was present at the Meeting and thanked the Town Council for the interest shown on the proposal for a new Youth Club in the Community Centre, and asked if the individual Councillors (including the County Councillor) could check their funds to see if any donations could be offered. He has not yet actually appointed any Officers but there has been interest from Facebook with people offering to assist. He has contacted the Northants Association of Youth Clubs (NAYC) who might be able to help with volunteers but there is a fee of about £40 and he felt this would be well worth spending to join that organisation. They have had a meeting with the Co-ordinator to let him have the relevant forms. They are still asking the young people what they would like this to be called, whether a charge should be made and if so how much this should be.

The Town Mayor explained the restrictions on the Borough grants and he also wondered whether there could be a discount on the charge for the Community Centre. Mr Jones said they have not yet made any decisions about how often the Youth Club could meet. Lisa Chambers thought the age range should be 13 to 16 years, but it seems perhaps young people aged 10 to 13 would be better to start with. All these decisions have yet to be made. The Town Mayor has a spare PA system he could donate if they wanted this, and perhaps they could hold some meetings in the Red Lion barns if they asked Councillor Newman who might also be able to help with equipment. It was thought this could be put on the Agenda for the Partnership Meeting and will ask Councillor Cox about this. There is nothing like this in the town at the present time, not even from the Churches, but NAYC do have weekend sessions and other events.

(2) Lighting, Well Lane Recreation Ground: Mr Jones referred to the Cycling Club in the town, which has used the Recreation Ground but are not able to do this in the winter months because there is no suitable lighting and at present they are having to use Brambleside. There is now the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) in Well Lane Recreation Ground and it would be useful to have some lights there. The Clerk had also received a complaint that there is no lighting on the footpath from the Well Lane Recreation Ground down to Gordon Street. Bovis should be improving this path as part of the s.106 Agreement, to turn it into a combined footpath and cycleway with new lighting along its length but this has not yet been done. It was AGREED to write to Rob Harbour, the Borough Head of Development Services and ask for Bovis to complete the work on the combined footpath/cycleway with the necessary lights, and also to provide lighting for the MUGA which they have built in Well Lane Recreation Ground.

280 REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

(1) County Budget: County Councillor Hakewill was pleased to confirm that this is going through, although Adult Social Care is proving a problem. He chairs the relevant Committee and they are still managing to deal with this. There are now 1,000 children in care and just before Christmas they took in a family of ten children. There are still a number of unaccompanied child refugees.

(2) Wootton Hall: the Police Headquarters is now being moved to Kettering and there is a proposal to turn this into a dementia village.

(3) Street Lighting: Councillor Hakewill does not have any further information on this, but there is another area with an issue about having street lighting on buildings. Councillor Wilson said in some areas the lighting pole has been placed next to a building. The County has to take safety into account.

(4) Lorries on the A14: the Clerk had just received a letter from Highways England that they are proposing to convert the existing lay-by on the eastbound carriageway approximately 400m east of Rothwell Services to an emergency lay-by. To do this will require a permanent traffic regulation order to prohibit vehicles from waiting unless it is an emergency. The Clerk will send copy of this letter and the accompanying documents to the Members of the Town Council and to County Councillor Hakewill. The scheme is proposed to be constructed in the next financial year (2017-2018) and the Clerk will write and confirm that the Town Council fully supports this proposal.

(5) Planning Application: Councillor Hakewill referred to the recent Planning Application in respect of the Woodlands Hospital because Stoke Albany would like to object to this due to the number of trees being removed and he would like to support them on this. It was confirmed that Rothwell Town Council does not raise any objection to applications for the Woodlands Hospital because these do not directly affect our Parish. The Clerk still has the application if Councillor Hakewill would like to look at this.

Councillor Cox joined the Meeting at 7.35 pm.

281 ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITY

Skateboard Ramp

The Clerk had sent the relevant information to the Borough Council but had not heard anything further about the complaint made to the Ombudsman against the Borough. It was AGREED to remove this as a standing item on the Agenda.

Blythe Close Play Area

There is some finance available from the community fund Gaultney Solar Farm at Desborough and Rothwell has been given an extension of time until the end of this week to prepare a bid for some of this. It was AGREED to put forward an application for more play equipment suitable for both disabled and able-bodied children at this Play Area and the Clerk will liaise with Councillor Cedwien Brown and Dave Lane at the Borough Council about this.

Redwood Tree, Hospital Hill

An E-mail had been received from Ian Smith (with a copy to Dawn Hughes at the Borough Council) that the Highways Department would not have planted a tree such as this in this location as it is not an approved species for planting within the highway. If the Borough would permit the removal of this tree, Mr Smith would be happy to oblige if there is a perceived risk of structural damage. However, they would only fell it and carry out minor safety issues in the locality but would not be in a position to excavate and remove the stump and would not materially change the current layout of the car park.

It was AGREED to contact the Borough Council (with copies to the Borough Councillors) and ask if the Town Council could arrange to have this tree taken down, and also to ask for a quote to do this.

Town Guide

The Clerk confirmed that the relevant amendments had been sent to Local Authority Publishing and the updated edition would be sent to us when it was printed.

Slade Brook

It was reported that the Borough Council is looking at the length of the Slade Valley, including the section at Rothwell and there is mention of some sort of flood defence. A reply had been received from AWS Estates on behalf of Anglian Water about the debris in the brook that this comes under the auspices of the Environment Agency, Local Authority or Internal Drainage Board and there can also be riparian obligations in certain circumstances, so they are not able to assist.

The Clerk confirmed that she had also written to the Borough Council but we had not yet received any reply.

Footpath, Cogan Crescent to Manor Road

Councillor Jelley reported that there is a lot of dog mess on this footpath and he has spoken to the Borough Council about cleaning this and having a dog mess bin put there. It was AGREED that the Clerk should write to Shirley Plenderleith at the Borough Council and ask for some signs and a bin to be placed there.

Litter by Community Centre

It was reported that there is a lot of litter in this area, and there needs to be more litter bins at the top of Well Lane Recreation Ground. Councillor Wilson thought the bins were to be provided when they turf the area around the skateboard ramp.

Twinning Tree

An E-mail had been received from Keith Panter, the Secretary of the Twinning Association, that the tree was a gift to the Association from their friends in France and was planted over 25 years ago. They are disappointed that they were not consulted and that a perfectly good tree had been disposed of rather than being moved. There is a party coming over from Droué at the end of May and they would like a similar aged cedar to be planted in Well Lane Recreation Ground prior to their visit. Councillor Wilson said the original tree was becoming rotten as well as being in the way of the new skateboard ramp. It was not thought a tree of similar age would survive if it was tried to put this in, but perhaps we could have a young tree planted to replace the cedar.

Tree Market Hill

An E-mail had been received from a couple who are in the process of purchasing a property in Rothwell and have been advised to find out about the maintenance of the tree outside The Old Surgery, 34 Market Hill, Rothwell, NN14 6BW. The Clerk had asked the Borough and they think this is a County tree, and she will let them have a contact about this.

Town Centre Partnership

Councillor Cox reported that the next Partnership Meeting will be held at 7.30 pm on Wednesday, 25th January in the Market House and the PCSO Kirsty Ellerby is coming to discuss drugs awareness. He therefore hoped that as many people as possible will attend the Meeting and he is going around the pubs and cafés to see if they would like to come.

282 PLANNINGApplication

The following application had been received, and the Town Council's observation agreed as stated:-

KET/2016/0906 Woodfield Cottage, Rushton Road – Rear extensions.
No objection.

Neighbourhood Plan

The proposed Meeting on the Neighbourhood Plan was not able to take place, and another date will be arranged for this.

Gaultney Solar Farm

Extra time until 14th January had been granted for Rothwell to submit a bid for funds from the total amount of £28,000 and the day after this Meeting, confirmation had been received from Martin Hammond of the Borough Council that we did not need to apply for only £3,000 but the bids would be decided on their merit. With the assistance of Dave Lane at the Borough Council the Clerk subsequently put in a bid for £9,935 for two pieces of equipment suitable for disabled and able-bodied children at the Blythe Close play area.

Notification of Planning Applications

A letter had been received from the Borough Development Manager that with effect from 3rd January 2017 the letters to consult Town and Parish Councils regarding all new applications or re-consultation will be sent electronically to a nominated e-mail address and this can be forwarded to all the relevant Councillors. This means they will no longer send out hard copies in the post but all plans and documents can be accessed via the Borough website. A copy of a letter from Burton Latimer Borough Council had also been received, objecting to these proposed changes for the following reasons:-

1. Under the formal consultation process the Planning Authority is responsible for providing a service to Town and Parish Councils in a manner that best facilitates a meaningful and objective response. Sending documents electronically is a retrograde step, a reduction in service and not conducive to meeting the consultation objectives.
2. Plans/drawings are more difficult to read on a pc screen, details and perspective are more difficult to appreciate/understand.
3. Committee/group perusal/discussion of larger drawings is a valued and important factor in the decision process.
4. No consultation on the proposed changes was undertaken with Burton Latimer Town Council.
5. Inadequate notice of the change.

The Borough Council had subsequently written that, following the initial feedback, this issue will be discussed at the A6 Towns and Rural Forum Meetings to be held on 1st and 2nd February respectively.

It was AGREED to write to the Borough Council that Rothwell Town Council also objects to this amendment to the planning procedure for the same reasons set out by Burton Latimer Town Council. In addition, three of the Rothwell Town Councillors do not have access to a computer so would be denied the opportunity to comment on planning applications.

283 HIGHWAYS

Emergency Vehicle Signs

The Clerk confirmed that we had now received ten of these signs, saying “Could an emergency vehicle get past your car?” and Members of the Town Council will arrange to put these up in suitable locations.

Market Hill Parking

There is a rumour going around the town that Market Hill Square is to be a “Pay and Display” car park but the Town Council has no information on this.

Wiseman Lorries

A reply had been received from the Tesco Store Manager, that the Wiseman deliveries have now been moved to between the hours of 18.30 and 19.30 with effect from 4th January 2017. This change was welcomed by the town Council.

Community Enhancement Gangs

An E-mail had been received from Rebecca Miller of KierWSP Northamptonshire Highways will be sending Community Enhancement Gangs out later this year to undertake minor improvements that will enhance the environment. The issues the Gangs can deal with include the following:-

- Siding out of footways
- Cleaning of signs
- Repairs to signs, re-fixing to posts and realignment of posts
- Clearing of vegetation from signs and footways
- Resetting slabs/block paving

- Minor kerb repairs
- Isolated gully cleansing, rodding of connections, clearance of drainage grips
- Strimming and clearance of small areas of verge
- Any works that may enhance the aesthetic look of the parish.

The request deadline is 24th February and members will look to see what work should be done, and it was felt that the main entrances to the town should be considered. Some issues were identified at this Meeting as follows:-

- (1) The 'Welcome to Rothwell' sign in Harrington Road needs to be put on new posts and the vegetation cleared from around this.
- (2) Resurfacing of part of the footpath in front of the former Ambulance Station and the adjoining land at 44 Castle Hill.

In addition, Councillor Davis reported that the footpath from the telephone exchange to Jubilee Street had not yet been cleared, although we had asked for this to be done some time ago.

284 MATTERS OF BUSINESS

Borough Events

Notification had been received of the Holocaust Memorial, Planning Training and Budget Consultation.

Ancient Curfew Bell Clapper

Copies of a report had been supplied by a resident of Jesus Hospital, regarding Rothwell's ancient curfew bell clapper from the Hospital which is currently held at Leicester City Council museum collection. It was AGREED that the Town Council will send a letter to Leicester City Council to ask for this clapper to be returned to the Town Council, and it was thought this could then be loaned to the Heritage Centre.

285 FINANCIAL REPORT

General Statement

The Clerk submitted a written statement as attached. It was MOVED by Councillor Jelley, SECONDED by Councillor Wilson 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>
C E Mackay	Clerk's Salary	£612.00
Cllr M E Talbot	Reimbursement for frame of Queen's photo	£21.49
Inter County Cleaning Services	Cleaning Market House	£42.00
Colemans	Envelopes	£14.99

Insurance

The renewal documents had been received from Zurich Insurance, and Came & Company had also submitted cover details and a quote for the insurance. Councillor Cox will look at this and it was AGREED that he could decide which quote the Town Council would accept.

286 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 requested to leave the Meeting.