

## ROTHWELL TOWN COUNCIL

A Meeting of Rothwell Town Council was held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday, 14th July 2015 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 A J Mills Councillor L D Newman Councillor K D Sumpter Councillor Mrs M E Talbot Councillor R Wilson	<u>Town Mayor</u>
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### 27 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Councillor Spendlove, the Police and Revd Canon John Westwood.

### 28 COMMUNITY POLICING

#### General Report

No Police Officer was able to attend, but the crime report had been received and this confirmed the figures were down as there were 28 reported crimes during June, as follows:-

- Burglary dwelling - 4
- Burglary other - 1
- Criminal damage - 2
- Drug offences - 1
- Theft from motor vehicles - 3
- Theft/handling - 6
- Violence offences - 11.

Councillor Sumpter wondered whether the 101 number was successful as he was on the phone for over an hour recently. The Town Mayor suggested it might be worth telling Sgt Scott Little about any problems as she reported boys throwing stones and he dealt with this immediately.

#### Police & Crime Commissioner

Adam Simmonds will be visiting Rothwell for about half an hour in August and a list of current issues will need to be prepared. As the type of crime can vary from month to month this will be done at the August Meeting. Councillors can also send comments to the Clerk.

### 29 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

#### Right to Speak Form

Copies of a form adapted from that used at Desborough Town Council Meetings were available for approval by the Town Council. It was **MOVED** by Councillor Jelley, **SECONDED** by Councillor Jelley and **RESOLVED** that the form be approved and used at all the Town Council Meetings.

The Town Mayor reminded everyone that this is their time to speak for three minutes and she will not accept any further questions after this time. Mr Jones asked why this had been brought in because he did not think this was democratic. The Town Council said this is the system used by the Borough Council and by most of the Town and Parish Councils and it works very well for them. Mr Jones said he would object to this and he thought it was unfair and disgraceful. The Town Mayor said it was not fair on the Councillors, especially the new ones, for people to speak for a long time on any issue. Councillor Newman also wanted everyone to be spoken to in the way they would themselves like to be spoken to and this was not personal but he asked everyone to be respectful. Mr Jones asked the Clerk if this was lawful and she confirmed what the Town Mayor had said in that this was the system used by the Borough and most of the other Town and Parish Councils.

### Representations

(1) Playground for Disabled Children: Mr Jones understood that representations had been made to the Town Council and the Clerk confirmed she had received three letters relating to four families with disabled children up to the age of about nine who would like play equipment which they could use. Mr Jones suggested the Town Council could contact David Lane, who is a Borough Officer about this.

(2) Skateboard Ramps: some young people were present at the Meeting and it was believed that there was some finance from Bovis Homes, and also £120,000 from the Football Club development to be put towards sporting facilities. It was explained that Bovis was one of the problems because they have not released to the Borough Council the land on which a skateboard park could be put, which was to have been their contribution.

The young people explained that the ramp they have at the moment is no longer in a good condition and they do need another one. This item is on the agenda and the Town Mayor brought it forward to discuss now. She and Councillor Mills are meeting Shaun Scarfe of Fouronefour the following week to show him the area and for him to come up with designs and let us have a cost so we can look for funding. One of the young people said Bovis have a lot of land which is not being used and the Town Mayor explained we are now looking at an area which is accessible for an ambulance in case of an accident. The young people will be able to put their views forward. They want a multi-use ramp. They thought the one at Market Harborough was the best ramp in the area and the Town Mayor will look at this. The Clerk explained she had received a telephone call from another company so we could also ask them in order to have a comparison. It was AGREED that a concrete ramp is essential. A resident wondered if Adrenaline Alley might assist, perhaps with a donation for a Rothwell ramp and the Town Council can pursue this.

One of the parents was also present and said there is a BMX track at the bottom of Well Lane Recreation Ground which could be cleared, but the Borough Council which owns the Park has already refused the Town Council's suggestion for this. Councillor Sumpter confirmed the Town Council does want sporting facilities in the town and the reason it has taken so long is finding suitable land.

(3) Dog Mess: a resident said there is always a lot of dog mess at the bottom of Kipton Field and one day there were seven heaps but she never sees the Dog Warden. It was suggested that she telephones the Borough Customer Services Department on 01536 410333 when this happens and they will pass the message to the Dog Warden.

(4) Tree, Rushton Road: it was reported that a tree here has been taken down and Councillor Wilson confirmed he had questioned this at the time and it was done by the County Council because the tree was rotten.

30 REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

(1) Women's Cycle Tour: County Councillor Hakewill said this was a success. There are costs associated with the start and finish and he wondered if they could consider using Market Hill Square for one of these. He has spoken to Heather Smith at the County and we could ask the Borough Council to find the finance. He felt it was about £40,000 for East Northants. It was AGREED that the Town Council would express an interest and to write to Steven Edwards and Russ Howell at the Borough Council firstly to thank them for organising having the Cycle Tour come through Rothwell and then to ask about using Market Hill Square next year. It was FURTHER AGREED to also write to Heather Smith at the County Council.

(2) Ward Initiative Money: Councillor Hakewill has heard from the IT Manager at Montsaye that they want to buy a 3D printer and he has donated £500 toward this, and if the Town Council knows of anyone who also wants to contribute we should let him know: the total cost is about £1,500. Councillor Cox said people need to be careful what they buy because you also need a special scanner.

(3) Traveller Horses: Councillor Hakewill thought these had gone from the field on the old Lamport Road.

(4) Barrier, Harrington Road: as to this the Town Council had already received a reply from Ian Boyes, the County Highways Liaison Officer, that he had inspected this area and sent the photograph he had taken of the entry to the footpath from Harrington Road. This is between two driveways, so installing a section of barrier rail adjacent to the road would make turning into these properties difficult for the residents. The location of the BT box also indicates that there would be cables running along the front of the footway which would preclude the installation of a barrier. Mr Boyes looked at the possibility of installing a section of staggered barrier within the alleyway but, even with shorter one metre sections of barrier rails, this would leave insufficient width for mobility scooters to access the alleyway.

(5) Rothwell North Link Road: Councillor Hakewill and Councillor Mills are trying to pursue the fact that this road should go in early and there is nothing to stop the Town Council writing to the North Northants Joint Planning Unit that we want this put in first. At the Borough Council they were doing this by the book. Councillor Mills said there will be other consultations on this subject, but he agreed that this should be done now. As to traffic lights on the former A6 we do want these to divert traffic from Desborough onto the bypass. It was AGREED to write to the NNJPU with copies to Rob Harbour at the Borough and Tony Ciaburro at the County.

Councillor Sumpter said it was suggested at the Borough that Rothwell North will become Rothwell North West as the plans have not yet been submitted in detail so if we get the Town Plan he wondered if this would help. At the Borough Planning Policy Meeting it was decided to move the town boundary so the western section of this development could go ahead. They have now decided to move away from the Corinthians and the Cricket Club as there were problems with some of the landowners. Councillor Cross said if we do not get this right, the town centre will be blocked and he felt the Town Plan could protect us to a degree and the issue could go to the High Court and we would have to appear there.

(6) Hedge, Harrington Road: Councillor Cross said this is overgrown again and obscures visibility. This issue can be reported to Street Doctor.

(7) Street Lights: it was confirmed the Glendon Road potholes have been filled in although the work is not yet finished. There are more lights in Moorfield Road and Councillor Hakewill apologised for the time the barriers have been up. It was reported that outside 13 Moorfield Road they have partially filled in the hole and the barriers are still there so Councillor Hakewill thought this would be dealt with soon. In Castle Hill there are no lights at the entrance and exit to the Junior School and nothing by the bungalows for the disabled behind the flats here. There

is also a problem in Kipton Field and the Town Council and Councillor Hakewill have received a copy of the E-mail from a resident on this. Councillor Hakewill will go and see what the issue is here. The street lighting is not being upgraded on the footpath behind Manor Park up to Well Lane Recreation Ground but these are Borough lights so the County will not be doing these. In fact the footpath here now belongs to Bovis and part of their s.106 Agreement was to improve this to a joint footpath and cycleway: Councillor Mills has spoken to the Borough Council and they are dealing with this.

(8) Crown Yard: Councillor Cross reported that the footpath here from the High Street to Droué Court was blocked and it was explained that Anglian Water closed this because of essential work.

(9) Rothwell Library: as to the children's summer activities here, Councillor Hakewill said if the finance cannot be found from anywhere else he will use his grant. He confirmed that the children at Mawsley will also be paying for these groups and it was suggested that Councillor Hakewill could ask for Rothwell to be free if he takes up the issue for Mawsley. It was said that Rothwell people not only have to pay the precept but they do not get the same service as Kettering. If it was free this would have to come from the Borough Councillor's Ward Initiative money and Councillor Mrs Talbot will discuss this with them. This issue was discussed further under the Financial section of the Meeting.

### 31 MINUTES

It was MOVED by Councillor Wilson, SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Talbot and RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th June 2015 be confirmed and signed.

Councillor Mills suggested that we had an item of Matters Arising on the Minutes immediately after this section.

### 32 ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITY

#### Town Guide

Copies of the initial draft had been circulated prior to this Meeting. Councillor Wilson did not think there were sufficient details of pre-school activities but these are mentioned after the entries on the Library and The Well and The Bridge respectively that people should call in to find out the details of these activities. In the Schools section the Nursery School and the Children's Centre are both listed and it was thought this was adequate.

The Clerk thanked Councillor Jelley for taking photographs of the community buildings and letting her have these on a memory stick. She had sent a selection to Local Authority Publishing for them to decide where they would best fit in the guide. It was agreed that on the Town Council page we should mention that the Meetings are at 7.00 pm on the second Tuesday of every month. The Clerk confirmed that 5,000 copies will be printed and about 3,800 delivered by Royal Mail, including to the new houses at Terry Smith Avenue and Cecilia Avenue: we have not included the third street in that development because it has not been confirmed that this will be called Thompson Way. This will leave about 1,200 which will be delivered to the Town Council.

#### Skateboard Park/Play Equipment

The skateboard ramp had been discussed earlier in the Meeting and a Site Meeting is to take place in Well Lane Recreation Ground on Wednesday, 22nd July with Shaun Scarfe of the Fouronefour Company.

The following E-mail had been received from Pia Bellamy regards the planned community facilities within public open spaces, focusing on the Well Lane Recreation ground, as follows:-

As you may be aware, Bovis Homes will be delivering the following, sooner rather than later:

- Multi use games area
- Children's play Area
- Additional public open space between Well Lane Recreation Ground and the Bovis Homes development
- Upgrade footpaths from Gordon Street to the Community Centre.

We are expecting information in respect of timescales from Bovis Homes in the very near future. A few years ago there was interest in a multi-use wheeled park facility in Rothwell by a small group of parents who had in their possession a petition from children to provide some form of skate facility. Councillors Alan Mills and Ian Jelley attended a meeting with the parents group and Council officers. General advice was provided at that time.

I have not received any other contact from the parent group since that meeting but have heard along the grapevine that there is still interest in skateboard/BMX bike activities and facilities. The Borough Council is happy to provide professional support and advice to Rothwell Town Council to plan and take this project forward subject to satisfactory community consultation and the securing of the total funding. There is some s.106 money available for a play space that could be utilised towards such a scheme, and Planning Application KET/2005/0810 refers to this funding. This funding requires to be utilised by 1st September 2018.

I would be very pleased to meet to discuss further with a small group of nominated Town or Borough Councillors.

The Town Council will be in touch with Ms Bellamy about the skateboard park shortly. In the meantime we have received the requests for a multi-ability play area, especially with swings for disabled children up to the age of eleven years. It was AGREED to reply to Ms Bellamy and ask her to inform Bovis that this is what is needed at the play area to be built on their land, and if this is not done it could be a breach of the Disability Discrimination Act.

Bovis are also to create a multi-use games area on the west side of Well Lane Recreation Ground as part of their s.106 obligations. There was concern that this should not interfere with the use of the football pitch. It was AGREED to ask Ms Bellamy to let us have a sketch plan and full details of both the multi-use games area and the play area to be provided here.

It was also reported that there is a problem with the teenage shelter at the top of Well Lane Recreation Ground but it was felt we should not report this until we have progress on the skateboard ramp as it could just be removed rather than repaired.

#### Town Centre Partnership

Copies of the Report of the Meeting held on 24th June 2015 had been circulated prior to this Meeting. It was MOVED by Councillor Newman, SECONDED by Councillor Wilson that the Report be approved and adopted.

#### Medical Centre

Instead of writing to the Practice Manager now, the Members of the Town Council will continue to monitor the situation. Councillor Jelley will pursue this with NHS England.

Library Garden

A response had been received from Paul Tibbles to our request for a refund of £800 from the £1,600 paid for his work to the Library garden that he found this offensive. The quote was for £1,600 for what was done and Councillor Sumpter had drafted the quote so that he could be repaid the money he put up front out of his wages. Councillor Sumpter agreed he did help Mr Tibbles prepare his draft. The Town Mayor thought perhaps we would have to write this off and put it down to experience but other Members did not think we should let this drop but we would be prepared to negotiate. It was AGREED to respond to Mr Tibbles that this is public money and the Town Council has an obligation to pursue this and we therefore repeat our request for a refund of £800 and look forward to receiving his cheque within seven days to avoid us taking whatever steps our legal advisers might recommend.

Woodland Trust

An E-mail had been received from the County Council that in collaboration with the Woodland Trust they are offering tree packs again. It was AGREED to take no action here.

Events

Councillor Mills said there was a Craft Fair in Market Hill Square recently. Councillor Newman suggested there could be a Jazz Band or something similar to attract people to the town centre on a Saturday morning. It was AGREED that this should be put to the Town Centre Partnership. Councillor Mills will arrange to get some quotes.

Councillor Wilson reported that there is to be the Rock 'n' Rowell event, combined with a beer festival, at the Corinthians Training Ground from mid-day to about midnight on 25th July. He felt there needed to be an addition to the Town Council's Insurance Policy because this is a Town Council event. The Clerk will take this up with Zurich Municipal and check that it will be covered or if we need to pay an additional premium.

Rothwell Website

Councillor Cox confirmed that his IT colleague has been working on the rothwelltown.co.uk website and he had brought the initial details. They can also promote the businesses in the town and the fee would be £900. Details of events can also be put on the site and this should be done in about three weeks. We will then control the design on this. The Clerk said this was a Partnership initiative and if they agree we could ask for this year's grant to cover the update. It was MOVED by Councillor Jelley, SECONDED by Councillor Mills and RESOLVED that we should recommend this to the Partnership.

33 PLANNINGMaterial Planning Considerations

Copies of the advice on material planning considerations had been circulated for information.

Notifications

The following approvals had been received:-

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| KET/2015/0350 | 101 Rushton Road - Single storey dwelling and parking. |
| KET/2015/0375 | 22 Nansen Close - Extensions.                          |

Application

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

KET/2015/429 & 483 Sunday School, Market Hill

Rothwell Town Council supports this application as the work will save this Listed Building which was in a very poor condition, and this will provide a useful facility in the town.

Neighbourhood Plan

Councillor Mrs Talbot felt we had been taking too long on this and she had also spoken to Councillors Jelley and Mills about this. Julia Baish at the Borough Council now has the questionnaires and is putting these into a spreadsheet. Councillor Mrs Talbot said she would put the responses together and work with Councillors Jelley and Mills as a Sub-Committee to progress this issue. It was MOVED by Councillor Sumpter, SECONDED by Councillor Wilson and RESOLVED that this was agreed.

Rothwell North

This item had already been discussed as part of the County Councillor's Report.

34 HIGHWAYSWell Lane/Ponder Street

An E-mail had been received from Ian Boyes, the County Highways Liaison Officer that he will arrange for an order to be placed for the road markings at the Well Lane/Ponder Street junction.

Whilst writing to him, the Clerk had mentioned that the double yellow lines had not yet been put in at the bottom of Tresham Street. Mr Boyes apologised for the continuing delay on this and has reminded Jim Whiting, who looks after parking restrictions, that this is still outstanding and he will chase up the contractor.

Stopping Up of Highway at Whiteman Lane

An E-mail had been received from the National Transport Casework Team that they proposed to make an Order stopping up a section of highway in front of No.2 Whiteman Lane and this would now have a residential use in accordance with Planning Approval KET/2014/0645. It was MOVED by the Town Mayor and AGREED to object to this proposal because this would be dangerous as it would obscure visibility both for pedestrians waiting to cross and for drivers at the staggered cross-roads. A lot of people, including children going to and from school wait in this area to cross to the other side of Droué Court because there is not footpath on this side.

Castle Hill

Councillor Wilson reported that he was driving up Castle Hill, when he was stopped by another driver who objected and said this was not two-way when parents were collecting their children from school for safety reasons. It was AGREED that Castle Hill is a two-way road at all times.

Trees, Desborough Road and Market Hill

A reply had been received from Lara Inglott of KierWSP who now deals with trees in Rothwell that she has issued a ticket to have the branches and basal growth cut back on these trees.

36 MATTERS OF BUSINESSCapital Community Grants

The Clerk had received information from the Borough Council in connection with these grants, if anyone wants the details.

Councillor Mrs Talbot said that in Kettering WREN gave a grant of £45,000 to re-do the Recreation Ground. There was also a grant for the outdoor gym in Desborough and one of the Borough Councillors will get further information and send this out. It was thought these cost a minimum of £20,000. There is also the Mick George Company which gives grants.

37 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 the following amounts paid:-

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Goods or Services</u>	<u>Amount</u>
ADL Plumbing Services	Repairs to Public Toilets (Paid 10.7.15)	£205.00
Mrs C E Mackay	Clerk's Salary	£597.80
Mrs C M Brown	Town Mayor's half-yearly allowance	£500.00
Inter County Cleaning Services	Cleaning Market House	£37.20

Appointment of Additional Signatories

As Neil Matthew is no longer a Member of the Town Council, new signatories are required for the Market Harborough and Nationwide Building Society Accounts. It was **MOVED** by Councillor Sumpter, **SECONDED** by Councillor Mrs Talbot and **RESOLVED** that Councillor Davis be appointed a signatory for the Market Harborough Building Society and that Councillor Cox be appointed a signatory for the Civic Ball and Gala Accounts.

Children's Summer Activities

As to the payment for these this year, it was **MOVED** by the Town Mayor, **SECONDED** by Councillor Jelley and **RESOLVED** to write to Pia Bellamy at the Borough Council (with a copy to the Rothwell Library Manager) on this and that if necessary the Town Council will pay the £270, but we would like this to be clarified for next year.

38 ADMISSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC

In view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, the Press and Public were asked to withdraw.