

ROTHWELL TOWN COUNCIL

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

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Councillor K D Sumpter Councillor Mrs C M Brown Councillor C W Cross Councillor R V Davis Councillor Mrs M E Talbot Councillor R Wilson County Councillor J Hakewill	<u>Town Mayor</u>
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187 PRAYERS

Before the business of the Council commenced, the Revd Canon John Westwood said Prayers and mentioned Councillor Alan Mills who is now very ill. He also referred to the recent Carnival and the people who made this possible.

188 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Councillors Cox, Goodwin, Jelley, Mills, Newman and Spendlove.

189 COMMUNITY POLICING

General Report

PCSOs Kirsty Ellerby and Jason Parish were both present at the Meeting. They do not have any crime figures since the new system was brought in. There have been more burglaries in Rothwell but a Police car has been around at night. They asked again about asking the Library to turn off their Wi-Fi when they are closed. PCSO Parish has spoken to them and they said it needs to stay on for updates. The Town Mayor explained that it should be possible to turn this off without it causing any problems and he will speak to them because if you have a code for the users no-one else should be able to access this. It was reported that the young people are causing problems in Manor Park and Jesus Hospital and Councillor Hakewill will take this up. It was confirmed that it is not the skateboarders who cause these problems.

Mr Bell wanted to raise this issue about the problems at Jesus Hospital which have been going on for about four months. He felt that these young people should be taken home to their parents rather than just moved on. The Police explained that they do not have the resources to take about 30 children home and they firstly have to know for certain who has caused any damage. They are also throwing bricks at the residents of Jesus Hospital. It was confirmed there are three gangs and the Police do have some names but need to be able to identify exactly who was to blame. The Town Mayor advised that the more residents report this to the Police whilst it is happening, the more action can be taken and we will have more resources for Rothwell. The PCSOs confirmed people should telephone the Police when there is trouble.

Another resident also explained the problems with gangs of young people throwing bricks at people in Jesus Hospital and causing damage there and in Manor Park. This was very upsetting for many of them and it needed to be stopped and the young people arrested.

The PCSOs received a call and were obliged to leave the Meeting.

Closure of Kettering Courts

Philip Hollobone MP had forwarded the reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice that the decision to close Kettering Magistrates Court and Kettering County Court was not taken lightly and the Government does not intend to re-consider this decision.

190 MINUTES

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Wilson, **SECONDED** by Councillor Mrs Brown and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th June 2016 be confirmed and signed.

191 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

(1) Parking, Leys Avenue: Mrs Smith thought it would help to have one-way signs in School Lane because sometimes cars are driven out of the Infant School and turn the wrong way in School Lane; one day this blocked access for the ambulance. It was **AGREED** to report this to the County Council and ask if there can be arrows in the road to indicate which way drivers should turn. Councillor Hakewill suggested there should also be a sign on the school premises to indicate which way people should go when leaving the school.

The Clerk had received a copy of the letter from the Leys Avenue residents to Mr Hurling, the Head Teacher of the Infant School, and this had been circulated to the Members of the Town Council prior to this Meeting. Councillor Jelley was not able to be present at this Meeting, but had E-mailed the Clerk that some of the car registrations in that letter belonged to members of staff and they have been spoken to, and been told to park in the Junior School car parks and walk to the Infant School. Mr Hurling has also spoken to the residents and is checking daily that no members of staff are parking in Leys Avenue and has received a letter of thanks from the residents. Mrs Green confirmed that the situation has now improved a lot. They have parked in front of, or even on, people's drives. The Police are also going to monitor this situation when they can. They have suggested moving the grass bank at the Junior School parking area to have more parking spaces.

There are now going to be houses on the former Football Club ground and it was confirmed that all this land now belongs to the developer. As to the future, the Town Mayor explained that there is going to be space for a new primary school at Rothwell North to take the children from that development, but Councillor Hakewill explained there will be a delay before this is built. It was **AGREED** that the Town Council will write and thank Mr Hurling.

(2) New Building on the former Health Centre site: Mr Green did not like this and did not think it was suitable in the centre of Rothwell. He also queried the use and whether this was appropriate. He said this company is the same one that built at Peterborough. The Clerk said they also have a similar building in Leicester and explained that the original proposal was for a care home for young people with autism but this has been changed to 14 apartments for mostly young people (but possibly up to the age of 65) with either a minor mental disability or autism. It is intended they will all come from Northamptonshire and some might have a job in the area. It will be run by Lifeways who will put a Care Officer in and they anticipate there will be two or three people working there during the day, and there will be someone on duty at night. They will have only a modicum of mental health problems so only low security is required. None of the residents will have cars so there will be room for all the staff to park on site. Mr Green asked what the Town Council had done about this and it was confirmed that the Council had objected to the gates which it was felt were unsuitable, and originally queried the change from a care home to small flats but received the assurance that there would be adequate care. There is always notice of a planning application near the relevant site but the residents thought this was totally inappropriate.

192 REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

1. County Councillor Hakewill is continuing to press for the lay-by on the A14 to be closed and the last communication he had was that Highways England do understand this but they have to go through the various procedures. There is also the area near Welford which is now to be constructed fairly quickly and he will find out from Daventry whether this will definitely include a truck stop.
2. He has not heard anything further about the Borough purchase of the land at Harrington Road, but he continues to make the point that the Fire Station needs to be situated out of town and there could then be a parking area on the existing site.
3. Councillor Hakewill also continues to lobby for the relief road into the land for Rothwell North so that the construction traffic does not come through the town.
4. He hoped that the footpaths in Leys Avenue would be repaired soon but the County Council remains under financial pressure.
5. Councillor Cross said that the Gas Board has been working in Moorfield Road but holes have been left in the surface of this street. Councillor Hakewill said if there is a serious risk there is usually a telephone number at the site for residents to use. The Town Mayor asked if Councillor Hakewill could put any pressure on to have this sorted out quickly.

193 ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITYSkateboard Ramp

Councillor Mrs Brown reported that there was an open evening for the young people to comment on what design they prefer and this was well attended with about 60 young people going along. The contractor has been appointed and there needs to be some ground work and remedial work needs to be done at the entrance.

It was asked if the Town Council could provide £2,000 to assist with these works and this was AGREED as there is a contingency sum in this year's budget. The Clerk said she would need an invoice for this. The ramp will be further down the Park because of the tree and the slope, and it will be lit but the lights will go off at 9.30 pm. The skaters wanted a step but this cannot be done. It is hoped the ramp will be completed by the end of August/beginning of September and it will be suitable for scooters as well as skateboards.

Blythe Close Play Area

Dave Lane told Councillor Mrs Brown that there has been a quote for some equipment but he is not happy with this so is getting more quotes and we should have three in any event. This equipment will be suitable for both disabled and able-bodied children. The Town Council then wants to provide some outdoor gym equipment for the parents to use.

Notice Board and Benches

The Clerk confirmed that the two benches at the back of the Market House had been put back and fixed in the correct place, and the notice board had also been repaired and put back.

Councillor Wilson said that the Clerk should E-mail Wayne Woods at the Borough Council to ask for the seat in front of the public toilets in Squires Hill to be moved to the top of Well Lane Recreation Ground where there is already a base for a seat. The Clerk said there will be a small charge for this work and this was AGREED.

Parking, Leys Avenue

This item was dealt with under the section on Questions from the Public.

Parking Survey, Market Hill

Only 14 people had responded and copies of the survey results had been circulated prior to this Meeting. Councillor Wilson said he would carry out a further survey at different times of the week. A resident suggested that the Community Centre car park should be left open for members of the public to use, but it was explained that they needed all those spaces when there was an event at the Centre.

Bovis s.106 Requirements

An E-mail dated 1st July had been received from the Borough Head of Development Services that the tender process has been completed for the footpath/cycleway widening, and they have been told that a contractor was due to be appointed with the aim of commencing work on site during the week starting 18th July. The Borough has also been informed that the multi-use games area (MUGA) is on order and this work will start on site during the week commencing 8th August with a five to six week installation period.

Town Guide

The Clerk reported that Russ Collard would be starting at the end of August to collect names of businesses who wanted an advertisement in the updated Town Guide.

Market Hill Square

Councillor Mrs Brown asked if the cobbles marking the parking spaces in the Square could have red diesel put on as this would show them up. Councillor Wilson thought that Councillor Spendlove could probably do this. Councillor Davis said that in Olney there is a car park which has a maximum of three hours and he felt this could be done in Rothwell. It was AGREED to contact Olney Town Council and ask how they manage to enforce this.

Town Centre Partnership

The Clerk said she had a copy of the Minutes of the last Meeting of the Partnership held on 25th June, if anyone wanted a copy. It was reported that Barry Hales will be singing in Market Hill again this Saturday.

Grass Cutting

This was mentioned at the last Meeting and the Borough Council has come out and started doing this but the weather has been a problem. The County Council now only do two cuts a year and expect the Borough to do the rest. The Members of the Town Council were asked to take photographs of any dangerous areas and send these to Mr Coleman who will try and get this done.

Shop Sign

It was pointed out that the new sign on the Chinese Takeaway in Market Hill is very garish and is illuminated. It was AGREED to report this to the Borough Planning Department and ask them to look at this, especially in the evening when it is lit. It was also AGREED to mention the Rothwell House Hotel because although the number of signs has now been reduced, there are still the flashing coloured lights at the front of the building.

Community Centre Sign

It was reported that the sign in the garden at the corner of Ponder Street and Glendon Road is pointing the wrong way. It was AGREED to report this to Mr Chester at the Borough Council.

Public Toilets

Councillor Mrs Talbot said Councillor Wilson is willing to open and close the toilets and do the cleaning because the Borough would charge a significant amount to do this. However, he does need more equipment such as toilet rolls to be able to do this properly.

194 PLANNINGNotifications and Applications

The following Approvals had been received:-

KET/2016/0234	105 Desborough Road – Rear extension.
KET/2016/0300	Land adjoining 2 Nunnery Avenue – One dwelling.
KET/2016/0309	24 Scott Avenue – Rear extension.
KET/2016/0327	54 Meadow Road – Single storey ancillary annexe to rear.

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

KET/2016/0432	The Old Ambulance Station, 44 Castle Hill – New roof, window openings and additional air conditioning. No objection.
KET/2016/435&436	30 High Street – Change of Use to Estate Agent and new shop front. No objection.
KET/2016/0451	5 Kipton Close – Front and rear extensions No objection.
KET/2016/0456	19 Cross Street – Conversion of garage to ground floor flat. No objection.

Neighbourhood Plan

In order to make progress on drafting the Neighbourhood Plan, the Clerk suggested that Members should contact Locality, who Councillor Mrs Talbot had spoken to, and she found them very helpful. Desborough is further on with their Neighbourhood Plan and they have appointed the Architects, Lathams of Nottingham as their Agents to prepare that Plan, although Members might think it would be better to have a firm of Planning Consultants. Desborough still has a long way to go because they have to organise the referendum as part of the process so it will be several years before Rothwell has its plan. The Clerk suggested that Members looked up Desborough Neighbourhood Plan online.

Town Centre Boundary

The Clerk had returned the plan for the town centre, but had not filled in all of Sun Hill so this had been queried. After consultation she had included all of Sun Hill, plus the car parks at the Rowell Charter Inn and the Manor House and had a plan to show this which was AGREED.

Shotwell Mill Lane

There is a change in the legislation concerning the deposit of landowner statements and plans and the County Council has now decided to notify Parish Councils when they receive a landowner deposit that affects land in their area. Rothwell has been informed of a deposit on behalf of Taylor Wimpey UK Ltd of land off Shotwell Mill Lane. This does not affect the registered public rights of way over this land but might restrict access to other parts.

North Northants Joint Core Strategy

Notification had been received that the Planning Inspector for the Examination of this Strategy has completed his report and it was received by the Joint Planning Unit on 22nd June 2016.

195 HIGHWAYSFootpath, Harrington Road

An E-mail had been received from a Borough Senior Planning Officer, that it appears that Morris Homes are in breach of some of their commitments under the s.106 agreement in relation to the footpath connecting Orton House to Terry Smith Avenue; the covenant in the s.106 is in favour of the County Council as this is the authority which will be responsible for future maintenance. The County have been chasing Morris Homes to do this work and there is contact between the County and the Borough to resolve this matter.

Yellow Markings in Market Hill Square

The Clerk said there is the square with yellow markings on in front of the dropped kerb behind the Market House. This was done for anyone parking in Market Hill Square with a wheelchair user so they could have good access, but now we have the disabled parking spaces the Clerk asked if it was still essential. If the yellow markings were removed it would provide one, and possibly two, extra parking spaces. As the County Council is submitting a request for Traffic Orders this autumn, she wondered if the Town Council wanted them to ask for these to be removed. It was AGREED to ask if this can be done.

196 MATTERS OF BUSINESSRegister of Interests

Councillors Cross, Davis, Sumpter, Mrs Talbot and Wilson handed the Clerk their Register of Members' Interests Forms to the Clerk. Councillor Mrs Brown said she did not receive this recently and the Clerk said she must have returned her form at the correct time.

Rothwell United Charities

A letter had been received from Peter Weston that he has been a Trustee of the United Charities for the last twenty years, but has now decided to stand down. It was AGREED to write and thank Mr Weston for his service over twenty years.

Mrs Margaret Harris has been elected as Chair of the United Charities in his place, and Councillor Mrs Talbot has taken over as Secretary. Mrs Elizabeth Stokes has been appointed as a new Trustee. The Vicar of Holy Trinity Church is the Ex-officio Trustee, and the United Reformed Church appoints one other person. The Town Council has to appoint the other Trustees and it was MOVED by the Town Mayor, SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Brown and RESOLVED to write and confirm the appointment of Mrs Stokes and Councillor Talbot.

Licensing Application

Notification had been received of the application for Strawberry Fields Food Emporium for opening hours, with the sale of alcohol and recorded music from 11.00 am to 11.00 pm. It was AGREED that the Town Council had no objection to this application, provided there are now adequate toilets on the premises for this use.

Firework Displays

An E-mail had been received from Sgt Scott Little, asking if there were going to be any fireworks displays here this year, and if so on what dates. It was AGREED to reply that we do not know of any such events.

HM The Queen

Councillor Mrs Talbot has acquired a framed photograph of the Queen for the Town Council as it is her 90th birthday. It was MOVED by Councillor Mrs Talbot, SECONDED by Councillor Sumpter and RESOLVED that this should be hung in the Council Chamber. The Clerk had also received an FOI request by E-mail asking how much funding the Town Council has made available, or is planning to make available this year, for the Queen's birthday celebrations. It was AGREED to reply that the Annual Litter Pick made by the Town Council and the local Scouts on 23rd April was a Clean for the Queen, the local Arts & Heritage Centre held a Coffee Morning on 11th June to celebrate her birthday, and there was a Birthday Service in the Parish Church on 12th June. None of these involved funding from the Town Council.

Montsaye Art Exhibition

Councillor Davis said this exhibition has now been set up in the Arts & Heritage Centre until 29th July. There was an Open Evening for this and 83 people attended.

Private Pumping Stations

An E-mail had been received that any private pumping stations will be transferred to Anglian Water from October 2016. It was not thought that there were any of these in the Parish.

Desborough Youth Club

A resident of Desborough was present at the Meeting and explained that the Desborough Youth Club in Paddock Lane would welcome members from Rothwell and perhaps the Town Council could advertise this. They do also need volunteers to help run this Youth Club. After the Meeting the Clerk obtained more details from the Youth Worker and put up posters.

197 FINANCIAL REPORTGeneral Statement

The Clerk submitted a written statement. It was MOVED by Councillor Cross, SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Talbot 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	£608.00
Inter County Cleaning Services	Cleaning Market House	£40.80
Kettering Borough Council	Re-install bench and notice board	£336.00
Cash	Petty Cash	£40.00

The Clerk had also received an invoice for £174 from Kaygee Data & Electrical Ltd for festoons and bulbs for the 2015 Gala Evening ordered by Councillor Mills as not enough could be found for that event. In error the Clerk had drawn a cheque for this amount from the Town Council Civic Ball Account which left only a very small balance there. It was MOVED by Councillor Wilson, SECONDED by Councillor Davis and RESOLVED to reimburse the Civic Ball Account the sum of £174 and the cheque form was signed at this Meeting, and the amount will be added to the written statement for circulation with the Minutes.

Internal Audit

Copies of the Internal Audit Report had been circulated prior to this Meeting. It was MOVED by Councillor Cross, SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Brown and RESOLVED that the Report be approved and adopted.

The Internal Auditor did mention that the cost of our Insurance policy is quite high and we might be able to get a lower quote. The Clerk did still think Zurich provided the best policy for a local Council, but she could contact them to see if they could re-consider the premium. The Auditor also said that we could get free security from AVAST, but again the Clerk felt that Norton was the most efficient. As to back-up the Auditor suggested we should purchase a memory stick for back up and it was AGREED to do this.

198 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 leave the Meeting.