

## ROTHWELL TOWN COUNCIL

A Meeting of Rothwell Town Council was held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday, 16th June 2015 in the Market House, Market Hill, Rothwell.

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs C M Brown Town Mayor  
Councillor C W Cross  
Councillor M E Cox  
Councillor R V Davis  
Councillor T M Goodwin  
Councillor I F Jelley  
Councillor A J Mills  
Councillor L D Newman  
Councillor M W Spendlove  
Councillor Mrs M E Talbot  
Councillor R Wilson

### 9 RECORDING OF MEETINGS

Mr Malcolm Jones asked for permission to record the Town Council Meeting, which he is entitled to do and because he wanted to ensure that the subsequent Minutes were correct. The Clerk and Councillor Mrs Talbot had recently attend the NCALC Training Session and it was confirmed that Meetings can be recorded provided the resident asks for permission from the Chairman first. The Town Mayor agreed that this Meeting could be recorded.

### 10 PRAYERS

Before the business of the Council commenced, the Revd Canon John Westwood said Prayers and mentioned the Town Mayor and the newly elected Town Council, together with the Women's Cycle Tour coming through Rothwell. The Town Mayor welcomed everyone to this full Town Council Meeting and thanked the Revd Canon John Westwood for a lovely Civic Service, made even more special in that Robert Denton was handed his BEM there.

### 11 NEW MEMBERS

The Declarations of Acceptance of Office and Code of Conduct forms were signed by all the new Members and duly witnessed.

### 12 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Councillor Sumpter and the Police.

### 13 COMMUNITY POLICING

#### General Report

No Police Officer was able to be at the Meeting, but we had received the crime figures which confirmed there were 33 reported crimes during May, as follows:-

- Burglary dwelling - 0
- Burglary other - 1
- Criminal damage - 3
- Drug offences - 1
- Sexual offences - 3
- Theft from motor vehicles - 3

Theft/handling - 7  
Theft of motor vehicles - 1  
Violence offences - 14.

A lot of the theft/handling offences are carried out at the Esso Garage on the A14. Councillor Mills said he had met our new Parish Constable, who is an ex-Serviceman and seems very suitable.

Councillor Cox joined the Meeting at 7.05 pm

It was thought the violence offences are still a little high, and the Clerk explained that these are difficult to assess because a violent offence can be a domestic argument, someone just being pushed, or a serious incident. The Town Mayor had to report an issue during Rowell Fair and was pleased to report that she received an immediate response.

A resident thought that the one-way system during Rowell Fair was chaotic for all vehicles, including buses. It was explained this is organised by the Rowell Fair Society and Councillor Mills as the Lord of the Manor's Bailiff. Councillor Mills explained that they never used to completely close the road but now have to do this because there was a fatality at Kings Lynn Fair. They are looking at the system to see if this can be improved. Councillor Newman said there is a problem at the bottom of Gladstone Street and it was confirmed they do meet with the Police and the Fire Service and will see if there can be a complete one way system. They will also see if they can find alternative parking. It was reported that on the Monday the gates were closed at the Community Centre and Councillor Newman agreed perhaps Manor Park could be used for parking during Rowell Fair week or perhaps the site of the former Health Centre.

Councillor Goodwin said one of the rides at the Fair was about 3' out into the street and this did cause a problem. The problem was that there has to be a metre left on the pavement, and Plotters Table had their tables out. Perhaps this ride can be moved next year as it used to be opposite the Library.

It was reported that horses have are being ridden in Well Lane Recreation Ground again, but this is a matter for the Borough Council rather than the Police. It was thought they might have come from the stables in Violet Lane. It was AGREED to contact Ms Bellamy at the Borough Council and the resident will try and find out when the horses are in the Park, which is about once or twice a week.

The Clerk has received confirmation from the Police that Michael Small has been remanded in custody again, awaiting a date to be set for his trial.

#### Police & Crime Commissioner

An E-mail had been received from Adam Simmonds' office that he would like to visit Rothwell at 12.15 pm on Tuesday, 25th August 2015 for about half an hour so he can observe at first hand some of the issues our community is facing. It was AGREED to accept his offer to visit the town and we should meet Mr Simmonds outside the Market House. This will be placed on the Agenda for the July Meeting to decide which issues should be raised.

#### Special Constables

An E-mail had been received from Adam Simmonds that he wants to have Special Constables in each area.

Councillor Cox had found someone who would like to enrol as a Special. He is 18 years old and does not have a driving licence, but this will not prevent him from becoming a Special. The Clerk thought a Special needed only to commit to eight hours every two weeks, but this does not have to be done in one session. There is however quite an extensive training course.

#### 14 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

(1) Skateboard Ramp: Three young residents were present at the Meeting because they were disappointed no progress has been made on the provision of a skateboard ramp. It was explained that Bovis are to hand over ownership of the land on the eastern side of their development on which it was planned to put a skateboard ramp, but we do not yet have a date when they will do this. We have asked the Borough for a timescale but have not received a reply. We could ask Pia Bellamy if there is any further progress. The Town Council really needs to know exactly what type of skateboard park the young people want. Clerk had recently received a catalogue which included examples of skateboard parks and handed this to the young people who will also look at other suppliers.

Councillor Mills said that out of the s.106 monies from the former Football Club development, there is to be £120,000 for sports and some money is intended to be used to drain the land. He did think that to put the skateboard park in the Bovis area could provoke objections from the people living in these new houses and perhaps we should now consider putting this in Well Lane Recreation Ground in the area where the existing ramp is. Good access is important and this site would be much better for this as well. We need a plan and then there could be a scheme drawn up by the people who supply this type of equipment. Mr Jones said about 18 months ago we were promised Bovis would hand over the land to the Borough Council and he thought we should talk to Mr Dave Lane at the Borough Council. One of the young residents said he knew of a company who built skateboard ramps and mentioned a website. They gave a contact number of a parent of one of them for information. There are various sources of funding once a scheme has been drawn up, such as the Mick George Fund and the Maud Elkington Trust.

Councillor Jelley said we need to get the football pitch at Well Lane drained as well. It was confirmed this area is also used for cycling. The young residents thought there could be other different equipment for children.

(2) Glendon Road Football Pitch: Mr Weston asked when the community facilities are going to be completed at the Prologis warehouse site in Glendon Road. Councillor Mills said the football pitches are there by the Scout Headquarters in Glendon Road. The Borough Council would not adopt these because of the ironstone. Councillor Mrs Talbot said this had a notice saying Kettering Football Club. As to other s.106 benefits, there is the Harrington Road site, and there will be finance for education and they also moved the build-out to a more suitable location. It was not known if there would be further funds, as this was built as two separate schemes so it might not qualify for more.

(3) Street Lighting Replacement: a resident reported that there are still barriers around the columns for the new lights and these are blocking the footpaths, especially in Glendon Road. We will ask County Councillor Hakewill about this. As to the lights on the Nosehill footpath, these are the responsibility of the Borough Council so will not be replaced in the County scheme.

#### 15 MINUTES

Mr Malcolm Jones referred to Section 5, the Planning item on page 3 of the June Minutes and his Planning Application which was considered at the Annual Parish Meeting and said he did not feel it was considered thoroughly and if the Town Council wishes for its ideas on planning applications to be taken seriously then these should be considered properly. Some objections raised on his application have been discussed at the outline stage by the Planning Inspector.

The Town Council received something out of courtesy from the Borough Council, so he wanted to know why it was decided to consider and comment on this and Mr Jones did not agree with this action. It was explained this was a full application and the Town Council was asked for its observations. No-one remembered there being an Appeal on the previous application and the Town Council did not receive the Planning Inspector's decision. The Town Mayor said they went through this application carefully as the Town Council is required to do. Mr Jones did not agree and went into detail about this and his comments were noted. He felt that if the Town Council wants to be taken seriously then the Members should act properly.

It was MOVED by Councillor Mrs Talbot, SECONDED by Councillor Davis and RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meetings held on 19th and 26th May 2015 be confirmed and signed.

## 16 APPOINTMENTS

It was MOVED by the Town Mayor, SECONDED by Councillor Mills and RESOLVED that the following appointments be made:-

Town Centre Partnership - Councillors Cross, Davis, Goodwin, Mills, Newman and Wilson.

Gala Committee - Councillors Cox, Jelley, Mills, Spendlove, Talbot and Wilson.

A6 Towns Forum - Borough Councillors Mills, Sumpter and Talbot, and Town Councillors Cox, Davis and Jelley.

Orton Trust - Councillor Mills.

Parish Path/Tree Warden - Councillor Wilson.

Twinning Committee - Councillor Mills.

Rothwell United Charities - Councillor Talbot.

Rothwell & Desborough Futures - Councillors Talbot and Wilson.

## 17 ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITY

### Medical Centre

The Town Council wanted to write to the Practice Manager and raise the various concerns of residents but we are not certain of the current situation. The telephone number has been changed to a local number which is an improvement as this is much cheaper for people calling. It was understood that Dr Rose has left and there is a locum at present but they are looking for two replacement doctors. Councillor Mills said he knows someone who is in a similar situation as to Nicola Warren. This would be a Private & Confidential Meeting. NHS England oversee this Practice and Councillor Jelley has met with them, but they have now moved offices further away from this area. You can now book appointments on line which might assist. There is the Patient Participation Group which people can join. Other specific matters were raised as to where the Medical Centre is not satisfactory. The Town Mayor and Councillors Jelley and Mills had met with residents about this.

### Library Garden

This is in a bad state again and Mr Tibbles has not carried out the second part of the work which he had promised. Councillor Sumpter has pressed him to do this, and the Clerk had also sent him an E-mail but had not received any response. Councillor Wilson said he and his wife would continue to do this work and he offered to tidy up this garden the following day ready for the Cycle Race. The other Members of the Town Council were very grateful for the work which Councillor and Mrs Wilson have done, but felt it was unfair to expect them to do all this work.

It was AGREED that the Town Council should be refunded half the cost of £1,600 which was paid to Mr Tibbles and the Clerk will send him a bill for this at Northampton University as we do not have his home address.

Councillor Cross felt this should be done by either the Borough Council or the County Council and if we agree to maintain it, the Town Council will have to do this forever. The Borough does all the grounds maintenance in Kettering town centre and this garden is actually owned by the County Council. Councillor Mills will take this issue up at the Borough. Questions were asked about why Paul Tibbles was paid so quickly.

We would like to have this garden looking good for the Cycle Race, and we had a quote from Mr Jim French of £300 to weed and re-plant it within the next few days and to keep the area free from weeds throughout the summer season. It was MOVED by Councillor Spendlove, SECONDED by Councillor Jelley and RESOLVED to accept this quote and to draw a cheque this evening for £300.

### Children's Activities

A letter had been received from the Rothwell Library Manager and had been circulated prior to this Meeting. In addition to their general work with children, they run activities during each school holiday, which are focused on 5 - 13 year olds but do include the younger children where possible. During the school summer holidays last year, Rothwell Library ran a number of children's activities and also hosted a number of high profile events such as a magic show and two pantomimes which were very well supported and received. The biggest problem last year was that the three events provided by the Borough Council (the magic show and the two pantomimes) were charged for at Rothwell despite these shows being provided free of charge in Kettering at the Kettering-on-Sea event. This year the charge will be £3 per child (or £2.50 if the parent has a leisure card) which does not seem fair and she wants to ensure that Rothwell children do not miss out on the grounds of family income. The cost of the Borough events is expected to be £200 and she asked if the Town Council could give a grant to cover this full cost to allow these events to go ahead.

It was AGREED that the Borough Councillors will take this up at the Borough Council and ask them to treat Rothwell children the same as those in Kettering and we could consult Councillor Hakewill if this would be helpful.

### Women's Cycle Tour

This will be coming through Rothwell at about mid-day, or just before. The County has given the Town Council two packs of flags, bunting and blow-up items to wave. The bunting is being put up and the other items have been taken to the Junior School. Councillor Wilson has put the leaflets around the shops. It was thought this would be on Radio Northampton and Channel 4.

### Town Guide

This is a Partnership scheme but the Clerk had copies of the various lists she had prepared for the Town Councillors to look at. Councillor Davis asked for the Arts & Heritage Centre to be included on the list of Community Facilities and Councillor Cross asked for the Table Tennis Clubs to be included on the list of Sporting Organisations.

### Town Ball

The Town Mayor reported that this has been arranged for Friday, 27th November 2015 and explained some of the details for this.

Mayor's Robes

The Town Mayor thought it would be nice to wear the robes at all the monthly Town Council Meetings, and it was thought this would be left to the Town Mayor to decide at each Meeting.

Holding Sites

For information, it was mentioned that it has been proposed that there should be holding sites on the A14 for gipsies.

Public Toilets

Councillor Mills reported that the new toilet roll holders are good and this has stopped the toilet paper being continually stolen.

18 PLANNINGNotifications

The following Approvals had been received:-

KET/2015/0029	16 Greening Road - Two detached dwellings.
KET/2015/0152	Hospital Farm, Rushton Road - Three dwellings.
KET/2015/0236	BP Connect, A14 Eastbound - New signs.
KET/2015/0285	11 Playford Close - Conversion of garage to room and extension.

Applications

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

KET/2015/0290	1 Hawkins Close - Replacement wooden garage. No objection.
KET/2015/0403	The Well & The Bridge, 9 Bridge Street - Variation in opening hours. Rothwell Town Council supports the extended opening hours.

North Northants Joint Planning Unit

Notice had just been received from the NNJPU that there is to be consultation on Focused Changes to the Pre-Submission Joint Core Strategy, and the Clerk had forwarded this E-mail to those Members of the Town Council who have E-mail.

Neighbourhood Plan

It was AGREED that the results of the questionnaire will now be taken to Julia Baish at the Borough Council for her to collate on our behalf.

Planning Applications

As the full Town Council is now to consider any planning applications, it was confirmed that if any applications come in and there is not time to wait until the next full Town Council Meeting, a special Meeting of the Town Council will be called to ensure observations can be submitted in time.

### Former Ambulance Station

Councillor Cox declared a Personal Interest but wanted to report that he has his business in the former Ambulance Station on the corner of Castle Hill and Tresham Street and next to his premises there are the old garages which are in a very poor condition, and some of these were blown down in the recent storms. He felt these are now in a dangerous condition especially if children go in there as the whole structure could collapse at any time. He also believes there are vermin there. It was AGREED to report this matter to the Borough Head of Development Services and to the Borough Environmental Health Department.

### Street Names

When we are next asked for new street names, the Town Mayor felt we should consider asking for the names "Alan Pote" and "Derek Newman" to be considered.

## 19 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

- (1) Women's Cycle Tour: County Councillor Hakewill was pleased that this cycle tour was coming to Rothwell this year.
- (2) Anaerobic Digester: he has noticed a slight smell on hot days, but has not received any complaints.
- (3) Trout Farm at Pipewell: if any tipper trucks going to and from this site come through Rothwell we should let Councillor Hakewill know about these.
- (4) County Finances: these are very much stretched and a lot of expenditure needs to be given to both young and old people in the County.
- (5) Lay-by by the BP Garage on the A14: he is trying to get the Highways Agency to close this because it is dangerous for cyclists and walkers here.
- (6) Travellers on the old Lamport Road: these have now gone.
- (7) Street Lights: he has received queries from residents in Adams Close, Lewin Close, Stanley Street and Wales Street. So far, the contractors have done a good job but if there are any complaints these should be passed to Councillor Hakewill. The Town Mayor explained that they have left the plastic barriers around various lighting columns in the town. Councillor Hakewill confirmed that Lewin Close and Barlow Close are not adopted streets.
- (8) Northern Relief Road: the Planning Policy Unit is talking about having traffic lights and this will encourage drivers to go to the A6 bypass.
- (9) Fire Station: Councillor Hakewill has not heard anything recently about the road being blocked by vehicles. Councillor Newman said this is no better and the fire engine has to stop about half the time. It was felt this needed to be policed. It was suggested that signs informing people of the location of the fire station could be put up.
- (10) Household Waste Recycling Centre: he had visited this and there is a review and people can contact him about this. Members of the Town Council felt this should be open on Bank Holiday Mondays.
- (11) E-mail addresses: Councillor Hakewill asked for these so he can keep people in touch with what is happening.
- (12) Primary Schools: these two schools were to have a new sports hall at the top of Gladstone Street and increase their yearly intake. There were some caveats about Gladstone Street as an access, the compound behind the Gladstone Street houses and the turning space at the top of this road. These three items were deferred at the County Council but through the Town Council they have been speaking to the new owners of the former Football Club. The

latest thoughts are that some more land should be acquired between Montsaye and the Medical Centre, for a two-form entry primary school on that site to pick up the existing capacity and these places would be for the residents of the new houses there. The cost benefit analysis is that it would be better to have the new two-form primary school by Montsaye. Gladstone Street School will continue with 420 places. There was always a one-form primary school to be opened in Rothwell. Gladstone Street School is now leaving the gates open so people can park there. Councillor Hakewill thought the new school would be built once a certain proportion of the houses at Rothwell North are completed which might be in about 18 months. There is the potential for competition between the two schools but it is not thought this would happen very much and there would be two primary schools for Rothwell.

## 20 HIGHWAYS

### Well Lane/Ponder Street

An E-mail had been received from Ian Boyes, the Highways Community Liaison Officer as follows:-

"The first issue raised was that there have been several near misses with cars coming down Ponder Street, to turn right into Well Lane, appearing to cut the corner as there are no indication of priorities at this junction. The resident suggested having a one way system along Well Lane, Ponder Street but this would be very expensive to implement (even if funding were available) and would probably be unpopular with residents as it would be more tortuous to reach their properties and may well lead to an increase in speed along this road. I would therefore suggest the possible introduction of junction markings to help resolve the situation described. I would appreciate the Town Council's view on these proposals. The second issue raised was parking along Well Lane. Evidently the correspondent is disabled and she has to frequently walk in the road due to cars being parked on the footway on both side of the road and is also concerned about emergency vehicles getting through in case of an incident. She has suggested the introduction of parking restrictions on one side, which would solve the problem, but may be unpopular with residents. Again the views of the Town Council would be appreciated on this matter and also if you are aware this issue has been raised by residents before."

Mr Boyes had included a plan showing the junction marking at the end of Well Lane where it meets Ponder Street. It was **MOVED** by Councillor Mrs Talbot, **SECONDED** by Councillor Wilson and **RESOLVED** that the Town Council approved the junction markings. As to the parking it was not felt anything could be done to improve this situation, and although it was inconsiderate no Member had actually seen either the road or the pavement completely blocked.

### Gordon Street/Jubilee Street

The Town Mayor understood that these streets were to be re-surfaced because of the potholes.

### Trees, Desborough Road

Councillor Wilson said the trees in Desborough Road have now grown so much that the branches are down to head height. It was **AGREED** to ask Northamptonshire Highways if the crowns could be lifted on these trees.

### Footpath, Trinity Road to Harrington Road

Councillor Cross said that this footpath needs a barrier where it joins Harrington Road as a child ran straight into the road and was injured. It was **AGREED** to ask for a barrier here.



21 MATTERS OF BUSINESSReview of Procedures

The Town Council needs to consider the following items:-

- (1) To receive and approve the Internal Audit Report
- (2) To review and re-adopt the Financial Risk Assessment and Asset Register
- (3) To review and re-adopt the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations
- (4) To re-appoint the Clerk as the Responsible Financial Officer.

Members had all received copies of the respective documents. It was **MOVED** by Councillor Mrs Talbot, **SECONDED** by Councillor Wilson and **RESOLVED** that these items be approved.

22 FINANCIAL REPORTGeneral Statement

The Clerk submitted a written statement as attached. A quotation had just been received from Jim French Landscaping in the sum of £300 to dig over and plant up the Rothwell Library garden in the next few days, in time for the Women's Cycle Race on 19th June. It was **MOVED** by Councillor Jelley, **SECONDED** by Councillor Wilson and **RESOLVED** to accept this quote and to draw a cheque for this amount at this Meeting, and also 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	£597.80
H M Revenue & Customs	Tax (3 months)	£222.60
Rowell Fair Society	Horses and Pipe Band for Civic Service	£850.00
Inter County Cleaning Services	Cleaning Market House	£37.20
Ricoh UK Ltd	Copier/Printer Maintenance	£32.94
Cash	Petty Cash	£20.00
Jim French Landscaping	Landscaping the Library Garden	£300.00

23 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.