

ROTHWELL TOWN COUNCIL

A Meeting of Rothwell Town Council was held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday, 14th June 2016 in the Market House, Market Hill, Rothwell.

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Councillor C W Cross	<u>In the Chair</u>
	Councillor Mrs C M Brown	
	Councillor M E Cox	
	Councillor I F Jelley	
	Councillor Mrs M E Talbot	
	Councillor R Wilson	
	County Councillor J Hakewill	

173 PRAYERS

Before the business of the Council commenced, the Rev Canon John Westwood said Prayers and mentioned the celebrations for the Queen's birthday and the forthcoming Carnival on 9th July.

174 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from the Town Mayor and Councillors Davis, Goodwin, Mills, Newman and Spendlove. Whilst Councillor Goodwin had given his apologies the Clerk had also just received a letter from him that he wished to resign from the Town Council. As this was short notice, it was AGREED not to accept his resignation at this Meeting and Members would discuss this with him before the July Town Council Meeting.

175 MINUTES

As well as those for the May Town Council Meeting, the Clerk had circulated the Minutes of the Annual Town Council and the Annual Parish Meetings for approval although the latter two were usually only done at the next Annual Meetings. Councillor Mrs Brown referred to her retiring speech at the Annual Town Council Meeting and had said "it had been an honour to be the first female Town Mayor of Rothwell" and this will be corrected.

Subject to this amendment, it was MOVED by Councillor Jelley, SECONDED by Councillor Wilson and RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Annual and the ordinary Town Council Meetings held on 10th May 2016 and the Annual Parish Meeting held on 17th May be confirmed and signed.

176 COMMUNITY POLICING

General Report

PC Gareth Broxton and PCSO Paul Miller were present at the Meeting. PCSO Miller reported that there was criminal damage at a house, a theft from the Woodland Hospital, theft from an insecure motor vehicle, and the theft of a pedal cycle from a motor vehicle. He felt that Rowell Fair went well and was good-natured this year.

Councillor Jelley said he had spoken to Sgt Scott Little about a visit to the school, and reported that there will be a bat survey at the school at 3.00 am this Friday, 17th June so there will be approved activity there then.

Proposed Closure of Kettering Magistrates Court

The Police & Crime Commissioner said he was working with Her Majesty's Courts & Tribunals Service to understand the impact of less court time in Northamptonshire and to seek more efficient and effective ways of delivering justice in the County. Philip Hollobone MP had sent a copy of our E-mail on this matter to the Minister for Courts and asked for our concerns to be looked into and for advice as to how they might best be addressed.

177 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

(1) Overgrown verges: Sandra English of Meadow Road raised the question of the verges at the entrances to the town and elsewhere, with the grass being too high and with a lot of weeds there. There is a triangular piece of land in front of her house in Meadow Road and the Borough Council mow this but it needs to be done again. The roundabouts are also overgrown. It was reported there are also bushes over the pavement in places including at the top of Desborough Road: this section is the responsibility of the Cricket Club and Councillor Cross will pursue this. The Clerk reported that we had asked for the County Community Enhancement Gang to cut back the weeds and bushes in Glendon Road and repair the damage to the verge at the bottom of Rock Hill.

There are also vehicles on the pavements which blocks access for pedestrians and mobility scooters. PC Broxton said it is technically an offence to park on the pavement but it is impossible for the Police to enforce this all the time.

Councillor Hakewill said you can report overgrown verges to Street Doctor through the County website. As far as cutting verges, County resources are restrained so a lot of them are now only cut down as a matter of safety. If a resident has an overhanging tree the County can write to the resident and ask them to cut this back. As to parking on the pavement, if everyone parked in the street this would block the road but if they are on the pavement there should be sufficient space on the pavement for a double buggy or a mobility scooter. As to cutting the verge right back on country roads, this destroys the wild flowers there. The resident thought the grass on the verges was so high that this was a danger. PC Broxton said if someone is persistently parking on the pavement and blocking this the Police will speak to that person.

Councillor Mrs Brown thought there was a different team of grass cutters from the Borough because a lot of areas are much worse than last year. Columbus Crescent is really bad by the junction with Glendon Road.

(2) Aztec Football Club: Toby Howell, the Chairman of FC Aztec, was present at the Meeting and said he wants to raise the profile of this club which now has 300 children. There is the event this year starting at 11.30 am on 25th June and they already have about 800 people attending and he had some tickets for the Members of the Town Council. They also have links with the Corinthians. They took the under-12s to Holland this year. They would like to borrow some trestle tables for this event. He also asked about replacing the skateboard ramp and Councillor Mrs Brown said it was hoped this would be in place later this year.

178 REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

(1) Children's Services: this has been bad, but is now improving after a lot of hard work and Leicestershire has now joined with Northamptonshire. They have managed to balance the budget this year.

(2) Women's Cycle Tour: this was coming through Rothwell on Sunday, 19th June.

(3) There will be works on the A43 coming back into Rothwell and there will be some s.106 money to improve the roads.

(4) Land near junction 3 of the A14: Councillor Hakewill had brought some information on this land which has been purchased by the Borough Council for £110,000. He still felt it would be a good site for a re-located fire station and perhaps there could be space for the ambulances on this site by junction 3 as well. There was concern about unauthorised travellers in this area but we would not want this, but it could include an area for children and cyclists. If the current fire station site did become available there could perhaps be a public parking area there.

179 ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITY

Town Centre Partnership

Copies of the Report of the Meeting held on 31st May 2016 had been circulated prior to this Meeting. It was MOVED by Councillor Cox, SECONDED by Councillor Wilson and RESOLVED that the Report be approved.

Councillor Cox, as Chairman of the Partnership, said that they want to get more people into the town centre and Barry Hales is coming to sing outside the Market House between 11.00 am and 2.00 pm. They also have two large banners made to advertise this. If anyone else has ideas of what could be done they should let the Partnership know. Councillor Mrs Talbot suggested the Braybrooke Morris Men could come and will let Councillor Cox have the contact details for them. It was suggested there are also the Moulton Morris Men.

Public Toilets

Councillor Wilson said he was happy to open these every morning but cannot also close them or clean them. Councillor Mrs Talbot suggested we should discuss this with the Borough Council and she will speak to Mr Brendan Coleman and will ask the Clerk to send an E-mail if this seems appropriate. Rothwell now has the only public toilet in the Borough.

Seat behind the Community Centre

The second seat here has still not been replaced. It was thought we could ask the Borough Council about this again and initially Councillor Wilson will take this up. They could take one of the seats from Squires Hill to put there as these are not well used because of the bird droppings on them.

Land off Harrington Road

County Councillor Hakewill has already given a full report on this.

Women's Cycle Tour

This will be coming through Rothwell again this year on Sunday, 19th June. The Clerk said we have two boxes of bunting and other material. Councillor Jelley will take one box and deliver it to the Primary Schools. Toby Howell took the other box and would have this material available to give out on the day.

Rothwell Carnival

An E-mail had been received from Kate Ley that the Carnival will be held on 9th July and asking for volunteer marshals to assist. Councillors Wilson (and possibly Mrs Wilson), Jelley, Mrs Talbot, and the Town Mayor (if he is not having to judge a competition at that time) will be able to do this. Messrs Ley and Mackay had also said they would help. Councillor Cox said he would help if he was here that weekend, and he had nephews who might do this, but it was not known how old anyone had to be.

It was AGREED that the Clerk should contact Simon Ogle and see if any of the Rowell Lions would also be able to act as marshals, and Mr Ogle subsequently confirmed that he had at least four volunteers provided they could wear their own high visibility jackets with the Lions logo on and he would contact Kate Ley direct about this. It was also AGREED to ask Neil Matthew if he could let us have a copy of his schedule and he let the Clerk have this.

Notice Board and Bench

The notice board in front of the Market House had been broken and uprooted and on 30th May the Borough Street had picked this up and taken it into the Borough depot for safe keeping. In addition, the seat on the east side of Market Hill Square had not been moved to in front of the Chinese Takeaway. We had asked the Borough to do both these, and the Borough would charge £280 to do both these items of work. The Town Mayor had agreed this cost and the work has now been done.

Nosehill Footpath

Councillor Mrs Talbot had responded to an E-mail from a resident that this footpath is very overgrown and the lights are not working, by E-mailing the Borough Council. It was AGREED that the Town Council would also E-mail Rob Harbour about this because this work should have been done by Bovis Homes as part of their s.106 obligations.

Play Equipment

The Clerk had received an E-mail from Dave Lane of the Borough Council regarding replacing the equipment at Blythe Close Play Area with those suitable for disabled and able-bodied children that he would like the Town Council to get a Borough grant of £2,500 for this project, but he could not apply for this as it had to be the Town Council. The Clerk had therefore submitted the application on 9th June and sent the supporting documents which were required: we should hear some time in July whether we have been successful. Councillor Mrs Brown reported that the Tesco grant should buy about four pieces of equipment and this project will be ongoing so we can add more units. She suggested we could consider a mother and baby swing and perhaps apply to the Mick George Fund for this. There is some contingency money for the skateboard ramp and if any is left this could go towards the Blythe Close equipment. The Clerk said there is a sum in the budget for gym equipment at Blythe Close and if the Town Council wanted to, she felt it would be in order to use this for the children's units instead.

As to the new skateboard ramp, tenders went out at the end of May. The ramp will go slightly further down the hill to avoid the tree and also that area is flatter. There will need to be a ground survey carried out because the new ramp will be concrete. Dave Lane has asked if there could be a Meeting in the Market House from 6.00 to 9.00 pm on Thursday, 30th June and this was AGREED. Councillors Mrs Brown and Cox will also be able to attend.

It was AGREED to have standing Agenda items on the skateboard ramp and the Blythe Close Play Area.

A letter had been received from a 10-year old girl living in Wales Street asking the Town Council to consider updating the play equipment in one of the Rothwell parks. She and her friends agree that there is not much for children of their age to play on. It was AGREED to reply to her that there is to be a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) for ball games at the bottom of Well Lane Recreation Ground which will be provided by Bovis Homes as part of their s.106 requirements from the housing development at Charter Park.

In addition, the skateboard ramp at the top of this recreation ground is to be replaced, hopefully within a few months. Finally there is a plan to gradually replace all the play equipment at the Blythe Close Play Area in Columbus Crescent with units which will be suitable for disabled children as well as the able-bodied. It is felt that the units in Greening Road Park are currently adequate as these were replaced a few years ago. We will ask if this young resident and her friends have any ideas as to what sort of equipment they would like.

Dog Waste Bins

A resident of Jubilee Street had sent an E-mail asking for more dog waste bins in that road and Gordon Street as there is a lot of dog faeces on the pavements. There is also a lot of broken glass on the steps by the alley behind Gordon Street. It was AGREED to ask the Borough Dog Warden to inspect this area, and to reply to the resident that we have done this and that dog waste can be put in the ordinary litter bins provided it is bagged up adequately.

Cecil Street

The demolition here has not yet started but Councillor Jelley will chase this.

180 PLANNING

Notifications and Applications

Copies of the Report of the Planning Meeting held on 26th May 2016 had been circulated prior to this Meeting and it was AGREED that the Report be approved and adopted.

The following Refusal had been received:-

KET/2016/0044 Land South of Desborough – Residential development of up to 304 dwellings.

The following Approvals had been received:-

KET/2016/0087 The Old Brickyard, Orton Road – Infill building.

KET/2016/0101 11 High Street – Convert part of ground floor from retail to one apartment.

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

KET/2007/0461 Outline for Land at Rothwell North for 700 dwellings, employment land, a local centre, open space, an extension to Montsaye's playing fields and infrastructure.

(1) The Strategic Link Road from the A6 Rothwell bypass towards the B576 junction on Desborough Road must be constructed first so that all construction traffic uses the A6 bypass at all times, and the drivers are forbidden to use the B576.

(2) This Strategic Link Road must be a 7 metre wide road along its whole length, including the section continuing east from the B576 through Phase 2 of this development, as recommended by Northamptonshire Highways. This will then constitute the first part of the Rothwell Northern Bypass which can be completed as and when the proposed housing development at the Shotwell Mill Lane area is constructed to provide this essential relief road and reduce the congestion in Rothwell town centre.

(3) The junction of the Strategic Link Road and the B576 must be constructed in such a way as to ensure that the natural flow of traffic from Desborough is westwards along the Strategic Link Road to the A6 bypass and is thereby directed away from Rothwell via this junction.

To this end there should also be a sign at this junction indicating “Local Access Only” to deter drivers from continuing south on Desborough Road towards Rothwell town centre.

(4) Although the current proposal does not extend the development as far east as shown on the original plan, there must still be included with Phase 2 an access road and dedicated parking area for the drop-off/pick-up point for both the Junior and Primary Schools, with sufficient spaces for the staff at both schools to use during the day. The original plan dated 17th May 2007 did show an area marked “Potential restricted access gate to the Junior School” and this must include access of a sufficient width for vehicles up to the parking area and must still be provided even if it follows a slightly different route because of the reduction in the area of Phase 2.

(5) The construction of Phase 2 must be started immediately after Phase 1 is completed to provide at an early stage the essential highways infrastructure and there must be joint cycle ways and footpaths along the whole length of the Strategic Link Road, including through Phase 2, to provide suitable links to the existing primary schools and the town centre.

(6) The proposal for Stage 2 must include vehicular access to the Corinthians Football Club and this must be of a sufficient width to allow large delivery lorries to obtain access to these grounds. There must also be a parking area which is large enough to take all vehicles off Desborough Road on match days. Adequate access to the adjoining cricket field must also be maintained.

(7) Rothwell Town Council is pleased to see that the Indicative Masterplan still includes the area at the top of Barlow Close marked “Extra School Land” and there must be a condition in any Approval that this is reserved for the construction of the new Two Form Entry Primary School, as recently approved by Northamptonshire County Council, and this must be constructed as part of Phase 1 of this development. There must also be adequate road, cycleway and footpath access to this school.

(8) Rothwell Town Council is still disappointed that the area of Employment Land has been reduced to 2 hectares and we ask for this to be re-considered. This employment land use should not include any distribution warehouses but should be restricted to B1 and B2 use.

KET/2016/0309 24 Scott Avenue – Single storey rear extension.
No objection.

KET/2016/0327 54 Meadow Road – Single storey ancillary annexe to rear.
Rothwell Town Council objects to this proposal because it is in effect for a one-bedroom bungalow at the bottom of the garden, without adequate access including for emergency vehicles, and it would adversely affect the amenities currently enjoyed by all the neighbouring properties.

KET/2016/0367 Land at 48 Nunnery Avenue – Rothwell Town Council objects to this application because it would be over-development on this small plot, with inadequate parking for both the existing and the proposed new dwelling. It would also obstruct visibility at this busy junction close to Montsaye Academy which is a large secondary school.

Town Centre Boundary

The Borough Council had sent documents and a plan outlining the proposal to amend the town centre boundary to both the Town Council and the Partnership. The boundary will be based on the established shopping area and it is proposed to be updated to take into account land use changes and opportunities to accommodate growth in town centre uses.

The Partnership had raised two queries, firstly on whether there was any implication for business rates and secondly checking whether the inclusion of Market Hill Square had any implication for the use of that area and the following response had been received on these issues:-

- (1) There will be no direct implication (in terms of business rates) on properties within the extended town centre boundary. It would just mean that any proposals for new town centre uses are more likely to be considered acceptable in principle, if a planning application was received. If a resulting change of use occurred to a property, it would be at this point that business rates would need to be re-assessed accordingly.
- (2) The market place/parking area is positioned centrally within the town and provides parking for visitors to the town centre. It is also used to site Rothwell Market. By virtue of its location and function, it has been considered appropriate to be included within the town centre boundary.

The plan omitted the section of the High Street with the Chinese Takeaway and Ram's Supermarket and Sun Hill which has the public parking spaces which serve these businesses, and also the Manor House and it was AGREED to ask for these to be included.

Footpath, Harrington Road

We had asked for the footpath to be extended from Orton House to the Terry Smith Avenue junction as it is dangerous for residents to have to walk in the road there, especially for parents taking their children to and from school. This is now being dealt with by Pritesh Shah at the Borough Council, as Rebecca Collins is leaving shortly. She has looked at this issue with the Legal Team and it appears as if Morris Homes are in breach of some of their s.106 commitments and the covenant to provide this footpath is in favour of the County Council as they are the authority responsible for its future maintenance. The County has been chasing Morris Homes to do this work and there is contact between the County and Borough Councils. If the County have no luck with Morris Homes they will work together and see what legal action they can take.

Councillor Mrs Brown had received an E-mail from another resident about how dangerous it was to walk along Harrington Road in this area and try to cross the road to the other side, especially for people with young children or those who have disabilities. This resident also asked for a path via the car park at the end of Terry Smith Avenue to access Kettering Road. Councillor Mrs Brown had replied to this resident that it would be dangerous to try and cross at the bottom of Kettering Road.

181 HIGHWAYS

A14 Lay-by

A reply had been received from Highways England that the current situation is that a cost has been calculated for this work and, based on this, funding has been requested in the next bidding round for detailed design work to be carried out. If this is successful, they will be looking to begin the design work in the next few months. Whilst the design process should not be too difficult for this scheme, there are a few statutory processes they have to follow. This includes getting a Permanent Traffic Regulation Order, which is necessary to ban vehicles from using the lay-by except in an emergency. This is a complicated process requiring a period of consultation with all key stakeholders, including freight groups as well as Councils and the Police. As such it is difficult to give a firm commitment of the final delivery date.

Councillor Mrs Brown said there is a proposal for the western end of the A14 near junction 1, to include a lorry park which might help this situation and this should be done by the autumn.

Double Yellow Lines, Glendon Road

A reply had been received from Ian Boyes of Northamptonshire Highways that the cost of a “stand alone” Traffic Regulation Order would be £3,100 which neither he, or Jim Whiting who processes the orders, would be able to commit from their limited budgets. Most requests they have for the introduction of parking restrictions are safety related so they would not be able to consider individual requests as a “special case”. The timescale for the next batch of parking restrictions for the Kettering area will be to advertise the proposals agreed for this year’s review in the autumn, with the works orders for the lines being undertaken in the spring of next year. Even if this was funded as a “one off” order it would still have to go through the necessary legal and consultation process so would be unlikely to be in place until the autumn/winter at the earliest. He regretted not being able to be more positive.

Traffic, Bridge Street

Another E-mail had been received from the resident who complained previously about the traffic in Bridge Street that this is getting worse with people now parking on the kerb on double yellow lines outside the Taste of India and he felt someone is going to get hurt unless something is done about this with the Council and the Police, and he asked if the Police attend our Meetings.

It was AGREED to reply that the Town Council has taken advice from the Highways Department many times over the years, and the advice is that parked cars in this type of location do act as a traffic calming measure and keep the speed of traffic down so this does prevent accidents rather than causing them. The Police attend our Meetings when they can, and also receive a copy of our Minutes every month so are aware of the issues discussed when they are not present.

182 MATTERS OF BUSINESSMarlow House

An E-mail dated 11th May had been received from Eddy Short, the Chairman of the Vine Community Trust, that he regretted that only two of the Rothwell Councillors could attend the proposed visit to Marlow House, so he suggested this should be postponed to a more convenient evening for them. It was AGREED to respond that we do not seem to be able to come as a group, due to work and other commitments so perhaps he could let us know if individual Councillors could telephone to arrange to call in and then they could report back to the Town Council.

Northants CALC Training Sessions

The Training Manager had sent a E-mail that, due to demand, an additional “Off to a Flying Start” course has been added to the training calendar on Wednesday, 6th July 2016 from 6.30 to 9.00 pm in their office at Litchborough.

She also sent a list of the other courses available and said that places are filling up quite a number of these. The following are the other courses and the Clerk has more details:-

- Chairmanship Training
- Dealing with Planning Appeals
- An introduction to VAT
- Allotments
- Introduction to Employment Law for Clerks and Councillors.

183 FINANCIAL REPORTGeneral Statement

The Clerk submitted a written statement as attached. It was MOVED by Councillor Mrs Brown, 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>
Mrs C E Mackay	Clerk's Salary	£600.60
H M Revenue & Customs	Tax and Employer N I	£272.12
Rowell Fair Society	Reimbursement for Pipe Band	£500.00
Cllr K D Sumpter	Town Mayor's half-yearly allowance	£500.00
Arts & Heritage Centre	Room for Annual Parish Meeting	£10.00
Inter County Cleaning Services	Cleaning the Market House	£40.80
Jim French	Tidying the Library Garden	£55.00
Cash	Petty Cash	£40.00

The invoice had not yet been received from Jim French for the work on the Library garden, and when the Clerk received this it was for the total sum of £80 rather than the £55 which she had been told would be required and for which a cheque form had been made out. The Clerk therefore gave Mr French the cheque for £55 and made up the balance of £25 from petty cash.

Library Garden

As to the next treatment of the Library garden, rather than re-planting this now with annuals, it was AGREED it would be better to wait until the autumn and then have shrubs and spreading plants put in so this was low maintenance. The Clerk subsequently asked Mr French about this and he will let the Town Council have a plan (or perhaps two) of what could be done and in the meantime will just keep this garden tidy.

184 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.