

ROTHWELL TOWN COUNCIL

A Meeting of Rothwell Town Council was held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday, 10th March 2015 in the Market House, Market Hill, Rothwell.

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Councillor R Wilson Councillor Mrs C M Brown Councillor C W Cross Councillor Mrs K M Draper Councillor I F Jelley Councillor M E Jones Councillor N A Matthew Councillor A J Mills Councillor Mrs L A Russell Councillor K D Sumpter Councillor Mrs M E Talbot County Councillor J Hakewill	<u>Town Mayor</u>
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606 APOLOGIES

An apology had been received from Canon Westwood.

607 COMMUNITY POLICING

General Report (1)

No Police Officers were present at this time, but the crime figures had been received showing that there were 30 offences during March as follows:-

- Burglary other - 4
- Criminal damage - 7
- Drug offences - 1
- Sexual offences - 1
- Theft/handling - 3
- Violence offences - 14.

The figure is slightly higher than the previous month but there were no incidents of burglary dwelling. Councillor Mrs Draper referred to the 14 violence offences and wanted to know how far they are getting with stopping bullying of young people and if any charges have been made for this. She still intends to find out who deals with the anti-bullying campaign at Montsaye so she can ask them about this.

Councillor Mrs Brown reported there is a blue van going round Rothwell and the driver slows down to look at children: he has been seen in the Columbus Crescent area. The van is either a Citroen or a Fiat and has a white lamp attached to the back with tape. She does not have a registration number at present but people are looking out to try and get more information. It was AGREED to E-mail the Safer Community Team with this information.

608 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr Mark Britton had noted that there was an Agenda item of the A14 cycle path and this was an issue he had raised with the Town Council. When he attended the Site Meeting with Councillor Hakewill and the Highways Agency representative he seemed to have a positive response and confirmation that funds were available to rectify this sort of problem.

He has since seen the E-mail from Jonathan Price of the Highways Agency and their positive attitude is no longer there. The lorries that park there do not own the service road and the lay-by and these cannot accommodate vehicles of that size. The Highways Agency seem to think this is alright although they cause damage to the manhole covers and the grass on the verges. On occasions Mr Britton cannot get his bicycle through so he has to cycle against the flow of traffic. He understand there might be an interest from the café in the service station but the priority should be the safety of pedestrians and cyclists. He did not think the Town Council would tolerate similar parking in the town centre, say outside the Market House. He asked for these points to be taken on board to try and pressurise the Highways Agency to take a more positive attitude to preventing these lorries parking there. Councillor Hakewill said he would take up this issue as well.

Councillor Hakewill agreed that they had a reasonable attitude from Highways Agency but this was not sustained. If the service area wants lorries to stop there, then they should fund the re-alignment of the footpath so the lorries can park in a safe way. The carriageway from the service station towards the farm is part of the old A6 and it is too narrow for these lorries and he felt HGVs should be banned from parking there. There is a double yellow line there but the Police do not have the manpower to always enforce this. Councillor Hakewill has reported this to the MP. He felt we should shut the service area and persuade Esso to do something about this. Two possibilities are to re-align the footpath or to put bollards up to prevent vehicles parking there. Councillor Sumpter said the damaged manhole covers caused an accident and we do need a safe cycle route and footpath to Kettering.

It was AGREED the Town Council will write to the Highways Agency and Councillor Hakewill will give the Clerk the relevant contact.

PCSO Kirsty Ellerby was now present at the Meeting and said the Police have been trying to enforce this and some lorry drivers were spoken to the previous week. They sometimes park the Police vehicle in the forecourt which deters this and the drive-offs.

609 COMMUNITY POLICING

General Report (2)

As PCSO Kirsty Ellerby was now at the Meeting, the policing report was resumed. Councillor Mrs Draper referred to the 14 violence offences and asked if any of these referred to under 16 year old and involved bullying. PCSO Ellerby subsequently informed the Clerk that only one of these incidents was from the school. Councillor Mrs Brown repeated her concern over the blue van in Rothwell. The Meeting moved into a Private & Confidential session to deal with a specific issue.

610 REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

- (1) Lamport Road: Councillor Hakewill reported that the travellers who were in the field have gone. There is a suggestion that the travellers have moved to the top of the road where there are some stables and this would become a planning issue so Councillor Hakewill is meeting the County Traveller Unit and the landowner. There is a legal user of the field at the top of the road and they are looking at ways to deal with the public right of way/bridleway.
- (2) County Budget: this has been set at £409m, and they are trying to save £66m. Social Services is the most difficult area to deal with.
- (3) Street Lighting Upgrade: there was a query from the residents in Butlin Close but it was decided Balfour Beatty had got the location correct.

(4) Northern Relief Road: Councillor Hakewill had also received a copy of the letter from Tollers and it was confirmed that they are acting for the Wests. Councillor Hakewill again stressed that the Neighbourhood Plan is most important in getting this relief road sorted out.

(5) Junior School: the County Planners have been asked what is the current situation. Councillor Jelley has also followed this up and there is a letter from Home Group who he believes hope to start work around September. Councillor Mills has been in touch with Home Group because we did support their planning application. They have now written to the Town Council and the Borough Council is still sorting out the s.106 agreement but Home Group's letter shows their intention. Councillor Hakewill understood the County Planners are waiting for a revised application about the turning head at the top of Gladstone Street.

(6) Street Lighting Upgrade: There was a Site Meeting with representatives from the County Highways Department and Balfour Beatty: the Clerk will send Councillor Hakewill a copy of the Report and the subsequent E-mail. They did agree to have a removable 7.5 tonne sign near the Chinese Takeaway at the top of Market Hill Square to make this easier for Rowell Fair but the Town Mayor understood that they could not do this straight away as they need a Road Closure Order. Councillor Mills said this has been done for this year's Fair and he will let the Clerk have a copy as soon as possible.

611 MINUTES

There were the following amendments/comments on the February Minutes:-

(1) Page 489, Minute 599, section (7) should read "Automatic Number Plate Recognition".

(2) Page 493, Minute 603 relating to the School Crossing Patrol: the Resolution was moved by Councillor Mills and seconded by Councillor Jones.

(3) Page 493, Minute 604 relating to attendance at Meetings which Councillor Jones was not satisfied with because this has been mentioned at the last three Town Council Meetings that there has been poor attendance by some Members and the rules are that Councillors have to attend twice a year and must not miss more than six Meetings in a row and he was looking for a resignation. This is mentioned on page 35 of the Good Councillor's Guide and Councillor Jones had pointed this out to the Clerk that there is a duty to attend and if a Member cannot do this they must contact the Clerk with an apology and an explanation. Illness or work commitments are good reasons for not being able to attend but Councillor Jones had expected resignations.

Councillor Matthew said his work commitments had changed and now take him to Germany for at least two weeks every month but he has always sent his apologies and the reason for his non-attendance is well known. He considered resignation but hoped to be able to attend more Meetings than he had actually been able to. If the other Members of the Town Council had wished to call for his resignation they could have done this. He is probably not going to stand for re-election because of his work commitments and he would not like his time as a Member of the Town Council to end on such a note. Councillor Mrs Russell thought Councillor Jones had raised a valid point as Councillor Anderson has missed a lot of Meetings and perhaps her group should have taken action previously. It was felt that raising this issue with the forthcoming elections was not meaningful because there could not be a bye-election now. Councillor Jelley has spoken to Councillor Anderson and told him that he is no longer counted as a Member of the Town Council.

Councillor Jones had wanted to find out the facts but he did not have any support about this from the Clerk and he does understand that Councillor Matthew's work commitments often made it impossible for him to attend Meetings. Councillor Matthew did not think the activity of a Town Councillor is limited to twelve Meetings in a year as he has always been available and played a part on other days.

Subject to these amendments/comments it was MOVED by Councillor Mrs Talbot, SECONDED by Councillor Sumpter and RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th February 2015 be confirmed and signed.

612 ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITY

Town Centre Partnership

Copies of the Report of the Meeting held on 19th February 2015 had been circulated prior to this Meeting. It was MOVED by Councillor Mrs Draper, SECONDED by Councillor Cross and RESOLVED that the Report be approved and adopted.

Rothwell In Bloom

We have had a quote of £1,600 in from Tibbles & Company for work carried out to the raised garden in front of the Library. They did not quote for a membrane, probably because the ground is not deep enough to need this. Mr Tibbles did ask if a tap could be put there for watering, but this has been refused in the past, although it is hoped the Borough Council might water this garden when they do the hanging baskets, or alternatively the Library will let him have some water from their premises.

Councillor Mrs Brown said that Craig Casciani from Rothwell Bathroom and Tiles said he would provide some tiles for the school children to paint to put on the concrete trough and it was thought this would be a good idea and Councillor Jelley will speak to the Junior School about this. Councillor Mills asked if we can be certain he will come back and finish the work and carry out maintenance for the next six months if we pay him in full now; we do have an E-mail from him specifying what he will do. It was MOVED by Councillor Jelley, SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Russell and RESOLVED that we pay the full invoice.

We now have six more brackets for hanging baskets and Councillor Mrs Talbot will see who might want one: David Newman has already indicated he would like some for the Red Lion.

It was MOVED by Councillor Mills, SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Draper and RESOLVED that the Rothwell In Bloom Account will pay to have the brackets put up.

Kettering Public Spaces Protection Order

A copy of this Order was available at the Meeting. Councillor Jelley said this means the Borough Council will have authority to move people on and give them fines.

Flags for Rowell Fair

Councillor Sumpter had received an E-mail from Kettering Sewing Centre asking what size flags we need but Councillor Mills said he was going to a flag maker and he will put a triangular piece in so that they hang better. The Town Council will need to approve the quote before these are ordered.

Twinning Visit

Councillor Mrs Russell that there is to be a visit from Droué in May and they have asked to use the Market House to meet visitors. They will arrive late Friday afternoon and it would also be useful if a section of Market Hill Square could be coned off for their vehicles.

Recycling Bins

Councillor Mills said these bins on the access to the allotments have been used by commercial people to dump all sorts of things they were not designed for. The Borough had to remove 2½ tons of unsuitable items, including part of an old caravan. He felt we should now ask for the recycling bins to be removed from the town completely because all residents now each have their own recycling bin and any other site we put them in would have the same problem. There could then be a notice that this site is under surveillance and there could actually be cameras there. It was MOVED by Councillor Mrs Talbot, SECONDED by Councillor Cross and RESOLVED to ask the Borough Council to remove these recycling bins completely and put up a sign and, if possible, a camera there.

Councillor Mrs Brown said that lorries are also parking on the access to Brachers Allotments which blocks this for the plot holders. There is a Britannia lorry and one from Eddie Stobart. Councillor Mrs Russell thought the latter could be that driven by her son and she will ask him not to do this.

Public Toilets

Councillor Mills reported that the toilet rolls are being taken out of the public toilets virtually on a daily basis. He has received a quote from Direct 365 of £25.50 each for metal jumbo toilet roll dispensers and £14.50 each for maxi toilet rolls. The price for two of each was £80 plus delivery and VAT, but it had been suggested that we could get four of the toilet rolls to save have to order some more in the near future. It was MOVED by Councillor Mills, SECONDED by Councillor Sumpter and RESOLVED to order two dispensers and toilet rolls at an approximate cost of £139.50 depending on the delivery cost.

Greening Road Park

Councillor Mrs Talbot reported that some new trees have been planted in this Park but the Town Council had not been given notice of this work, which would have been nice.

Poppy Wreaths

It was felt the wreaths at the War Memorial need to be removed now. Councillor Sumpter said he would arrange for this to be done and for the wreaths to be re-cycled.

Rothwell Carnival

Councillor Matthew said that this will take place on Saturday, 11th July and he has been asked to be Chief Marshal again this year. He asked if Members of the Town Council and their friends and family would volunteer to be marshals to assist with this. The need a minimum of twelve, and eighteen would be even better. The following year the Carnival will be held on 9th July, but he will not be able to be involved in 2016 because that is the day of his daughter's wedding.

Dog Fouling

Councillor Jelley said there are now two or three Wardens working in the Columbus Crescent area and Greening Road Park, and they will put a lot more signs up about this.

Holy Trinity Church

An E-mail had been received from Canon Westwood asking if the Borough could look at the broken slabs in front of the Church. Councillor Mills said a work sheet had been raised for this.

The railings also need to be painted and it was wondered if the Community Payback scheme could deal with these, as they do already carry out work at the Crematorium. It was AGREED to E-mail Michael Chester to ask about this.

Rushton Road

Councillor Jones reported that the signs saying "Beware Horses" had already been put up in Rushton Road.

Former Health Centre

It had been reported to Street Doctor about the temporary fencing at the entrance to the former Health Centre in Bridge Street and this has been moved back so that a mobility scooter can get through safely even if a car is parked there.

Ball's Foundry

The Clerk had received an E-mail from a Mr Bailey who has bought a horse-drawn tipping cart with the name "W Ball & Sons Ltd Royal Prize Works Northamptonshire" which he intends to restore back to its former glory and he would like any information we have about this firm. This is mentioned in the Rothwell leaflet and it was AGREED to send him a copy of this.

Nelson Drive

A resident had telephoned the Clerk that one of the residents of this street has a lot of vehicles parked on the road and also on the path which leads to Slade Valley Avenue through the open space there. Some of these vehicles are scrap ones and at the last count there were nine, although the owner only has room for a maximum of four. This not only blocks access, but the resident felt there was a safety issue and these vehicles are very unsightly and make their properties almost unsaleable. One of the properties also has a large extension, and he was not certain if they had got Planning Permission for this. Councillor Jelley will pursue this matter at the Borough Council.

Medical Centre

The Clerk had just received a letter from Linda Wood, the Chair of Rothwell and Desborough Patient Participation Group with various comments on the statements made in the January 2015 Minutes. Councillor Jelley had been looking at this issue but NHS England had not come back to him yet but he hoped they would in the next few days. When he last tried to make an appointment he was told he could not do this for about two weeks. It was AGREED to acknowledge receipt of the letter and to confirm that the Members of the Town Council will respond after the April Meeting. Some Members felt that we really needed to speak to the Practice Manager.

613 PLANNING

Notices & Applications

The following Application was dealt with by the Planning Committee at the end of the Town Centre Partnership Meeting held on 19th February 2015 and the Town Council comments were submitted as stated:-

KET/2015.0061 Flat 4 Jesus Hospital, Hospital Hill - Refurbishment.
No objection.

The Meeting moved into one of the Planning Committee and it was reported that the following Approval had been received:-

KET/2014/0841 10 Sharman Way - Extension.

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

KET/2015/0080 38 Rushton Road - Extension, windows and roof lights.
No objection provided this does not block light to the windows of the adjoining property.

KET/2015/0101 1 Gibbons Drive - Side extension.
No objection.

Northern Relief Road

Copy of a letter from Tollers to David Cook, the Borough Chief Executive, Rob Harbour, the Borough Head of Development Services and David Farquhar, the County Director of Services had been received. This letter had also been copied in to Councillor Hakewill, Councillor Harker, Councillor Mills and Philip Hollobone MP. It was understood that Tollers act as Solicitors for West family who own the parcel of land which was originally included in the proposed development by Persimmon but which has now been withdrawn from the scheme. The letter set out in detail the need to include in the Planning Application for the development in this area a comprehensive and coherent strategy for the road structure necessary to meet the needs of Rothwell. In addition any Planning Permission or s.106 Agreement should contain suitable provisions preventing the retention of any ransom strip which could block future development, construction of a relief road, and installation of the usual services.

The Members of the Town Council agreed with the conclusions put forward in Tollers' letter and it was agreed to confirm this to them.

Former Football Club Development

A letter had been received from Jackie Beazley, the Project Manager at Home Group confirming that they will liaise with the Junior School to provide access to the school construction site across Home Group's new development, the purpose being to enable construction deliveries and site traffic to access the site of the school's proposed new sports hall facility without using Gladstone Street. The offer is subject to the following:-

- Completion of acquisition of the former Rothwell Town Football Club site by Home Group Limited (or its developer)
- Mutually acceptable construction programmes for the two projects to ensure the mutual delivery of the same
- Adherence to all Health & Safety requirements
- Completion of a Licence in a form mutually acceptable to all parties (acting reasonably) providing for and regulating access (the reasonable and proper costs thereof to be borne by the Rothwell Junior School project)
- All internal consents being obtained by Home Group Limited to the above proposals.

Home Group Limited (and its developer) will use all reasonable endeavours to facilitate this access pursuant to the said Licence, as long as providing such access does not significantly prejudice the delivery of the development at the former Rothwell Town Football Club site.

Neighbourhood Plan

We now have the replies in from the questionnaire, although it was felt we could still accept some late responses. Councillor Mrs Russell took the replies to look at and to work out the percentage of people who responded. Once she has done this we will send them to Julia Baish at the Borough Council and ask her to prepare the schedule of comments.

An E-mail and note had been received from Peter Edwards, who is a Planning Consultant currently working with a number of local councils on their Neighbourhood Plans. A basic Government grant of up to £8,000 is available to cover the costs of professional support if the Town Council wanted him to help, and he can assist with grant applications.

614 HIGHWAYSRushton Road

Copies of the Report of the Site Meeting held on 23rd February 2015 to consider how this road can be made safer for children going to and from school now there is no Crossing Patrol had been circulated prior to this Meeting. It was **MOVED** by Councillor Mills, **SECONDED** by Councillor Sumpter and **RESOLVED** that the Report be approved and adopted.

The problem is how long it would take to get the s.106 money to Northamptonshire Highways so that they could provide a zebra crossing between the Littlewood Street and Cecil Street junctions if the engineers confirm it is a suitable location. However Mr Richard Hall had said at the Site Meeting that he would ask for this finance at the beginning of the development.

Community Enhancement Gangs

We had received an E-mail from Northamptonshire Highways that they are funding these gangs again this year, and sending a form specifying the work they can carry out. It was **AGREED** to ask for the siding out of footways and the clearance of weeds from the town centre.

Street Lighting Upgrade

Copies of the Report of the Site Meeting held on 9th March 2015 were available at this Meeting, together with the subsequent E-mail received from Stephen Matthews of Northamptonshire Highways. It was **AGREED** that the Report be approved and adopted.

615 MATTERS OF BUSINESSTraining Course

Copies of the E-mail from NCALC had been circulated prior to this Meeting, and this gave details of the training course on the new regulations on openness and accountability to be held on Tuesday, 28th April 2015. The Clerk felt it was essential to go to this training session, but she did not have any transport to get to Litchborough Village Hall. Councillor Mrs Talbot said she would take the Clerk. It was **AGREED** that the Town Council would pay the fees at £34 per person and Councillor Mrs Talbot would be reimbursed from petty cash for the travelling expenses at the same rate that the Borough Council pays.

616 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk submitted a financial statement as attached. It was **MOVED** by the Town Mayor, **SECONDED** by Councillor Jelley 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>
H F Design (Pd. 20.2.15)	Questionnaire Design	£1016.40
Mrs C E Mackay	Clerk's Salary	£583.40
H M Revenue & Customs	Tax (3 months)	£208.40
Inter County Cleaning Services	Cleaning the Market House	£38.40
Mrs C E Mackay	Reimbursement of Norton Renewal fee	£64.99
Kaygee Data & Electrical	Electrical/PAT Testing	£112.80
Rural Trader (UK) Ltd	Questionnaire Delivery	£101.97
Rothwell Preservation Trust	Part Market House Insurance Premium	£1000.00
Tibbles & Company	Work to Library Garden (R. In Bloom)	£1600.00

The Meeting closed at 9.13 pm.

Town Mayor

Date