

ROTHWELL TOWN COUNCIL

A Meeting of Rothwell Town Council was held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday, 8th March 2016 in the Market House, Market Hill, Rothwell.

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Councillor Mrs C M Brown Councillor M E Cox Councillor C W Cross Councillor R V Davis Councillor T M Goodwin Councillor I F Jelley Councillor A J Mills Councillor K D Sumpter Councillor R Wilson	<u>Town Mayor</u>
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135 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Councillors Newman, Spendlove and Mrs Talbot, and from County Councillor Hakewill and the Revd Canon John Westwood.

136 COMMUNITY POLICING

Crime Figures

There were 47 reported crimes during February, as opposed to 28 in January, as follows:-

- Burglary dwelling – 5
- Burglary other – 4
- Criminal damage – 8
- Other offences – 1
- Robbery – 1
- Theft from motor vehicles – 3
- Theft/handling – 12
- Theft of motor vehicles – 2
- Violence offences – 11.

Councillor Jelley had a notice from Market Harborough which can be put on cars which are parked badly. Councillor Sumpter also had some of these notices and plastic covers which he could supply for people to use here.

PCSO Paul Miller was able to attend later in the Meeting and said they have arrested a persistent offender for the house and shed burglaries. As to the rise in criminal damage offences, some of these were as part of domestic incidents. The robbery was that at Tesco Express and CID have arrested numerous people for this and there has been a large decline in robberies. The offences of theft/handling were usually on the A14. Some of the violence offences have been around the schools. PCSO Miller said that since the Tesco robbery the shops have changed the way they handle cash.

It was reported that a white van was parked at the junction of Tresham Street and Castle Hill for a long while and is now back there again, and this obstructs visibility in this area; PCSO Miller said he would go and look at this.

The Clerk reported that some of the elderly residents of Madams Gardens were nervous because young men were often congregating late in the evening in Madams Hill by their flats, usually on a Friday or Saturday. The Clerk had already mentioned this to PCSO Margaret Lawson and she explained it would be difficult for the Police to visit this area late but they would try and do this occasionally.

The residents would really like to have a light in the area which comes on when there is movement. Councillor Sumpter said you can now get these lights quite cheaply and they will also take a picture of who is there. Councillor Mills said a light could be put on the wall of the Oddfellows Hall which should cover the required area. It was AGREED to have this light.

Disabled Parking Spaces

Our local Police do try and monitor these to ensure the spaces are not taken up by people not in the blue badge scheme, but cannot do this as often as they would like. The Clerk had therefore written to the Borough Council to ask if their Generic Wardens could visit this area, but as this is adopted highway they are not able to offer any extra warden support. It was confirmed that the Police are responsible for issuing parking tickets.

137 ROTHWELL LIBRARY

Jan Snow, one of the Managers at the Library, was present at the Meeting as she wanted to introduce herself to the Members of the Town Council. The other Manager is Andrea and she is also very experienced. They are working hard to get more people into the Library as this is a lovely building and she felt it is at the heart of the community. They are working as part of the Children's Centre scheme, providing the universal services which everyone can come to. The following are some of the activities at the Library:-

- Rhyme time and other sessions, including for the children under one year old and these will run every week for 50 weeks of the year. They have a lot of resources and toys, and parents bring their children just to meet up as well.
- For older children, Andrea is running craft sessions and there will be a lot of these during the summer. She also visits the Infant School and they have a homework club for those aged 8-11, and some older children use this as well.
- For adults they have the Scrabble Club which meets twice a week, but they need to get some new scrabble sets as the ones they have are rather old and they would prefer those you can turn round. Councillor Cox offered to provide these.
- They are still running the computer lessons, for which they have a waiting list.
- Kettering Borough Council still visits the Library for three and a half days a week and the Credit Union and Citizens' Advice Bureau also visit and the Police drop in but do not have surgeries at the present time.
- They need more volunteers to assist with the various activities but they now have the Friends Group, which has a Chair, Secretary and Treasurer and operates independently to support them and raise funds because the Library now has to raise 30% of the operating costs. The Friends can provide better publicity and help with other projects, such as the recent fossil exhibition which was very successful. The Friends have a logo prepared by some of the children and they can also apply for grants.
- Andrea is keen to get the young people off the streets and at Corby they managed to get a grant for the older children. Clare also works at the Library and she is local to the area.
- They will continue to E-mail the Clerk with the publicity for their events.

- Andrea does the primary school visits, but the main contact is through the summer events with these children so they go into the assemblies to explain these activities.
- The Sunday opening hours are now changing to 11.00 am to 2.00 pm.

138 MINUTES

Councillor Jelley raised two issues as follows:-

- (1) he felt we should ask NHS England to let us know what other measures are being put in place. The Town Mayor has not yet been able to talk to the Patient Participation Group.
- (2) he confirmed that there is no primary school on the plans for Rothwell North and West, so the mention of this will be taken out of the Town Plan.

Subject to these comments, it was **MOVED** by Councillor Jelley, **SECONDED** by Councillor Sumpter and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th February 2016 be confirmed and signed.

139 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

(1) Parking, Leys Avenue: Mr Green said this is now terrible because the double yellow lines did not work and unless these are enforced they are a waste of time. One day he was not able to park in Market Hill Square to go to Tesco and this is always bad. He was told that people are using Leys Avenue for car sharing. He felt people from Desborough use this because it is a free car park. It was explained that this is owned by the County Council, although the Lord of the Manor has certain rights over Market Hill Square.

Councillor Mills explained that the only way round is to turn this into a pay and display car park but no-one wants this. Mr Green felt that there could be one parking meter which gives a few hours free parking. If there were a lot of fines it would not cost anything. There is a company which would provide at least three cameras which have automatic number recognition and they would monitor people. Members of the Town Council felt this would adversely affect the prosperity of the businesses in the town centre.

Mr Green did not think the Park & Stride system was going to work and Councillor Jelley said they were still exploring this option and if there is a problem people could take the number of the vehicle. Mr Green said the fire engine could not get up Leys Avenue when it needed to and Councillor Jelley will take this up with the Headteacher. The Town Council has considered putting herringbone parking in the High Street which could help. It was felt most towns have the same problem. The Town Council is pushing for improvements with the Rothwell North and West development.

(2) Parking, Castle Hill and Bridge Street: Mrs Lawson said cars are parked on both sides of the road at this junction, so people cannot get down the road and Members of the Town Council agreed. It was explained that we have asked the County Highways Department to put no entry signs at the School Lane junction. Councillor Mills said we could also employ our own PCSO but this person could be sent to work in other areas, as happened in Desborough.

(3) Seat, Top of Market Hill: the Clerk had asked for a seat here where the X43 bus stops but had not yet had a response from the Borough Council as to whether they were able to do this. Councillor Wilson said there is a moveable seat on the east side of Market Hill Square which will be moved for Rowell Fair, and this could be put in the new location once the Fair has finished. This was **AGREED**.

(4) Land off Slade Valley Avenue: the Clerk had spoken to Persimmon and they confirmed they have removed a lot of the shrubbery and cleaned up the site, but there are mature trees on the eastern side of this land which they are retaining. They will keep the Town Council informed of any other work or proposals on this land.

140 REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

County Councillor Hakewill was unable to attend this Meeting, but had let the Clerk had information on the following issues:-

(a) A14 Lay-by: he had now been able to find the new contact for Highways England and had received an E-mail from him as follows:-

“Highways England are making significant progress with regards to the closure of the Rothwell lay-by. Key stakeholders including the RHA and FTA have been consulted about the proposal and despite their concerns regarding overall lay-by capacity on the A14, understand the reasoning behind the closure. Surveys have been carried out, both here and in the service area, to identify how many drivers are stopping here, how often and for how long each time. A Permanent Traffic Regulation Order is currently being prepared for this site. A cost for making this change to an ‘emergency use only’ lay-by has been calculated; however this budget has not yet been allocated and as you will appreciate, budgets are limited in any given financial year, so it will take time to implement this scheme.

I would reiterate Matt’s previous comments regarding funding of the service area scheme. There are several other issues on the network all competing for funding; decisions on which schemes get funded and at which point are still to be taken. As soon as we know any more we will let you know.”

It was AGREED to contact Highways England and say that the Town Council wants this lay-by closed completely and not left for emergency use only. Councillor Wilson said there are cones on the other side of the A14 opposite McDonalds which have been there for at least six months, making this section one lane only. He suggested there should be cones in front of this lay-by until it is permanently closed and this was AGREED.

(b) X43 bus service: Councillor Hakewill had also found out about the changes to this route and there are only parts of the Market Harborough route which have been removed. The times have changed slightly and Councillor Hakewill had sent a copy of the new timetable.

141 ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITY

Town Centre Partnership

Copies of the Report of the Meeting of the Town Centre Partnership held on 17th February 2016 had been circulated prior to this Meeting. It was MOVED by Councillor Cox, SECONDED by Councillor Davis and RESOLVED that the Report be approved and adopted.

Blythe Close Play Area

Copies of the Report of the Meeting held on 22nd February 2016 with Dave Lane of the Borough Council had been circulated prior to this Meeting. It was MOVED by Councillor Cox, SECONDED by Councillor Davis and RESOLVED that the Report be approved and adopted.

The Town Mayor said this was a good Meeting with Mr Lane and if we succeed in having all the equipment at the Blythe Close play area suitable for disabled children as well as the able-bodied this will be the first in the County. Mr Lane has applied for a grant from Tesco, and our scheme has been short-listed. The Clerk has written to all the parents of disabled children who contacted the Town Council asking for such equipment and explained how they could vote for the scheme. Mr Lane suggested setting up a committee to raise further funds. Councillor Cox has been looking into setting this up as a charity to claim the VAT back. The Clerk said the Town Council can itself re-claim VAT but it was thought the firms could just not charge VAT to a charity.

Annual Litter Pick

It was AGREED this will take place on Saturday, 16th April 2106 but this was changed at the Town Mayor's request to 23rd April, meeting at 1.45 pm at the Market House. The Clerk will let Adrian Coles of the Scouts know about this. Councillor Wilson will contact the Borough about equipment such as litter pickers and dog mess bags.

Shotwell Mill Lane

An E-mail had been received from Savills that they act for Taylor Wimpey, which now owns land either side of Shotwell Mill Lane, formerly the property of the Handy family. Taylor Wimpey has just let the pasture land to James McCann who has placed his horses there. Work is to start shortly to bring into productive use the area just to the north of the active allotments, which was formerly also used as allotment gardens but which is now derelict, so that it can be used securely for grazing livestock. Currently that area has been used extensively by dog walkers but this will no longer be possible and access will be limited to the official length of public footpath running along the south side of the field and then turning southwards down the side of the allotments, and to any other statutory footpaths. Copies of the E-mail and the relevant section of the Definitive Map had been circulated prior to this Meeting.

Manor Park Bowling Green

Copy of a letter had been received from the Borough Council to the President of the Manor Park Bowling Club that unfortunately, due to budgetary restraints, the Borough will not be able to carry out the requested works to the banks at this point in time, but this will be kept under review and will be addressed as and when the budget becomes available. The Borough Council does not have responsibility for the public liability, so the Bowls Club will need to look into providing their own insurance as set out in the lease.

Greening Road Park

It was reported that cars are now being driven over this area from Tennyson Road nearly every weekend. It was AGREED to write to Mr Coleman at the Borough Council and ask if bollards or other barriers could be put in place.

Lights in Well Lane Recreation Ground

Councillor Sumpter has raised the fact that the most of the lights on the path at the back of the Community Centre to Columbus Crescent are out and has received an assurance that the Borough will repair these. It was AGREED that the Clerk should send an E-mail asking for this to be done.

Brachers Allotments

Councillor Sumpter said that these allotments are full and the Allotment Association has had to split the plots to allow more people to have one. They have been told they could use the land to the rear once the Borough has cleared this and they hope to be able to use this permanently.

Marlow House

The Chairman of Trustees had written inviting Rothwell Town Council members to visit Marlow House as this will give them an opportunity to explain the services they offer to local elderly and vulnerable people and to view the in-house facilities. They suggested some dates and it was AGREED to ask if Councillors could visit at 7.00 pm on Thursday, 12th May.

Rothwell In Bloom

It was AGREED that this scheme will take place again this year, and the Town Council will keep the cost of each hanging basket to £37.50.

Library Garden

It was thought it would be nice to have this tidy for Rowell Fair and especially to have the weeds cleared. Councillor Mills will ask Mr Jim French to use his discretion to do what work he feels is necessary.

Queen's 90th Birthday

The Town Mayor said the Council has received two of the coins especially minted for the Queen's birthday. It was AGREED that the Town Council will retain one in our display box and the other was given to Councillor Davis to be put in the Arts & Heritage Centre.

142 PLANNING

Various notifications and applications were considered at a special Town Council Meetings held on 22nd February and at this Meeting, as follows:-

Approvals

KET/2015/0973	29 Littlewood Street – Rear extension.
KET/2015/1007	36 Daisy Bank Avenue – Rear extension.
KET/2015/1008	18 Playford Close – Side extension.
KET/2016/0015	8 Trinity Road – Side extension.

Refusal

KET/2015/0978	Willowbrook Stud Farm, Rushton Road, Desborough – 147 dwellings.
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Applications

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

KET/2016/0044	<p>Land to the south of Desborough – Outline for residential development of up to 304 dwellings with associated access, infrastructure, public open space, nature areas and surface water management measures.</p> <p>Rothwell Town Council strongly objects to this proposed development for the following reasons:-</p> <p>(1) The increase in the number of vehicles onto Rothwell Road, Desborough and therefore through Rothwell itself would be very detrimental to the traffic conditions on the old A6 (now the B576) particularly in view of the additional traffic likely to be generated from the proposed Rothwell North and West development, so it would be essential to have the Rothwell Northern Bypass in place before any permission in this area was considered.</p> <p>(2) Any development here would encroach upon the green corridor between Rothwell and Desborough to the detriment of the individual identities of both towns and to the flora and fauna on this land which is a unique open space.</p>
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(3) The additional water run-off from the hard surfaces of any development here into the Ise Brook could have a serious impact by way of flooding further downstream.

(4) There would be an adverse effect on the educational and health services in both Rothwell and Desborough.

- KET/2016/0068 18 Sharman Way – Conversion of garage to habitable accommodation and additional access door.
No objection.
- KET/2016/0098 Middle Lodge, Violet Lane – Demolition of barn and rear extension.
No objection.
- KET/2016/0101 11 High Street – Convert ground floor from retail to two apartments and re-open bricked up window.
Rothwell Town Council objects to this application as it would be over-development of the property, and there is no off-road parking available so this would be very dangerous on this bend near the two zebra crossings in the High Street, especially in view of the recent Planning Approval for two dwellings to the rear of this building.
- KET/2016/0147 15 Burditt Close – Replacement of conservatory with extension.
No objection.

Town Plan

Councillor Jelley reported that they had recently had a Meeting with the County Council and it was confirmed that there is no primary school planned for Rothwell North and West, only for Desborough. There are the 16 hectares for educational use but the County Council would have to buy this. There is the possibility of an extra 2,500 extra houses in Rothwell and Desborough including those already built at The Grange and Charter Park. There are some small s.106 commitments but the Junior and Infant Schools will soon be full and there are already 900 pupils in the County looking for places. There will be a request for primary education in Rothwell and secondary education in this area as well. The new schools have been built before the houses in Kettering and it is possible the County will have to build 21 new schools by 2021 if all the developments go ahead. There will be another Meeting to put a plan together in connection with the educational requirements.

It was AGREED to amend the statement relating to a new primary school and to now hold a Meeting with Julia Baish of the Borough Planning Department and this was arranged for 7.30 pm on Monday, 14th March in the Market House.

Rothwell North and West

This was discussed again, and it was felt that we will only be able to get the start of the Rothwell Northern Bypass when the construction of this housing development is started.

Assisted Living Unit

The Clerk had spoken to the Business Development Manager of T Balfe Construction Limited, the company which is constructing the assisted living accommodation on the site of the former Health Centre in Bridge Street and was informed that T Balfe purchased this site originally for Living With Autism Limited, a specific provider just for people with autism. All the residents will come from the Northamptonshire area. There will now be 14 apartments as a supported living scheme (as opposed to the registered care home for 13 on the original approved plan) with staff accommodation so there will be someone on duty at all times. They anticipate there will be

2 or 3 people working there during the day. The residents will have either a mental illness or autism. This will definitely not be a high security unit as none of the residents will have needs which require this sort of accommodation, and neither will they be people with a criminal record, as suggested by the latest rumour. They will have only a modicum of mental health problems so only low security is required.

The national company Lifeways will be providing the life care and they have done other schemes so are experienced in running this type of assisted living unit and currently have units in Oadby, Leicester and Peterborough. The County Council will also have a say in who lives there especially as it is intended they will all come from Northamptonshire. They will be mostly young adults with an age range between 18 and 65 years and some of them might have a job in the area. The care company will put a Care Officer in and there will be occupational therapy consultations. The accommodation will be gated and none of the residents will have cars so there will be plenty of room for the staff vehicles. It is hoped that the unit will be completed by October 2016.

143 HIGHWAYS

Kettering Junction Improvements

Details had been received of the road works at the Northampton Road, Sheep Street, Bowling Green Road, Station Road and Headlands junction in Kettering which will cause delays for traffic in this area and temporary bus route changes.

Old Street Lamps

The Arts & Heritage Centre would like to have one of the old street lamps which are now being replaced in the town centre. The Clerk will write to Balfour Beatty about this.

Gordon Street and Jubilee Street

The Clerk had written to Northamptonshire Highways about making these streets one way and having some no waiting markings to prevent obstruction, and a reply had been received from the Assistant Community Liaison Officer for Northamptonshire Highways as follows:-

- 1) *As well as a Traffic Regulation Order a one way scheme would require a considerable amount of signing, much of it illuminated, and a comprehensive public consultation exercise to be undertaken so they are not cheap to implement. One way systems usually lead to an increase in the speed of traffic as there is no opposing traffic flow to slow oncoming vehicles which can create a whole new set of issues.*

We would probably be looking at around £10,000 to implement the scheme of which about £3,500 would be for the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO). Only a similar type of TRO can be "batched up" with other orders (i.e. several parking orders for a district can be combined into one order but we can't combine a parking and a one way into a single order) so we would need a specific separate order for a one way street as there are no other proposals for one way streets in the KBC area. The remainder of the costs would then be for the signing which would involve at least 2 illuminated signs at both the Jubilee Street and Gordon Street entries plus additional "one way" reminder signs on the actual streets themselves. As ever the issue would be funding. Even if this could be found, and the proposal was supported by the local County Cllr, District Council and the Police, we would then ask the town council to undertake a full consultation with all the residents in the two streets before we would consider taking this forward.

- 2) *The advice about parking 10metres from a junction is stated in the Highway Code as “Do not stop or park opposite within 10 metres (32 feet) of a junction, except in an authorised parking space”. Actually this is advisory rather than being an actual legal requirement and is not backed up by law. In the Highway Code there is a subtle difference in wording between “Do not” and “Must not” in the rules, and the latter (Must not) denotes this section is covered by specific legislation and is therefore enforceable. Although if a Police officer considered a vehicle parked near a junction was obstructing the flow of traffic then he / she has powers under “obstruction of the highway” to take action. However back to your original query, I think it would be a good idea if a 10m length of double yellow lines was introduced at the Jubilee Street junction, especially with the proximity of the shop on the corner. I will put this forward for the inclusion in the next batch of parking restrictions in the Kettering area.*
- 3) *I will arrange for the white “H” bar markings to be laid across the accesses of the two parking areas at the top of Jubilee Road to delineate the area to be kept clear of parked vehicles when my budget becomes available in the new financial year.”*

Street Lighting

An E-mail had been received from Jim McNally, the Borough Lighting Officer, that he was retiring as from Friday, 4th March, and thanking the Town Council for its co-operation over the years. His colleague, Michael Chester, will be looking after parish lighting in future.

Back Lane and Pipewell Road, Desborough

Notification had been received that there will be a road closure on these streets on Wednesday, 6th July 2016.

144 MATTERS OF BUSINESS

Changes to Rothwell Post Office

Details had been received of the extension of hours and changes of the arrangements of the counters. It was AGREED to take no action here.

145 FINANCIAL REPORT

General Statement

The Clerk submitted a written statement as attached. It was MOVED by Councillor Jelley, SECONDED by Councillor Sumpter 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	597.60
H M Revenue & Customs	Tax (3 months)	222.80
Zurich Municipal	Insurance Premium	1068.26
Inter County Cleaning Services	Cleaning the Market House	40.80
Mrs C E Mackay	Reimbursement for Norton Renewal	59.99
Rothwell Preservation Trust	Part Insurance and heating	1832.58
Cash	Petty Cash	20.00

BT Telephone Account

Councillor Cox has looked into the various telephone suppliers and one of the best options is to have a cable supply in the Market House with either Talk Talk or Plus Net as suppliers. This would cost about £31 per month, including VAT which would save approximately £100 a quarter in the costs. There is a £50 connection fee and he will look at this further. It was AGREED that Councillor Cox should organise the best deal for the Town Council.

146 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.