

## ROTHWELL TOWN COUNCIL

A Meeting of Rothwell Town Council was held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday, 14th March 2017 in the Market House, Market Hill, Rothwell.

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Councillor K D Sumpter 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 T Morrissey Councillor D Newman Councillor Mrs M E Talbot Councillor R Wilson	<u>Town Mayor</u>
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### 300 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Councillor Spendlove and the Revd Canon John Westwood.

### 301 COMMUNITY POLICING

#### General Report

PCSOs Kirsty Ellerby and Jason Parish were present at the Meeting and the list of crimes had been submitted prior to this Meeting and this showed that there were a lot of vehicle crimes. The Town Mayor had received a letter from a resident of Terry Smith Avenue who was concerned about the speed of vehicles in Harrington Road, as some travel up to 60 mph and one of the bollards was hit: this letter was passed to the Police representatives. Councillor Jelley has also received complaints about the speed of vehicles in Greening Road: outside Montsaye Academy there is a 20 mph speed limit but this is not enforceable. One of the speed tables has been taken out of Greening Road and the Town Council will see if this can be put back. The Police will look at these areas. The Town Mayor had been informed that people are still trying door handles and the Police representatives confirmed people are still targeting vans. Councillor Mrs Brown said there was a lad on a Kawasaki trial bike without a number plate in the town centre on Saturday morning.

### 302 REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

This Agenda item was brought forward as Councillor Hakewill had to attend another Meeting this evening. He raised the following issues:-

(1) Rothwell North: there has been a meeting in the town and Councillor Hakewill understood that the Town Council is to set up a Working Party to look at this. He is trying to see if the gap in funding for the relief road could be filled in by the Borough/County Councils and then when a proportion of the houses have been built, the money could be repaid by Persimmon. To begin with the relief road would only be for the construction traffic. He wants this road to be to the north of the development rather than between the houses. There would then be the opportunity to extend this to the Rushton Road area if there is development further east. They have Outline Planning Permission so there is not much we can do. There is the New Homes Bonus and he wants to find out if this money could be used for the cost of the strategic link road to the north.

There is Montsaye Academy in this area and the extra traffic to that school must be considered so it would help if we could get the houses build on the eastern side first. There would be concerns if they stopped building before they had done half the houses because there would still be the fumes and pollution from the road. The s.106 requirements should be open and transparent for the residents and the County Council could advise the Borough because they would prefer the road not to go through the estate. There should be discussions between the three Councils and Persimmon and Councillor Hakewill will ask the County about this.

The Persimmon website says they aim to look after their customers, including after they have moved in, and also take account of health and safety for everyone so Councillor Hakewill is to write to the Managing Director of Persimmon, with copies for the MP, and the Borough and County Councils.

Councillor Wilson said they have to put the road in before the houses because the sewers go through the middle of the road.

(2) A6 Bypass: Councillor Hakewill explained that the main problem now is the bridge over the Midland Mainline railway. The County Council has the money in reserve and is trying to get the railway line closed on occasions so the work can be carried out. They are to see if there is a possibility of opening the A6 bypass in one direction but of course the safety of the railway line is paramount.

### 303 MINUTES

It was MOVED by Councillor Wilson, SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Talbot and RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th February 2017 be confirmed and signed.

### 304 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

(1) Rothwell North: Mrs Russell said that since the meeting in the Tresham Hall there have been items posted on Facebook and other social media. People were not happy that the planning application was considered within a week because there should have been two weeks' notice of that Meeting. The main comments that were made are:

- If the relief road does not go in, there will be a lot more traffic through the town.
- There is now a Working Group and a petition on this matter.
- The s.106 arrangements are complex and they wanted Rothwell to be part of the consultation.
- They wanted Rothwell North to be on the Agenda for every Town Council Meeting.

Councillor Newman said there were also people on social media who have not objected to the houses at Rothwell North. Councillor Spendlove was not able to attend this Meeting, but had written that it is now at least ten years since the Rothwell North scheme was first announced and since then the Borough Council has held two public consultations in the Methodist Church and on neither occasion were any fundamental objections voiced by either the Town Council or residents. The main points raised by successive Town Councils were that there should be the following:-

1. A relief road connecting the old A6 with the new bypass
2. A substantial area of employment land allocated
3. Easy links to the main part of the town.

There were originally to be 11 hectares of employment land but this has been greatly reduced and the relief road appears to be little more than a residential street. The Borough Council has largely ignored the Town Council's request for various s.106 requirements but have to come to a deal with the developer, possibly to deal with the five-year housing land supply quota.

Now that there is Outline Planning Permission, Councillor Spendlove felt about the only way to amend the conditions would be to appeal this, with significant costs for professional services, possibly running into thousands of pounds with little hope of a successful outcome. The Town Mayor pointed out that since this application was first submitted, there have been other housing estates built in the town.

(2) Former Health Centre site: Mrs Lawson asked what this building was going to be used for and it was confirmed that the original proposal was for people with autism but now it is for people with minor disabilities – mostly for young adults to begin with but if necessary they will accept residents up to the age of 60.

## 305 ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITY

### Blythe Close Play Area

The Clerk reported that we had not yet received final confirmation and approval of the grant of £8,000 so she had not yet formally ordered the equipment but she had kept the firm informed of the reason for the delay and they accepted this. Dave Lane thought the Borough had the £2,000 needed for the full cost of this play equipment.

Councillor Mrs Brown said that the new climbing frame was up and being used. She had discussed the outdoor gym equipment with Dave Lane and there is still some finance at the Borough Council to purchase and install this. There will be three pieces of equipment just inside the area set aside for young children. The Blythe Close area will have a Public Space Protection Order put on immediately.

### Public Toilets Maintenance

This had been discussed at the February Meeting when it was not thought necessary because arrangements have now been made to open and close the public toilets. Councillor Wilson said there is still an electricity wire hanging down in the gents toilet and the Clerk explained that she had mentioned this to Michael Chester at the Borough Council and he had collected all the keys which the Clerk had for the public toilets and would deal with the wire and also check which keys were for which locks and let her have them back in due course when he had had the opportunity to check and label them.

The Clerk explained that the contract for maintenance of the toilets did not include opening and closing them, but would provide two scheduled full servicing visits per annum to maintain the appliances in working order for the duration of the contract. During the course of these visits all aspects of each appliance will be examined for efficiency, function and safety and includes:-

- Soap system
- Water supply/heating system
- Air drying system
- Electrical/electronic controls and wiring
- Sterilising waste trap and controls (if fitted)
- Door hinge/locking mechanism.

Also included are the labour costs, replacement parts, site attendance visits including travel and interim visits to repair any breakdown due to fair wear and tear. However, the contract does not provide cover for the cost of repair or replacement parts in the following circumstances:-

- In connection with the main cabinet or washbowl
- Parts damaged by frost, or failure of the electrical or water supplies
- Due to the use of a non-recommended soap (they can advise on this)

- Due to misuse, vandalism, burglary, fire or accidental damage
- If the appliance(s) have been tampered with by persons other than their customer service representatives or any other persons authorised by the firm.
- However in any of the circumstances in this section, they do provide a 25% discount on the trade price for service contract customers needing any such replacement parts and they will notify us in advance in connection with any other likely charges outside the service contract.

The annual cost will be £219 for each toilet, making a total of £438 + VAT a year. It was MOVED by Councillor Mrs Talbot, SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Brown and RESOLVED that the Town Council enters into this contract for maintenance of the public toilets. The Clerk will liaise with Michael Chester on the keys and the electrical wire and confirm the contract when this has been done.

#### Rothwell Bell Clapper

A long E-mail had been received from Laura Hadland, the Senior Curator at Leicester City Museum that any museum items have to be offered in the first instance directly to other Accredited Museums likely to be interested in acquisition but neither the Town Council nor the Arts & Heritage Centre are Accredited Museums. However, if we still want to pursue a permanent transfer of title of the clapper despite this, they recommend this request should come from the Arts & Heritage Centre because heritage centres are next in order of preference for receiving objects as gifts from the collection. They usually issue loans for a maximum of two years, but would be happy to review and renew the loan each time a two year period expired.

It was AGREED to pass this information to Councillor Ray Davis, as the Manager of the Arts & Heritage Centre.

#### Women's Cycle Tour

Notification had just been received that the Women's Tour is coming to Daventry and Kettering again this year on Wednesday, 7th June. This is just before Rowell Fair but it was thought they would not have started setting up the Fair until the Thursday. Councillor Jelley said he would inform the schools so the children could come down for this.

#### Litter Pick

It was pointed out that Councillor Sumpter would need to arrange the annual litter pick so this can be done before the end of his year. It was AGREED that this would start at 2.00 pm on Saturday, 22nd April meeting at the Market House. Members of the Town Council will let Adrian Coles of the Scouts know when this is to take place and arrange with the Borough Council to have the plastic litter pickers and black sacks available.

#### Stagecoach Buses

It was suggested that the Clerk send a letter to Stagecoach and ask them not to use the double decker buses on the 19 and X10 routes in Rothwell because these are dangerous in our streets.

#### Bovis Estate at Charter Park

It was understood that there is now a new person at the Borough Council looking after ensuring the s.106 requirements from this development are completed so the final work should be done soon and the play area put in.

It was AGREED to lobby the Borough Council about the their footpath from the new Bovis cycleway and path from Gordon Street to Well Lane Recreation Ground to continue this across the top of Well Lane Recreation Ground right down to Hawkins Close, because it is understood that there is £20,000 available to bring this Borough footpath up to standard as it does not meet the minimum requirements.

#### Refuse/Recycling Bins

Councillor Davis said that there are always several blue bins on the pavement in Castle Hill by the side of Frank's Butchers and yellow bins from the Tattoo business. It was AGREED to report this to the Borough Council.

#### Footpath, Rushton Road to Cross Street

Councillor Newman reported that this footpath is very overgrown with weeds. The Clerk confirmed this is a Public Right of Way and she will report this to that County Department.

#### Tree, Harrington Road

The Town Mayor said a tree had come down in the high winds recently and also took down some of the hedge in Harrington Road. The Clerk had checked the situation and said it is the responsibility of the landowners to secure the boundary to their land.

### 306 PLANNING

#### Notifications

The following Approvals had been received:-

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|---------------|---|
| KET/2016/0906 | Woodfield Cottage, Rushton Road - Rear Extensions.  |
| KET/2017/0025 | 9 Nansen Close – Demolition of conservatory, extensions, window to north elevation and retrospective permission for conversion of garage to habitable room. |

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

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| KET/2017/0009 | Land adjoining 74 Glendon Road – One detached dwelling.<br>Rothwell Town Council objects on the grounds of road safety on this busy access road into Rothwell where there have been some deaths and double yellow lines are due to be put in.  |
| KET/2017/0062 | 25 Bridge Street – Change of use of first and second floors from storage/office to residential.<br>No objection.   |
| KET/2017/0117 | <b>Councillor Cox, as the Applicant, declared a financial Interest and left the Meeting whilst this application was considered.</b><br>The Old Ambulance Station, 44 Castle Hill – Two additional parking spaces, gates and boundary fence and windows to ground floor.<br>No objection. |
| KET/2017/0134 | 8 Magellan Close – Side extension and external render.<br>No objection.  |

- KET/2017/0151 Land between 20 & 24 Underwood Road – Demolition of garages and Construction of two semi-detached dwellings.  
Rothwell Town Council objects to this application because there should be at least two parking spaces in front of each dwelling.
- KET/2017/0163 68 Connolly Drive – First floor front, side and rear extensions.  
No objection.

### Planning Application Consultation Procedure

A letter had been received from Rob Harbour, the Borough Head of Development Services, explaining the reasons why they would like to move away from sending paper copies of planning applications and instead, contact Town and Parish Councils by letter via E-mail. The letter would notify us of the consultation, provide the headline details of the application and include a link that would go directly to the part of the Borough Council's website where Councillors could view all the plans and documents associated with the application. Mr Harbour also listed all the potential benefits in moving to electronic consultation and suggested solutions to the comments put forward. There was a questionnaire which the Clerk had completed. The larger applications would still be sent out on paper. He proposed to implement this scheme on a trial basis. It was AGREED by the Members of Rothwell Town Council that this was acceptable.

### Rothwell North

In view of the informal meeting regarding the Outline Planning Permission for Rothwell North at which residents said they had not known about this application and were upset that no Member of Rothwell Town Council had attended the relevant Planning Meeting although our County Councillor did. It was explained that this application had been submitted nearly ten years ago and the Town Council had not objected to the principle of development at Rothwell North, but had submitted several formal observations in writing to the Borough Council about what was essential for this development, and had also submitted a representation to the North Northants Joint Core Strategy Examination in Public. There are only three minutes to speak at a Planning Meeting which was not enough time for a Town Councillor to put forward all the relevant points but the Borough did have these in writing. It was AGREED that the Town Council would hold a Public Meeting in the Market House on 21st March and this would be attended by Councillors Mrs Brown, Cox, Morrissey and Wilson. It had been originally intended this would take place in the Old Barns at the Red Lion Inn but these were not available on that date.

The Clerk had drafted a letter to the Borough Development Services confirming the relevant points and it was AGREED that this letter should be sent to the Borough Council.

### Neighbourhood Plan

Councillor Wilson said that in order to progress the work on the Neighbourhood Plan, it was necessary to have the same number of residents as Councillors on the Special Committee to be set up to deal with this. It was thought there should be four or five Councillors and the same number of residents, and it was suggested that Margaret Harris would like to be on this Committee. We could also ask Leisa Russell if any of the people at the recent meeting on Rothwell North would like to join this Committee. If necessary there could be a notice asking people to volunteer.

### Planning Training

There was a Planning Training Meeting at the Borough Council on 22nd March and Councillors Mrs Talbot and Wilson will attend this.

307 HIGHWAYSStreet Lights

A letter had been received from the Borough Council that they are carrying out evening surveys of the street lighting in all the villages in the Borough. Most of the street lights in Rothwell are maintained by the County Council so the Clerk had asked for a list of those still maintained by the Borough Council. A reply had been received that the Borough would like the County to take over all the street lights in Rothwell and they will be in touch when the outcome of their surveys have been completed so we will then have a list of who maintains which lights.

Greening Road

It was reported that some maintenance needs to be carried out to the area of Greening Road outside No.16 as the raised section had been removed from that part of the road.

308 MATTERS OF BUSINESSDate of June Council Meeting

The June Meeting is due to be held on Tuesday, 13th June but this is during Rowell Fair week. It was AGREED this should be held on 20th June instead. However, this would mean there was a six week gap between the May and June Meetings, and then a three week gap between the June and July Meetings. The Clerk will put this on the agenda for re-consideration at the April Meeting because if the June Meeting was on the 6th, there would then be four weeks between the May and June ones, and five weeks between June and July which would be better.

Community Capital Grants

The Clerk had received a letter from the Borough Council about their community grants, and there is a Youth Council Small Grant and she wondered if this would apply to the Rothwell Youth Club Committee. It was pointed out that the Borough Councillors are to give grants from their Ward Money, but they cannot do this if there is a community grant.

309 FINANCIAL REPORTGeneral Statement

The Clerk submitted a written statement as attached. It was MOVED by the Town Mayor and SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Talbot 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	£612.00
H M Revenue & Customs	Tax & Employer N I (3 months)	£222.72
Inter County Cleaning Services	Cleaning the Market House	£42.00
Local Authority Publishing	Re-print of Town Guide	£2150.00
C E Mackay	Reimbursement for Norton Renewal	£39.99
C E Mackay	Repayment of overpaid tax	£112.36
Ricoh UK Ltd	Copier/Printer Maintenance	£18.26
Rothwell Youth Club	Grant	£500.00
Cash	Petty Cash	£20.00

New Signatory

Councillor Newman said he was now able to act as a signatory on the Town Council accounts and the Clerk will arrange this with him.

Clerk's Salary

Councillor Cross had not yet been able to work out the figures for this. It was AGREED that this will be considered at the April Meeting.

The Meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Chairman

Date