

ROTHWELL TOWN COUNCIL

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

PRESENT: Councillor K D Sumpter Town Mayor
 Councillor Mrs C M Brown
 Councillor M E Cox
 Councillor C W Cross
 Councillor R V Davis
 Councillor T Morrissey
 Councillor M W Spendlove
 Councillor Mrs M E Talbot
 Councillor R Wilson

247 PRAYERS

Before the business of the Council commenced, the Revd Canon John Westwood said Prayers and mentioned the Town Council and the Agenda for this Meeting, and everyone who serves the community. He also referred to the Remembrance Sunday Service on 13th November.

248 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Councillors Goodwin, Jelley and Newman.

249 NEW COUNCILLOR

The Clerk confirmed that Councillor Morrissey had completed and handed her his Declaration of Acceptance of Office, which she had witnessed. The Town Mayor welcomed Councillor Morrissey to the Town Council.

250 COMMUNITY POLICING

General Report/Crime Figures

PCSO Christine Duggan and PC Emma Ngcz were present at the Meeting and reported that there were the following reported crimes during October and explained some of the details:-

1. Two burglaries in Harrington Road, including the shop, and one in Columbus Crescent.
2. Two vehicle crimes.
3. A theft from a pocket in a restaurant
4. Three criminal damage incidents.

The Clerk had received two complaints, regarding parking in Kettering Road and speeding in Desborough Road and these were handed to the Police Officers

Smoking Dope: a resident asked what the Police are doing about people smoking dope at the back of the Community Centre at about 5.00 pm. The Police Officers advised that residents should phone 101 whenever they see this happening as if they get a lot of reports they will be able to arrange more patrols of the area. Another resident said that this is a regular occurrence since the replacement skateboard was put there, but others felt this has been happening for longer than this. Residents of Coronation Avenue said there was smoke and a fire in this area and a young resident said they should telephone the Fire Brigade if there is a fire. The Police Officers will inspect and inform our local Police Sergeant.

People must not confuse the skateboard ramp with unconnected crimes because the many well behaved young people do not have anything to do with these matters..

Police & Crime Commissioner

Stephen Mold, the Police and Crime Commissioner had sent an E-mail that he proposed four priorities as follows and it was agreed these were accepted:-

- Keeping the young safe
- Community Partnerships
- Protecting people from harm
- Putting victims at the heart of justice.

251 MINUTES

It was MOVED by Councillor Cross, SECONDED by Councillor Wilson and RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th October 2016 be confirmed and signed.

252 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

(1) Dog Fouling: Margaret Harris had written to the Clerk recently about dog fouling of the pavements and play areas in the vicinity of Daisy Bank Avenue, High Hill Avenue and Greening Road, and she understood that this was happening in all the open spaces in the town. The mess is very bad and this gets on shoes so they would like more visits from the Dog Warden and for anyone caught letting their dog foul these areas to be named. The Clerk had already E-mailed the Borough Council and had received a reply the day after this Meeting that where time and resources allow the Dog Wardens will patrol in a proactive in order to catch those responsible, but unfortunately they have been operating below full strength for some time and have found it challenging to maintain regular patrols. However from experience they have found that their best results tend to be achieved through good intelligence from members of the public. If anyone can provide more specific information regarding days, times, descriptions of the types of dogs or owners etc. they would be able to better deploy resources. Any information is always gratefully received and with the new Anti-social Crime and Policing Act legislation, there might not be a need for those witnessing such offences to make a formal statement or attend Court. The Clerk has now sent a copy of this E-mail to Mrs Harris. It was mentioned that you can get dog waste bins with bags on top and the PCSOs will see if they can obtain more information about these.

(2) Skateboard Ramp: Rachael Wedge and Nicholas Wedge each spoke for three minutes about the replacement skateboard ramp at the top of Well Lane Recreation Ground. They said there was a lack of consultation about where this was finally going to end up. They are now going to the Ombudsman about this. They do not like where it is or the disturbance which this brings and do not feel that the Town Council did enough about this. It could have gone where the old one was because it is now in the line of sight and they wondered what is to happen with the hardstanding where the old ramp was. They felt this was detrimental to the area.

Mrs Joyce, who had helped the young people in the town put forward their case for the new replacement skateboard ramp was also present at the Meeting and confirmed that she and Dave Lane of the Borough Council had delivered the consultation letter and questionnaire to all the streets on the list of which Rachael Wedge had a copy and Mrs Joyce had personally delivered these to all the houses in Coronation Avenue, but Rachael Wedge still maintains that no-one in that street had received this. The Members of Rothwell Town Council agreed at an earlier Meeting that they are completely confident that Dave Lane and Mrs Joyce did carry out the deliveries they have said they did. Another resident said he did not see this letter.

It was explained that the new skateboard ramp could not be put in the same space as the old wooden one because of the tree roots, where the steps are and also to prevent leaves falling on the ramp which can make it dangerous, but the ramp has only been moved very slightly.

(3) Abandoned Vehicle: a resident handed the Clerk a letter thanking County Councillor Jim Hakewill and Councillor Ray Davis for their help in getting an abandoned car removed from Crispin Street.

253 REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

A14 Lay-by

County Councillor Hakewill has been pursuing the issue of getting this lay-by closed for general use and designated as an emergency use only lay-by and there is now a drawing showing how this would look and it is agreed that this is not suitable for overnight use. Highways England now have some money to design the scheme and Councillor Hakewill will try and move this forward quickly.

He is also trying to stop lorries parking over the footpath at the Esso Service Station and is taking photographs of vehicles on the double yellow lines. He has sent details to Mark Britton, who originally pushed for lorries to be prevented from parking over the footpath/cycle way.

Footpath, Harrington Road

Councillor Hakewill is still pursuing the issue of getting the footpath between the access to Wallis House and Terry Smith Avenue constructed as a matter of urgency. He has E-mailed the Regional Technical Director asking when this will be done, irrespective of any legal or other issue. Their customers are risking their safety, not because anyone thinks it is not necessary to complete this path, or that materials are not freely available, but because of some actual or perceived paperwork issue that could be dealt with after the works are completed, and no issue around the s.106 or legal niceties can outweigh the need to complete the path and make life safer. It was AGREED that the Town Council would also contact Morris Homes direct.

254 ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITY

Skateboard Ramp

Copies of the Report of the Meeting held on 18th October 2016 had been circulated prior to this Meeting. It was MOVED by Councillor Mrs Talbot, SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Brown and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the notes of the Meeting held on 18th October 2016 be approved and adopted. It was FURTHER AGREED that Rothwell Town Council is very pleased to have been able to provide a replacement skateboard ramp for the young people in the town, especially as this is already being very well used.

As Norma Hicks and Rachael Wedge are consulting a Solicitor, the Town Council will not respond directly to them but will wait until we have a letter from their Solicitor and then reply, after having taken appropriate advice. The residents are also now taking these issues to the Ombudsman for him to take action against the Borough Council.

As to the report that some young people are causing problems in the area of the Community Centre, it was thought that these are those who have now moved from the Library down to Well Lane Recreation Ground since the Police concentrated on the Library and the Town Mayor will make sure the Police are aware of this. A resident suggested that there is a high pitched noise which young people can hear, but not older ones and this could be put on a timer to make the young people move so that it does not affect using the skateboard ramp.

As to the earth mounds by the skateboard ramp, Councillor Mrs Brown confirmed that these have been seeded, and they will be turfed in the Spring which is the better time of year to do that. There will be another litter bin put in shortly and a sign asking them not to drop litter on the ground. There will be another sign explaining what to do if there is an accident.

Blythe Close Play Area

There was nothing further to report on this matter.

Gala Evening

A reply had been received from the Borough Council that they regretted neither the Kettering Mayor or the Deputy Mayor would be able to attend the Gala as both had other engagements. It was AGREED that the Rothwell Town Mayor would judge the shop window competition instead.

As to the stalls, Councillor Cox thought perhaps volunteers could put these up in the morning, and we would just ask Chesters to take them down in the evening. He has purchased one collapsible stall to try out as he felt this would be easier to put up and take down. We could purchase ten of these for the first year. There are also bags which can be filled with salt to keep these on the ground. He has banners to put up but we need to ask Mrs Read if one can be put on her wall and Councillor Mrs Talbot will do this. There is also the wall of the Manor House or 12 High Street where the other banner could be put. Councillor Wilson said some banners are stored at the back of the Conservative Club.

The Town Mayor and Councillor Wilson said they would help put up the stalls for the Gala and Councillor Davis said the Army Cadets have a new Commander who is interested in the Cadets helping the community but they need 6-8 weeks' notice. We could consider asking them to come to the Civic Parade on 5th June 2017. Councillor Cox also has some walkie-talkies, mainly for the Carnival but they can also be used for the Gala Evening.

Well Lane Recreation Ground

As to re-naming this area the Alan Mills Recreation Ground, the Clerk had received an E-mail from the Borough Council that they will need to put this request to the Borough Executive but feel the Town Council should carry out some public consultation on the proposal so that the Executive will have some idea of public opinion before they make their decision. Dave Lane would be able to help if we would like him to, and he is also in the process of obtaining some quotes for signage. There are meetings of the Borough's Executive every month, so we can discuss timings once the consultation has been carried out. It was AGREED to delay any further action on this for the time being.

Benches in the Town

Mrs Lawson had asked if there was any news on the repairs to the bench at the bus stop in front of the Chinese Takeaway in Market Hill: we have asked for this to be done but have not yet got a date. Mrs Lawson also wondered if there could be more benches at the top of Well Lane Recreation Ground on the hardstanding from the old skateboard ramp.

It was AGREED to ask the Borough Council to let us have a quote for moving two benches from Squires Hill to that area, and for these and the one by the bus stop in Market Hill to be fully repaired and varnished.

Tree, Hospital Hill

The Town Council had asked if the redwood tree in Hospital Hill could be removed as it was feared the roots could damage the foundations of the Grade II* Listed Building of Jesus Hospital.

The following reply had been received from Ian Smith of Kier/WSP from a highways point of view:-

1. The redwood is not a native tree and has obviously been deliberately planted at some time. It appears to be planted within a tree pit which it has obviously outgrown. In the general scheme of things this quite a young tree and it is highly **unlikely** that a tree of this type would have been planted by highways as there are clear guidelines as to the type of trees planted within the highway. It will become a very substantial tree indeed. We would need to research its origin, if it was planted by the Town Council it could be that responsibility lies with the Town Council.
2. The Borough Council maintains most of the highway trees within Kettering and the larger towns within the Borough under their agency agreement with the County Council, Dawn Hughes is working within her remit to ensure the health of the tree.
3. In general it is not County policy to remove healthy trees. The only acceptable reason for removal would be to prevent structural damage to surrounding property. There are currently no plans for removal of this tree and no funding.
4. In the event of tree removal we would definitely not be digging out the stump this would be an extremely complicated and expensive task owing to the proximity of underground services. The best that would ever happen is stump grinding, so there would be no car parking advantage in the short to medium term.

A copy of this E-mail was handed to Councillor Spendlove for him to discuss with the Governors of Jesus Hospital who had originally raised this issue. It was thought this tree is about ten yards from Jesus Hospital and nine yards from the Churchyard. It was not known if the Town Council could remove this tree without being prosecuted.

Pocket Park

The Town Clerk is currently listed as the contact for the Pocket Park and it was AGREED that she should remain the contact, and can pass any information to the full Town Council.

Cycle Racks

We had now received details of the cycle racks available, and Northamptonshire Highways recommend the Sheffield design, and this one is fixed to the ground with screws so it would be removable for Rowell Fair. It was AGREED to order six of these racks to go in front of Tesco Express.

CCTV Cameras

We have had a request from a resident to have another CCTV camera to cover the area around Hospital Hill and we have asked The Borough Council what area the camera on Trinity Dental covers.

Michael Chester of the Borough Council has replied that they are due to meet BT on 23rd November because they need to survey the area before they can arrange for the terminal kits to be installed. Generally this takes four to six weeks from the survey date but as we are coming up to Christmas he did not think that camera would be up and running until at least January. Once the connection is complete he will take a look at what area this covers. It was AGREED to ask Mr Chester if he has explained to Trinity Dental what is planned, and if they agree to this.

Community Centre Car Park

It had been reported that there is no light in this car park, but apparently this has now been repaired and is working again.

255 PLANNING

At the request of the Town Mayor, Councillor Spendlove presented this report:-

Notifications

The following Approvals had been received and Councillor Spendlove and the Clerk declared interests on that for 1 The Maltings as Members of the Rothwell Preservation Trust:-

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| KET/2016/0543 | 1 The Maltings – Two replacement windows to front elevation. |
| KET/2016/0648 | 103 Desborough Road – Conservatory to rear. |
| KET/2016/0660 | 4 Victoria Court – Front and rear extensions. |

Application

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| KET/2016/0758 | Laurel House, 82 Rushton Road – Extension to rear of garage.
No objection. |
|---------------|---|

Neighbourhood Plan

It has been proposed that we should have a Meeting with Alex Jelley regarding preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan but Councillor Spendlove suggested that we should be getting firm quotes from three firms with details of what they would do, rather than having one person quote an hourly charge for all work done. Councillor Spendlove also thought we should check that anyone who quotes has planning qualifications, normally MRTPI and he had brought contact details of two other firms who might be able to carry out the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan.

It was AGREED that we should postpone the Meeting with Alex Jelley and the Clerk should telephone the other two people suggested by Councillor Spendlove to find out if they could assist with the Plan. The Clerk contacted Alex Jelley and postponed the Meeting and let him know that the Town Council has decided it would prefer a firm price. Mr Jelley accepted this and asked if the Town Council would be preparing a brief for the Neighbourhood Plan as he thought this would be the most prudent approach and he could then tailor his quote based on the specific requirements.

Councillor Mrs Talbot had details of a Neighbourhood Planning Networking Event being organised by Locality at the offices of Harborough District Council on Wednesday, 23rd November from 10.30 am to 3.00 pm. Councillors Cross and Wilson would like to attend this event and the Clerk booked places for them.

256 HIGHWAYSFootpath Extension, Harrington Road

This matter had been dealt with under the County Councillor's Report.

Disabled Parking Bays

The Liaison Officer for Northamptonshire Highways had inspected these bays and agreed that the road markings are very worn so he has asked for them to be refurbished, but it may not be until the Spring that this work can be undertaken. The signs are the smallest size available, but the budget for this financial year is committed so he would not be able to justify them being replaced at the present time, but hoped that once the markings are refurbished the fact that this area is for disabled parking should become more apparent.

Town Centre Parking

Councillor Cox had received a telephone call from Trudi-Claire about vans parking outside her shop. This was at a very bad time with three-way traffic lights and the situation was compounded by the vans for the building work at the old Health Centre site, and on work on the new street lights. It was AGREED there was no action which could be taken at this time.

Emergency Vehicle Signs

A quotation had been received from Nordis Signs for £115.20 (including VAT) for ten of the signs saying "Could an Emergency Vehicle get past your car?" which is the same wording as on the County signs. In addition there would be a charge of £24 (including VAT) for delivery of these to Rothwell.

It was AGREED to order the ten signs, but one of the Members of the Town Council would collect these from Nordis.

Chichester Close

It was reported that the footpaths in this street are in a poor state of repair and it was AGREED to write to Brendan Coleman, the Borough Head of Environmental Services as it is believed these footways are the responsibility of the Borough. It was FURTHER AGREED to inform Northamptonshire Highways.

257 MATTERS OF BUSINESSFlags in the Town

A resident had complained that the flags in the town have been up for a very long time and also there are some of the old flags in Bridge Street which were put up for the Cycle Race and are now very tatty. Councillor Wilson will ask Rowell Fair Society if they can remove these, or they will be taken down when the small Christmas trees are put up.

258 FINANCIAL REPORTGeneral Statement

The Clerk submitted a written statement as attached. It was MOVED by Councillor Mrs Talbot, 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	£612.00
Inter County Cleaning Services	Cleaning Market House	£42.00
British Telecommunications	Phone and Broadband	£211.87
Ricoh UK Ltd	Printer/Copier Maintenance	£22.12
Kettering Borough Council	Refund of overpayment by Borough	£79.20
Cash	Petty Cash	£40.00

Budget 2017/18

A Meeting of the Town Council had been held on 3rd November 2016 and the draft budget agreed as shown on the attached statement, and to recommend that the Town Council raises the same amount of precept as for the current year. It was **MOVED** by Councillor Wilson, **SECONDED** by Councillor Mrs Brown and **RESOLVED** that the draft budget is approved and the Town Council will raise a Precept of £30,000 for 2017/18.

259 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 withdraw.