

ROTHWELL TOWN COUNCIL

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

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Councillor C W Cross Councillor M E Cox Councillor R V Davis Councillor I F Jelley Councillor T Morrissey Councillor Mrs M E Talbot Councillor R Wilson County Councillor J Hakewill	<u>Town Mayor</u>
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403 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Councillors Mrs Brown, Goodwin, Newman, Spendlove and Sumpter, and from Canon Westwood and the Police.

404 COMMUNITY POLICING

General Report/Crime Figures

No Police Officer was able to attend as they had a training session today but the crime figures had been received.

High Street CCTV Camera

The Clerk had been informed that this had now been returned to a surveillance camera but there had been a suggestion that it should also be a combined camera for ANPR as well.

Speed Watch Scheme

The Clerk had been in touch with the Police regarding the offer by Mr Robert Gibson to set up a Community Speed Watch system and understood this was now being arranged.

405 MINUTES

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Morrissey, **SECONDED** by Councillor Wilson and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th October 2017 be confirmed and signed.

406 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

(1) Rothwell Library: there is now the consultation on whether there will still be a library in Rothwell because the County Council say they do not have the income to pay for this. The Town Mayor referred to the recent Public Meeting in the Parish Church. The Town Council will push for this to remain open and contact both the County Councillor and our MP about this matter as we do not want the library to close and will do what we can to ensure this remains open. Sue Woollard, the Treasurer of the Friends of Rothwell Library, had organised the meeting in the Church and was present here. She thanked the Clerk for her assistance and the Councillors who were able to attend the meeting in the Church. It was suggested that the Town Council consider increasing the amount of the precept to £100,000 to pay for the cost of running the Library. The Clerk said that it was now too late for the Town Council to be able to do this in time for the next financial year because there would need to be a consultation in the town, probably by way of a Town Meeting to see if the majority of the residents agreed to this large increase in the precept.

The first County questionnaire is out for responses by 1st December then there is the later one which needs a reply by 13th January 2018. Councillor Hakewill said there would be two further Town Council meetings to decide whether a precept could be raised. There will be decisions made into February 2018 by the County Council. The library funding was cut first because there is staff involved. Councillor Hakewill understood that the libraries would not instantly close but the County Council has to look at the options and he did not expect any decisions to be made by the Council until December and the early part of January. The Clerk said the Town Council would need precise costings and to know who would continue to run the library before the Members could consider the matter. Councillor Jelley will consult the Borough Council about raising the additional funds on the precept.

Residents pointed out that it is not just the library work of lending books, but there are also the other issues such as the work with young children and the facilities and groups for older people there, as well as the computers which are used by all ages for many essential matters such as applying for jobs, and information needed for studying and taking exams. Councillor Jelley said the Government is now saying they will put a cap on the Town and Parish Councils' precepts. If an additional precept was raised it was asked what proportion would go direct to the library and what is done there which is superfluous to requirements. They would also like the Town Council meetings to be held in the library because of the difficulty with access to the first floor at the Market House.

Glenda Weston would support Option 4 which has been discussed to retain the status quo. She was aware of the suggestion for Rothwell Town Council to raise the precept for the costs and she would like to know the amount. There is another issue here about the Town Council having to raise more and more precept every year. There was a referendum in Rothwell about whether the Town Council should start to raise a precept at all. She thought all councils which run a library should be fairly funded and it was now the responsibility of the County Council to do this. She welcomed the recent meeting but a total of 150 people does not represent the whole town. Residents would have to pay although they would not get any extra benefit from this. If the Town Council did raise an additional precept this would continue year after year. Mrs Weston asked how the County Council has got into such a financial mess that the electors now have to pay the price. It was confirmed they are looking at other ways to raise money. Some residents feel they should not be forced to pay this cost.

County Councillor Hakewill said the whole discussion now is about whether the Town Council wants to raise money to keep the library running. He explained how the County Council caters for children in care, elderly residents and social care but they are not allowed to raise their income. The County would have to hold a referendum if they wanted to raise their precept more than the cap and the additional costs for this. The Government has considered capping parish councils but has not yet done this. Councillor Jelley said he would find out exactly how much it would cost to run the library and who would actually do this. Our library has an income of about £6,000 a year and Councillor Hakewill thought this would continue. If the Town Council raised a precept which was not actually needed, this could be retained in the Town Council's resources.

A resident thought the County Council should go back to Central Government to ask for more money for their social services because Northamptonshire only gets a low Government grant compared with other authorities. If the Town Council raised a precept and the County still ran the library how much would this cost. Councillor Hakewill confirmed people might be made redundant but they could be transferred. It was thought it should be stressed how important the children's centre is for the town and this should remain whatever happens.

(2) Access for the disabled to the Council Chamber in the Market House: a resident asked about this and the Clerk explained that the Preservation Trust had looked at having a stair lift installed but this was not possible. Even if this could have been done it would not have been approved because there was no safe gathering point on the first floor so there was an exemption for the Market House. If disabled residents had an issue they wanted to put to the Town Council, one of the Councillors would visit them at home and raise this on their behalf at a Meeting.

(3) Footpaths: a resident complained about the poor state of the footpaths from Slade Valley Avenue to Kipton Field and this should be dealt with now because it would only cost more if it was done in later years.

407 REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

(a) Land to the south of Desborough: Councillor Hakewill reported that he had attended the Planning Appeal on the application for 304 houses on the open space there. He felt that the Rothwell North relief road needed to be provided before any houses were built there. He put this point to the Appeal but this is not finished because the initial hearing took too long.

(b) Rothwell North: Persimmon Homes have not responded in connection with the northern bypass but Councillor Hakewill will contact Persimmon's Chief Executive about this matter to avoid having the estate road through the development.

408 ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITY

Blythe Close Play Area

This is a standing item on the agenda and there was nothing to report.

Air Quality

The results for September were received on 15th November so were not able to be reported at the Meeting. The figure for RW1 at the Bridge Street/High Street junction was 56.3 and that from the monitor on the Post Office was 49.8 and these are the highest the Borough Council has had at these locations. However, the Borough Officer stated that the results for September 2017 were higher in all their monitoring locations across the Borough, which suggests the results could be weather related or it was something to do with the analysis at the laboratory. The results for October will be reported at the December meeting.

Rothwell Library

This issue had largely been dealt with during Questions from the Public. The draft response to phase 1 of the consultation on the County proposals was approved for submission to the County Council.

Well Lane Recreation Ground/Community Centre

An E-mail had been received from the Borough Council and circulated to the Town Councillors. This said that the s.106 payment had been sent and the enhancement project might commence next year. This money is specifically for the development for football and the Borough will be looking to access match funding from the FA for pitch improvements and securing this match funding would allow a much better scheme but it means the project is not likely to be imminently delivered. As to the storage needs, there are a number of reasons why a container would not be appropriate at this site, including the land itself and whether the installation of a container, and the crane to position it, would damage the relatively shallow drains.

The developments at the Community Centre will improve the present layout issues and the storage and the Borough Council considers their resources should go into the bigger medium term plan.

409 PLANNING

Notifications

The following Approvals had been received:-

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| KET/2017/0452 | 17 New Street – Change of use from Salvation Army hall to office. |
| KET/2017/0669 | Kingswoode, Rushton Road – Extensions. |
| KET/2017/0689 | 29 Moorfield Road – Extensions. |

The following Refusal had been received:-

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| KET/2017/0740 | 45 Harrington Road – Extensions. |
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Applications

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

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| KET/2017/0692 | 75 Connolly Drive – Retrospective for decking to rear garden.
No objection. |
| KET/2017/0837 | 34 Underwood Road – Dwelling with off-road parking.
No objection. |
| KET/2017/0838 | 42 Gordon Street – Outbuilding to rear.
No objection. |
| KET/2017/0876 | 78 Columbus Crescent – Extensions.
No objection. |

Rothwell North

Copies of the report of the meeting of the Rothwell North Committee held on 17th October 2017 had been circulated prior to this Town Council Meeting.

Rothwell Parish Plan

Copies of the draft Plan had been circulated prior to this Meeting. It was AGREED to send this draft to Julia Baish and ask for her comments on this draft, with a copy to Councillor Jelley.

410 HIGHWAYS

Cycleways

A letter and plan had been received from the Assistant Definitive Map Officer on behalf of Northamptonshire Highways that they have received an application to convert two public footpaths and part of a public footpath, as shown on their plan, to cycleways. This would run from the end of Ponder Street through Well Lane Recreation Ground and to the north of the Bovis development and then down to Gordon Street. It was AGREED that Rothwell Town Council approved this amendment to provide cycleways.

Parking Signs

The Clerk confirmed that we still had five of the signs saying 'COULD AN EMERGENCY VEHICLE GET PAST YOUR CAR' if any Councillors or residents wanted to put them up in suitable locations in the town.

Glendon Road

Councillor Jelley confirmed that the Traffic Order for additional double yellow lines in Glendon Road had been approved and the double yellow lines should be put in place within the next few weeks.

Street Lights

Councillor Mrs Talbot reported that the lights in Norton Street and Tennyson Road are still owned by the Borough Council because these streets have never been handed over to the County Council. There are still the old yellow lights in Norton Street and some in Tennyson Road require attention. It was AGREED to contact Michael Chester at the Borough Council and ask when these streets will be passed over to the County Council/Northamptonshire Highways.

In addition, the Borough Council is responsible for the lights on the footpaths either side of the Parish Church, and it is assumed they will continue to maintain these as they are through the old graveyard. It was asked if these could be checked to see if any need to be replaced.

412 STORAGE, MARKET HOUSE

There are still a lot of items which need to be either handed to Northamptonshire Archives, or taken away by the Borough Council to be destroyed or recycled. The Clerk said some of the items had been moved from the store room to just inside the front door, but perhaps these should be checked to see that nothing there needs to be retained. There are still two large flat boxes in the store room which can probably be taken away by the Borough Council. The Borough Councillors will arrange for this to be done.

413 FINANCIAL REPORTGeneral Statement

The Clerk submitted a written statement, but this was amended to the statement as attached. It was MOVED by Councillor Mrs Talbot, 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>
C E Mackay	Clerk's Salary	633.60
Inter County Cleaning Services	Cleaning Market House	44.40
RBL Poppy Appeal	Wreath for Remembrance Sunday	25.00
British Telecommunications	Phone & Broadband	182.96
Town Centre Partnership	Contribution to new Notice Board	2812.26
Cash	Petty Cash	30.00

Budget Meeting

The Town Council needs to submit the precept information before 26th January 2018 and it was AGREED to arrange the date of the Budget Meeting at the December Town Council Meeting.

414 RETIREMENT OF CLERK

Copies of the applications for the post of Town Clerk had been circulated prior to this Meeting. It was AGREED to interview the people in the first three applications as circulated. It was subsequently decided that the Town Mayor and Councillors Mrs Brown and Jelley would form the interview panel and Councillor Mrs Talbot would stand in if one was unable to make that meeting. They would start at 1.00 pm on Friday, 8th December in the Arts & Heritage Centre and allow three-quarters of an hour for each interview. One person subsequently withdrew her application and so two people will be interviewed at this stage.

415 MATTERS OF REPORT

(a) Churches Together Town Carol Service: this will take place at 7.00 pm on Monday, 11th December 2017 in Holy Trinity Parish Church and Town Councillors were asked to let Revd Canon John Westwood know if they were able to attend so he could arrange seating for them.

(b) An E-mail had been received complaining about the parking permitted in Bridge Street which obstructed the traffic flow. It was agreed to reply that this issue had been considered with the Police some years ago and it was decided that Bridge Street was safer with this parking because it slowed the traffic down and therefore acted as a traffic calming measure.

The Meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

Chairman

Date