

ROTHWELL TOWN COUNCIL

A Meeting of Rothwell Town Council was held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday, 13th October 2015 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 I F Jelley Councillor A J Mills Councillor L D Newman Councillor K D Sumpter Councillor R Wilson	<u>Town Mayor</u>
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68 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Councillors Goodwin, Spendlove and Mrs Talbot, and from Canon Westwood who was unwell.

69 COMMUNITY POLICING

General Report

No Police Officer was yet able to be present but there were 25 crimes during September, as follows:-

- Burglary dwelling – 3
- Criminal damage – 8
- Robbery -1
- Theft from motor vehicles – 1
- Theft/handling – 3
- Theft of motor vehicles – 2
- Violence offences – 7.

A dog was recently stolen in Rothwell, and there have been a few dog thefts recently. Councillor Newman said the Police online information said they had found someone's stolen Rolex but nothing was mentioned about this dog. They have a 50,000 membership and should have put this on. Apparently Tesco has a CCTV image of the person who took the dog, but the Police do not want this released because it is not a clear picture.

It was also reported that someone went to Droué Court wearing a St John Ambulance jacket and did house-to-house calls and the Police caught one of these climbing over a fence to try and steal a dog. Councillor Jelley said the person wearing a SJA jacket who called at his home was a foreigner, but the Town Mayor had someone with a Scots accent. It was felt people should not leave old electrical goods outside their houses for anyone to take away.

As to the crime figures, there is a big reduction from a few months ago. Councillor Newman said a few years ago we had Robbie the Bobby who patrolled the streets but we do not see many Police Officers now. Councillor Sumpter said that lorries were blocking access to the allotments recently and he telephoned 101 but he was waiting for a total of 42 minutes, and he felt perhaps the figures were down because people cannot get through to report these issues. It was felt however that the Police are doing a good job with the resources they now have.

Special Constables

Copies of the Police information about Special Constables and their Community Speed Watch scheme had been circulated prior to this Meeting. As mentioned at the Rural Forum they are also looking at days of action in the rural areas about speeding. The Speed Watch scheme is now free but you need 12 people in the town who are willing to be trained to do this. It was felt Rothwell is not really suitable for this scheme as there are so many roads here where there is a problem with speeding.

As to Special Constables, Adam Simmonds had said at the Meeting the Town Council had with him that someone working in the town centre could go out and deal with an issue such as parking on double yellow lines and would not have to be in uniform provided he or she had their warrant card and introduced themselves as a Special Constable.

Traffic in Harrington Road

An E-mail had been received from a resident of Harrington Road about the number of juggernauts regularly using this road, causing chaos and damage to other vehicles. She sent images of a Ewals Cargo Care lorry there. These large lorries have also caused accidents with a child recently knocked over and a young man collapsed on the pavement when it was too dark for drivers to see, and he had to be taken to hospital. She felt the situation would only get worse with the new houses at the end of Harrington Road. The Police were able to attend the Meeting later and this E-mail was handed to them.

Councillor Cross agreed that Harrington Road was being over-used and we need a through road going right through to Rushton Road, otherwise the town centre will become totally blocked. It was reported by Councillor Jelley that vehicles are still parking in Glendon Road at the top of Columbus Crescent, with a large red van, a small white van and sometimes two or three cars and as they are in the dip they are not visible: there have been at least two fatalities here. This was also reported to the Police Officers later in the Meeting. It was also mentioned that parked vehicles in Wales Street are blocking the footpath. Despite these incidents it was felt that Rothwell is still seen as a low risk area.

70 MINUTES

The following alterations to the Minutes should be made:-

- (1) on page 40 in the first paragraph on the skateboard ramp, the cost of the one the Town Council felt was most reasonable was £48,500 and not £35,000.
- (2) at the bottom of page 41 under Medical Centre, the person Councillor Jelley has been speaking to at NHS England is Keiron Leigh and not Kevin.

Subject to these amendments, it was **MOVED** by Councillor Jelley, **SECONDED** by Councillor Sumpter and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th September 2015 be confirmed and signed.

71 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

- (1) Play Areas and Skateboard Ramp: the Town Mayor will continue to pursue these matters and spoke to Pia Bellamy about them and has now received a long E-mail from David Lane at the Borough Council with further information on the multi-use games area (MUGA) and the new play area on the Bovis land. They understand that Bovis have placed the order with DT Leisure who will actually do the installation of the MUGA and it is likely this will be in the new year, depending on the weather and ground conditions. The Borough also thinks Bovis has asked the

same firm to install the play area but the site for this is still undeveloped and this will take quite a lot of work. The Borough does still need confirmation in writing from Bovis and once they have this they feel we should focus on communicating with local residents, especially those affected by the short term loss of car parking at Hawkins Close. It has been agreed that the Borough will focus on delivering the play area and MUGA and once that is all signed off they will look at the new skate facilities.

They feel the first part of any formal consultation should be with immediate residents. Mr Lane has also asked another skateboard ramp company to come up with some ideas of what might work at Well Lane, bearing in mind the sloping of the site, and the big tree is also a consideration in terms of its roots.

About a month ago they installed a new wheelchair accessible roundabout at Blythe Close as a starting point for a play area totally accessible by disabled children. Mr Lane is still keen to pursue re-developing this play area along this route but thinks it will require around £20,000 minimum to deliver something half decent and ideally £30,000 would be better. The Town Council could pursue funding through Mick George Landfill, Maud Elkington and maybe Awards for All (National Lottery). He considers it would be appropriate to look at this once the Bovis development is finalised and the skate facility is also agreed.

It was confirmed there is a sum of money ring-fenced for the skateboard ramp but we might still need to apply for grants if this is not sufficient. The Clerk has received some further designs from the young people and it was AGREED to send these to Pia Bellamy.

Basically the ones received today are what the young people want with minor alterations. The concerns about having a larger ramp is firstly the tree and secondly the fact that it should not overwhelm the whole of the park. It was also suggested that a survey be carried out through the Chopper Shop in Kettering. The Bovis site is now over 75% occupied but the Town Council does not have a contact at Bovis. It was AGREED to contact Rob Harbour, the Borough Head of Development Services to ask for a copy of the s.106 Agreement, the plans for the s.106 provision including the combined footpath/cycleway, and details of their Bovis contact (with copies to our Borough Councillors) because despite the best efforts of Pia Bellamy and her Department, there is still no real progress on these matters although Bovis were advertising the houses for sale with a new play area and path upgrade.

A resident reported that applications to Mick George Landfill should be submitted by the end of March.

Councillor Mills has spoken to the Borough Officer about the light at the skateboard ramp and was informed that as soon as this light is repaired it gets broken again but they will put another light in with a cage around it.

(2) Parking, Glendon Road: Miss Coleman said there have been five or six vehicles parked here and Councillor Jelley has seen these. The Borough Council has said that people can use the Columbus Crescent parking area which the Borough owns.

(3) Land off Slade Valley Avenue: Miss Coleman handed a statement by one of her neighbours on behalf of the people whose properties in Slade Valley Avenue, Connolly Close, Sharman Way and Playford Close back onto the land owned by Persimmon. There was a survey carried out by David Cosby Surveyors on 3rd October and it is thought they will soon submit a planning application to build houses on this site. Planning permission was refused in March 2005 as the proposed development was determined to be undesirable because it would result in loss of privacy through overlooking properties to the west of the site. The gradient of the land is also very steep. The resident handed details of stipulations on her neighbour's Deeds about retaining the right of light and air to these properties. The Town Council will monitor this situation.

- (4) Street Lighting: Miss Coleman said this has now been done in Littlewood Street.
- (5) Medical Centre: Miss Coleman had asked for an appointment at the Medical Centre but there were no appointments and this has happened twice and she had to telephone the following day for an appointment. Councillor Jelley has talking to NHS England and we could write to them and complain – they are then duty-bound to follow this up within 28 days. He thinks they are still using the Doctor First system which is only suitable for much smaller areas and if you include Desborough there are about 19,000 patients but the system seems to be working better in Desborough, which is where the Practice Manager has her office. It was **MOVED** by Councillor Jelley, **SECONDED** by Councillor Newman and **RESOLVED** to write to the Practice Manager and explain the difficulties Rothwell residents are having.
- (6) Seats, Squires Hill: Mrs Lawson said these are not used very much and she asked if some could be moved to the top of Market Hill Square in front of the Chinese Takeaway because people do wait for the bus here but have nowhere to sit. It was **AGREED** to ask if we could have a new seat here.
- (7) Library Garden: Mrs Lawson said the plants in this garden have been removed and it was explained this has been done so that the winter planting can be done.

72 COMMUNITY POLICING

PCs Keith Miller and Gareth Broxton were now present at the Meeting, but had not been able to break down the crime report because of absences but some of the thefts have been motorcycles which were insecure. It was explained that everyone is very concerned about the stolen dog and the Town Mayor said there is a van which has been elsewhere in the country where dogs have been stolen and PC Broxton said this van is constantly stopped and they have arrested some people. He has not seen the Police report on this yet but he will look into this and follow it up as their enquiries are ongoing; he was handed a copy of the poster about this theft, and the E-mail about traffic in Harrington Road which was discussed earlier in the Meeting. The concern about vehicles parking in Glendon Road and obscuring visibility was also raised with the Police Officers.

As to the Police presence, PC Broxton said they used to have eleven PCSOs but this has now been reduced to only five but there is supposed to be an Officer in the town centre between six and nine every evening. PC Miller will go round when the can: he was walked from Desborough to Rothwell and people are pleased to see him so he will patrol as often as possible. The delay in getting through when phoning 101 was mentioned and it was confirmed there is no other non-emergency number but the Police are working on this. It was confirmed the Remembrance Sunday Service will be held at 12.00 noon at the War Memorial as usual.

73 REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

- (1) Street Lighting: Councillor Hakewill has not been able to find out what is happening with the lights in Harrington Road but he is taking this up with Balfour Beatty and the old lights are there on the new columns.
- (2) Rothwell North: it was confirmed that the agenda for the Examination of the Joint Core Strategy includes discussion on the Rothwell North A6 junction.
- (3) Hawthorns Recreation Ground, Desborough: a planning application is coming through to build on this area. This is the sort of development for which a Neighbourhood Plan would be useful as it could include a specific policy.

(4) Children in Care: Councillor Hakewill said that the County now has 70 asylum seeker children under 18 who have to be looked after, together with the children in care.

(5) Infant School: there was recently a Meeting at the Infant School about the extension there and it was confirmed the Town Council has a copy of the plan.

74 ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITY

Skateboard Ramp

This was discussed earlier in the Meeting.

Medical Centre

This was also discussed earlier in the Meeting.

Caravan, Edinburgh Close

An E-mail had been received from John Conway, the Borough Head of Housing that this caravan belongs to the daughter of the tenant of 23 Edinburgh Close who is unable to travel at present and requires her mother's support with her children. Due to these circumstances, they have agreed to allow the caravan to be temporarily sited at the side of No.23 on the basis that nobody is living in the caravan, power is not run from the house and no complaints are received from neighbours. The permission applies until 30th October 2015 at which time it will be reviewed on the basis that the daughter will hopefully be sufficiently recovered for the caravan to be removed.

Orton House

The County Director of Children, Families and Education had replied to Adam Simmonds that the County does not own Orton House or have any lease agreements attached to the property. In the past they have commissioned placements for children at this property but currently do not have any children there.

Gala Evening

Copies of the Report of the Meeting of the Gala Committee held on 5th October 2015 had been circulated prior to this Meeting. Councillor Wilson said that the winner of the Shop Window Competition last year was the Old Bakehouse Restaurant, and By Rowell Appointment Pet Food Shop was the winner 2013. Subject to this amendment, it was **MOVED** by Councillor Mills, **SECONDED** by Councillor Cox and **RESOLVED** that the Report be approved and adopted.

Town Centre Partnership

Copies of the Report of the Meeting of the Town Centre Partnership held on 7th October 2015 had been circulated prior to this Meeting. Councillor Cross felt that there should only be about six voters on this Committee when the Constitution is changed, and this will be discussed further at the next Partnership Meeting. It was **MOVED** by Councillor Sumpter, **SECONDED** by Councillor Mills and **RESOLVED** that the Report be approved and adopted.

Trinity Dental

Councillor Newman said he would be obliged to leave the Meeting shortly, but wanted to report that he had Alison Simpson from Trinity Dental come to see him about her planning application for signs at the Trinity Centre. Councillor Mills said he had met Ms Simpson, Planning Officers and a Conservation Consultant about these signs. She has invested £1m in this property and

therefore considers she should get Planning Permission. They looked round and the Planning Officers were not happy and suggested the lights should be taken down from the large sign on the end wall and the small ones by the door.

Councillor Newman also asked about a tree in the corner of a Council house and he has the address and photographs and Councillor Mills will ask the Borough Council to look at this.

Councillors Cox and Newman left the Meeting at 8.40 pm.

Tree Behind the Market House

The Clerk said she had put this on the Agenda as she thought the Members might want to ask the Borough Council to reduce and lift the crown on this tree. However, the winter lights are still in the tree so when she E-mailed Jim McNally, the Borough Electrical Officer, about all the Christmas lights she asked him to look at this and ask for the crown to be dealt with if he felt this was needed: he could also explain about the cables and lights still in this tree. This was approved.

There is also the tree in Hospital Hill, which is now lifting the surface of the road here. It was AGREED to ask the Borough Council to look at this. There is also a rotten tree in the Recreation Ground at the end of Hawkins Close and it was reported that the Borough Council was going to take this down.

Library Garden

It was reported that Mr Jim French had submitted a quote of £380 to look after this garden and plant it up for the winter. He will let the Clerk have an invoice, which will include payment for three bags of peat which he used here previously. It was MOVED by Councillor Sumpter, SECONDED by Councillor Jelley and RESOLVED that the sum of £380 can be paid to Mr French from the Rothwell In Bloom funds once he has let the Clerk have his invoice.

Public Toilets

Northants CALC had sent information that some Parish and Town Councils are being charged Business Rates on the public toilets in their Parish. As the Borough Council still owns the one in Rothwell it was not thought this applied here.

75 PLANNING

Notifications and Applications

An appeal has been lodged in connection with the Application for a wind turbine at Aspenfield, Main Street, Orton and there will be an informal hearing at the Borough Offices on 28th October 2015.

The following Approvals have been received:-

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| KET/2015/0638 | 94 Littlewood Street – Extension. |
| KET/2015/0643 | 9 Bridge Street – Variation of opening hours. |

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

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|---------------|---|
| KET/2015/0692 | 18 Davis Close – Rear extension.
No objection. |
|---------------|---|

KET/2015/0748	The Old Brickyard, Orton Road – Agricultural barn. No objection.
KET/2015/0801	Woodland Hospital – Extension and chiller units. No objection.
KET/2015/0802	Land adjoining 44 Castle Hill – Detached dwelling. No objection.

Rothwell Infant School

The Town Council has received three copies of a plan for the extension here. The Town Mayor and County Councillor Hakewill had a meeting at the school about this. Councillors Jelley and Mills thought we had lost the improvements at the Junior School, including the sports hall which would have been beneficial to the town. This new work will make the Infant School a four-class entry school. There has been a construction traffic plan and they will be able to drive in and back out and the arranged times will avoid when the children arrive and are picked up.

Rothwell North

An E-mail had been received from Ian Kemp, the Programme Officer, that there will be an independent Examination into the soundness of the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy And this will commence at 9.45 am on Tuesday, 17th November 2015 in the Council Chamber of East Northamptonshire Council, Cedar Drive, Thrapston. Planning Inspector, Mr Nigel Payne, Bsc (Hons), dipTP, MRTPI, MCMI, has been appointed by the Secretary of State to conduct this Examination. The Town Council has already put forward our observations on the focused changes to the pre-submission plan as follows:-

“(1) This development should now be called the Rothwell North and West Development because of the amendments made to the site area. It is appreciated that there is emphasis on the fact that steps must be taken to alleviate the traffic congestion in Rothwell town centre and this must remain a priority as the situation is very difficult now and it is feared it will be intolerable unless remedial action is taken. We would remind you that some years ago there was a proposal to alter the road priorities on the B576 around the High Street/Fox Street junction and perhaps this could be re-visited as a project for the s.106 monies. Could you also confirm that it is intended to have traffic lights at the B576 junction with the new strategic link road and this will be included.

(2) There is one alteration to the document which the Town Council would like made now, and that is to the last sentence in paragraph 10.87 which should read -The creation of the new A6 junction will take place before the development is commenced and all construction traffic will use the A6 and the route of the strategic link road into the sites.”

It was AGREED that Councillors Mills and Sumpter will represent the Town Council at the Examination and the Clerk will expand on the original comments in time to send these in before the deadline of 30th October 2015 and will get the statement approved by the Town Mayor and Councillors Mills and Sumpter before they it is submitted.

76 HIGHWAYS

Hedge, Harrington Road

We had received a reply from KierWSP that they do not have the funds to remove the trees here as well as cutting the hedge back.

The Green, Glendon Road

The low wall around this grassed area in front of the Borough Council houses in Glendon Road had been damaged and the Town Council had asked if it could be removed. A reply has been received from John Conway, the Borough Head of Housing, that they will arrange for this low wall to be repaired, which will involve rebuilding a small part as the rest is in a fairly good condition.

As to levelling the grassed area, this would be a complex and costly undertaking as there are two well-established trees on the green and a marker indicating water pipes at the front. The access road to the workshops, garages and shop goods entrance is quite wide and the minimum width around the location of the damage is about 5m. Given that there is ample manoeuvring space, Mr Conway does not think there is a case for undertaking more extensive work in this location at this time.

Highways Community Liaison

An E-mail had been received that there is now to be a Customer and Communities Team with the north of the County being dealt with by Sarah Barnwell, Ian Boyes and Phil Donaldson.

77 MATTERS OF BUSINESSCommunity Fund

An E-mail had been received from Guy Holloway about the Borough Community Fund for grants of between £500 and £2,500 to local Town and Parish Councils and local community organisations. It was AGREED to circulate this information.

Standards Advisory Committee

A letter had been received from the Borough Council that two vacancies have arisen within the membership of the Standards Advisory Committee for members of a Town or Parish Council in the Borough. No Councillor was able to apply for this.

78 FINANCIAL REPORTGeneral Statement

The Clerk submitted a written statement as attached. It was MOVED by Councillor Sumpter, SECONDED by Councillor Mills 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>
Ricoh UK Ltd (Pd. 18.9.15)	Printer/Copier Maintenance	24.78
T C Partnership (Pd. 18.9.15)	Grant for live music	410.00
Mrs C E Mackay	Clerk's Salary	597.80
Rothwell Preservation Trust	Part cost of Market House Insurance	1000.00
BDO LLP	External Audit Fee	240.00
Inter County Cleaning Services	Cleaning the Market House	37.20
Cash	Petty Cash	50.00

Annual Return

The Clerk reported that the external audit had been completed by BDO LLP and there were no matters which required them to issue a separate additional issues arising report. The notice of conclusion of audit had been put in the Library. The Annual Return duly signed on behalf of BDO LLP was available at this Meeting for inspection and approval.

It was MOVED by Councillor Jelley, SECONDED by Councillor Davis and RESOLVED that the Annual Return was approved by the Town Council.

Budget Meeting

It is essential to hold a budget meeting soon to consider the likely expenses and decide on the amount of precept it will be necessary to raise in order to inform the Borough Council of this before the end of January 2016. It was AGREED that the budget meeting will be held at 7.30 pm on Monday, 16th November 2015.

The Meeting closed at 9.33 pm.

Chairman

Date