

ROTHWELL TOWN COUNCIL

A Meeting of Rothwell Town Council was held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday, 10th October 2017 in the Market House, Market Hill, Rothwell.

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Councillor C W Cross Councillor M E Cox Councillor Mrs C M Brown Councillor R V Davis Councillor T M Goodwin Councillor I F Jelley Councillor T Morrissey Councillor K D Sumpter Councillor Mrs M E Talbot	<u>Town Mayor</u>
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390 PRAYERS

The Revd Canon John Westwood was present at the Meeting and said Prayers and mentioned the Harvest Festival and those who work on the land. There are also to be the new homes to be built at Rothwell North.

391 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Councillors Newman, Spendlove and Wilson.

392 COMMUNITY POLICING

General Report/Crime Figures

We had received the crime figures for October and these were considered. We had also been notified that Robert Offord is the new Police Sergeant for the Safer Community Team in this area. Sgt Scott Little is staying in the area but moving into a new role.

High Street CCTV Camera

An E-mail had been received from a lady who runs a small business in the High Street that the CCTV camera next to the War Memorial had been changed from a normal surveillance camera to an ANPR for number plate recognition when the A6 bypass was closed. In the High Street area there are a number of small shops and the bus stop, as well as Squires Hill and the entrance to Manor Park. This area is now no longer under surveillance although it is a hotspot for crime and she would be grateful if the camera could be changed back for the safety and security of the businesses and the members of the public.

None of the Councillors were aware that this camera had been changed to an ANPR and it was PROPOSED by Councillor Mrs Talbot and AGREED to contact Michael Chester at the Borough Council and ask if this CCTV could be put back to a normal surveillance camera.

Local Policing Priorities

Local people had been asked by the Police what their policing priorities were and these had been identified as speeding, parking and criminal damage. These are also the issues which are raised most often at the Town Council and so these were agreed.

393 MINUTES

It was MOVED by Councillor Mrs Talbot, SECONDED by Councillor Davis and RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th September 2017 be confirmed and signed.

394 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr Robert Gibson would like to set up a Speed Watch system in Rothwell as these are in many other towns and villages in the area. He would be prepared to act as Co-ordinator and this is now all done through a local Committee system. The Town Council looked at this previously but could not get a sufficient number of volunteers and there also needs to be training. County Councillor Hakewill said the more volunteers the better it is and this works well in other areas. Mr Gibson had a copy of a poster which he could circulate and Councillor Hakewill said there are also signs to put up and the County Council will identify areas which are suitable as there are restrictions on safety grounds. Volunteers just make a note of the vehicle make and registration number and the driver will get a letter. After three incidents a Police Officer will visit the driver. Councillor Hakewill would also be prepared to in Rothwell. Councillor Mrs Brown thought this was worth exploring again. Previously you had to get a lot of residents signed up but this is no longer a requirement. The Police will decide whether or not this can be carried out. The Town Council needs to E-mail on headed paper to Northamptonshire Community Speed Watch for the attention of Mr Gary Wright, and let him know that Robert Gibson has offered to work as the Co-ordinator.

It was MOVED by Councillor Sumpter, SECONDED by Councillor Jelley and RESOLVED that the Town Council will contact Community Speed Watch.

It Was FURTHER AGREED to E-mail the new Sergeant to ask if the local Police still have the speed gun as provided to Desborough.

395 REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

(1) Councillor Hakewill said the emergency lay-by on the A14 is being observed. He is working with the County Council and Mr Rick Hill about the 7.5 tonne signs as Fox Street and Harrington Road were omitted from these. There would need to be a Road Traffic Order for a 7.5 tonne limit, including at the end of Harrington Road and these measures would mean the weight limit was thought the whole of Rothwell town centre. If the County Council would do this, perhaps the Town Council could fund the Order. He is still working on this.

(2) The new County Council building is now open and having all the departments in the same building saves a lot of money.

(3) The County Council is also getting in touch with the Government about funding for Social Care as there is mainly a problem because of the cut in the funding from the Government.

(4) As to Rothwell North, Councillor Hakewill is going to the next Meeting of this Working Party and he felt we should not give up trying to make sure none of the construction traffic goes through the town centre. He has spoken to the Persimmon Managing Director and perhaps the Working Party could monitor this. He is still trying to get the funding and will get back in due course.

It was felt that even if it was only a track for the construction traffic, it would be better than nothing but there would still need to be facilities such as those for washing the vehicles. Councillor Hake said it is up to the Borough Planning Department to ensure this road was put in at an early stage.

396 ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITYBlythe Close Play Area

Councillor Mrs Brown referred to the remedial work needed to the skateboard ramp to stop water coming up here and said this will be done during the winter months. She asked if we still want to have a couple of pieces of outdoor gym equipment and this was AGREED.

Air Quality

The data for August had now been received from the Borough Council and that for RW1 at the Bridge Street/High Street junction was 43.4, and that from the monitor on the Post Office was 32.7. As these readings were for August, this is still before the A6 bypass was re-opened.

Bench, Market Hill

The Clerk reported that the seat in front of the Chinese Takeaway has now been repaired and replaced.

Public Toilets

The Clerk had written to the Borough Council to see if they would take back responsibility for the maintenance of the public toilets. Councillor Mrs Brown said this was discussed at the Borough Council two weeks ago and she has asked for Rothwell to be put back on the Community Toilets Scheme. There are quite a few premises in Kettering which have joined up to this and the best way to get businesses involved is to ask if people would be prepared to join but some only want their own customers to use their toilets. The Borough Council has not yet come back about re-opening the public toilets.

Community Centre

An E-mail had been received from Malcolm Jones regarding the Youth Club which was meeting in the Community Centre and the lack of storage there and this was circulated prior to this Meeting. He referred to the s.106 money from the development on the former Football Club Site which should be paid to the Borough Council after a certain occupancy and which could be used to build an extension to the Community Centre. Councillor Mrs Brown had raised this with Rob Harbour and received a reply on his behalf as follows:-

“The £120,000 contribution is triggered at 1st occupation, which will be invoiced once we receive confirmation of the first occupation. We do not have any records of occupations on this site, in our last correspondence with Home Group they expected the first occupations to take place on site in November 2017, we have contacted Home Group asking for an update but have been unable to speak to the project manager before the deadline for replying to your enquiry.

We can update you once we have a response, if this is different to the expected November date. The developer has 28 days to pay the invoice, therefore barring unforeseen circumstances or a change in dates for the first occupation, we would expect the contribution to be paid to Kettering Borough Council by the end of 2017. The wording in the Agreement states that the contribution will be spent on ‘improvements to Well Lane Recreation Ground to provide new changing rooms, additional storage, drainage improvements to existing football pitch, upgrade of footpaths to football pitch and improved accessibility.

Once the payment has been received, Public Services will be informed and will be looking to plan a series of improvements at Rothwell Community Centre and the wider recreation ground site. This will include building an extension for more storage at the centre, freeing up the

changing rooms and showers which are currently being used as extra storage facilities. We will then look to make changes on the football pitch to improve the drainage and pitch quality and are working with Northants FA on a long term plan to improve all the pitches within the Borough (including at Rothwell Recreation Ground). This may need some extra funding and this Section 106 contribution will help towards finding match funding for the project. Once the match funding has been sourced, the improvements will be added into the work programme for that financial year. Kettering Borough Council will continue to work with Rothwell Town Council, current users of the centre and local residents to influence the design work for the recreation ground in line with the wording within the S106 Agreement.

It is difficult to set timescales until the contribution has been received and the match funding has been sourced, however Public Services is working towards that goal and will update Rothwell Town Council and the project progresses. Under the terms of the Section 106 Agreement, Kettering Borough Council has ten years from receipt of payment of the contribution to spend the full amount.”

Councillor Mrs Brown had also spoken to Mr Dave Lane and he confirmed they do expect the money in fairly soon to improve the facilities at the Community Centre and the path to the football pitch to bring this up to the league standard. Bovis said they will do the landscaping and the pathways and once these are completed the Borough Council will build the path to Hawkins Close. There is some other s.106 money they can call on and they want to have some money for the play areas. The Borough Council thinks it will be about two years before the work is completed. It was asked if there could be some containers for storage next to the Community Centre in the meantime and it was AGREED to put this request to Mr Lane.

An E-mail had been received from Mark Evan, the Lead Coach for the Kettering Cycling Club ‘Cyclones’ for children that they often use the Community Centre on a Monday evening when they have 30+ children of all ages between 7.00 and 8.00 pm. At the present time the lighting in the Recreation Ground is poor so they have needed to invest in portable light equipment which is not very convenient and only gives them a small area for three age groups. Lighting the top areas and the MUGA would open up many coaching options all year round. They have funding for rollers which would allow the young people to cycle inside the Community Centre when the weather is bad but there is no storage for this. They have used the bottom wooded area in summer and have had this cut back but understand that there used to be more paths which are now well overgrown in the bottom right corner and they wondered if this could be restored which would benefit their Club and also local children. It was AGREED to send this to Mr Lane and ask if these comments could be taken into account to make this area more accessible for cyclists as well as the dog walkers.

Skateboard Ramp

Councillor Mrs Brown said this had sprung a leak and water has been coming up through the joints in the concrete which has made it difficult to use. The manufacturers will be coming out to deal with this and make a soakaway to put this right. We could possibly then consider an official opening for the skateboard ramp.

Street Names

It was mentioned that Butch Jay and Patsy Wallis have both passed away recently and there has been talk about a memorial for them, perhaps with a bench in Well Lane Recreation Ground. The Clerk pointed out that there is already Wallis House (formerly Orton House) in Harrington Road which is a children’s home. It was suggested the Town Council could consider these names for Rothwell North.

Historic England

An E-mail had been received to point out that the number of full-time historic environment advisers has fallen by 36% since 2006. It was AGREED that the Town Council was not able to take any action on this issue.

397 PLANNINGNotifications

The following Approvals had been received:-

- KET/2017/0582 78 Columbus Crescent – Fence to extend garden area.
 KET/2017/0588 2 Vickers Close – Certificate of Lawfulness for replacement windows and doors.
 KET/2017/0624 120 Connolly Drive – Extensions.

In addition, notification of an Appeal against the refusal of permission for two semi-detached houses on land between Nos. 20 and 24 Underwood Road. Application KET/2017/0619 by McDonalds for a 8m totem had been withdrawn and this will now be retained at the existing height of 6m.

Applications

- KET/2017/0689 29 Moorfield Road – Side and rear extensions.
 No objection.
 KET/2017/0740 45 Harrington Road – Rear extensions.
 No objection.
 KET/2017/0762 The Haybarn, Glendon Hill Farm – Change of use from agricultural to keeping horses, including stables, lean-to and horse-walker.
 No objection.
 KET/2017/0764 6 Gibbons Drive – Front extension.
 No objection.

Rothwell North

Copies of the Rothwell North Working Party meeting held on 20th September 2017 had been circulated prior to this Meeting for information.

Rothwell Parish Plan

Copies of the preliminary draft Parish Plan had been circulated prior to this Meeting. It was AGREED to put this item on the agenda for the consideration at the November Meeting.

Old Bakehouse

Councillor Mrs Brown referred to the image painted on the gates of this property leading to the rear and said she had received a couple of complaints about this so she has asked Gavin Ferries to inspect to see if any action needs to be taken.

Cecil Street Development

Gavin Ferries had inspected this area to look at the parking of construction vehicles on the street and it was AGREED there is no problem at the present time.

398 HIGHWAYSWeight Limit Signs

The query raised by Mr Richard Hill was reported at the September Meeting about the 7.5 tonne weight limit signs at the A14 junction with the B669. An E-mail had now been received from Highways England, with a copy of their reply to Mr Hill. As an addition, Mr Mason of Highways England has been informed that the “weight Limit ½ mile” sign is still in place but is overgrown. These signs, within the local authority network, appear to contradict each other which will also add to the confusion for drivers leaving the roundabout and the signage on the local authority network could possibly be improved. Until this is clarified, it would be incorrect to put the weight restriction on the sign approaching junction 4 of the A14. County Councillor Jim Hakewill is looking at this issue.

Pedestrian Crossings

A reply had been received from Ian Boyes, our Highways Community Liaison Officer, that they frequently have requests to upgrade existing zebra crossings to signalled facilities. The cost of the upgrade is around £80,000 per site, so this would only be considered in exceptional circumstances. He appreciated these crossings are on busy pedestrian routes but due to the nature of the road layout, the bend on the High Street and the mini-roundabout at the bottom of Desborough Road, the speed of vehicles approaching these crossings will be fairly low. The introduction of signalled facilities can actually lead to an increase in vehicle speeds as drivers are given the ‘green light’ to proceed rather than at a zebra crossing that would be approached by drivers with more caution as they look out for pedestrians. With the re-opening of the A6 bypass traffic patterns should now have returned to previous levels and hopefully with less traffic there will be fewer impatient drivers using this route and who will be more respectful to pedestrians wishing to cross. As to the overgrown vegetation obscuring the beach at the bottom of Desborough Road, he will pass this to his colleague who looks after this issue

399 STORAGE, MARKET HOUSE

There are many items in the ground floor storage area which could be got rid of, including the old Minutes which Northamptonshire Archives said they would take but someone will need to deliver these. At present it is not possible to get access to the storage cupboard and there is the electricity cable and the lights which were used for the Gala but Councillor Cox said they are having LED lights for the stalls and they could put these old cables in the Coach House. It was AGREED that Members of the Town Council will look at the items the following weekend. It was thought the Borough Council would take away any items for recycling or disposal.

400 FINANCIAL REPORTGeneral Statement

The Clerk submitted a written 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>
BDO LLP (Paid 22.9.17)	External Audit	240.00
Mrs C E Mackay	Clerk’s Salary	633.40
Northamptonshire County Council	Cycle Rack	3084.46

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Goods or Services</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Inter County Cleaning Services	Cleaning Market House	44.40
Cash	Petty Cash	30.00

Audit of Accounts

The Clerk reported that the Audit for the year ended 31st March 2017 had been completed. It was **MOVED** by Councillor Sumpter, **SECONDED** by Councillor Morrissey and **RESOLVED** that the Annual Return including the Certificate from BDO has been approved and accepted by the Town Council.

401 RETIREMENT OF CLERK

Copies of the amended notice of the vacancy for the Rothwell Town Clerk had been circulated prior to this Meeting and this was approved. The Clerk will now have this notice circulated and copies sent to NCALC, the Borough Council, Rothwell and Kettering Libraries and put on the website, as well on the notice board. It was **AGREED** that the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors Cox and Morrissey would form the Working Party to consider any applications.

402 MATTERS OF REPORT

- (1) The Clerk had details of the Kettering Civic Ball for Councillors.
- (2) It was confirmed that the Remembrance Sunday Service would take place at 12.00 noon on Sunday, 12th November and the Clerk asked how many Town Councillors would be able to attend the small reception after the Service.

The Meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.

Chairman

Date