

ROTHWELL TOWN COUNCIL

A Meeting of Rothwell Town Council was held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday, 8th September 2015 in the Market House, Market Hill, Rothwell.

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs C M Brown Town Mayor
 Councillor C W Cross
 Councillor R V Davis
 Councillor I F Jelley
 Councillor K D Sumpter
 Councillor Mrs M E Talbot
 Councillor R Wilson

 County Councillor J Hakewill

55 PRAYERS

Before the business of the Council commenced, the Revd Canon John Westwood said Prayers and mentioned the work of the Town Council and gave thanks for the Queen, now our longest reigning monarch.

56 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Councillors Cox, Goodwin, Mills, Newman and Spendlove.

57 COMMUNITY POLICING

General Report

Sgt Scott Little was present at the Meeting and confirmed there were 20 reported crimes during August, as follows:-

- Burglary dwelling – 2
- Burglary other – 1
- Criminal damage – 2
- Other offences – 1
- Sexual offences – 1
- Theft/handling – 2
- Violence offences – 11.

In August last year there were 53 offences compared with 20 this year, and there were 40 in July 2105. A number of the violence crimes were domestic offences and also two people in McDonalds, which is counted in the Rothwell figures. The extra patrols seem to have worked in connection with parking on the A14 lay-by. They have been up there nearly every day to give out tickets and have written to Highways England. They have also put some temporary signs up. The Police will continue with their enforcement if this gets bad again.

Councillor Cross asked how double yellow lines affected deliveries and Sgt Little confirmed that drivers do have an exemption if they are actually making a delivery, but the police can consider obstruction if there is an alternative place to park. Even if delivering they cannot park on the pavement.

Councillor Jelley reported that some new people seem to have moved into a house in Glendon Road, opposite Columbus Crescent, and they park two cars and a large red van in Glendon Road itself and he wondered if the Police could look at this.

There have been two serious accidents in this area and the Town Mayor said that the Borough Council had given permission for people living in Glendon Road to park in their car park off Columbus Crescent. The Police will give the necessary advice.

It was reported that there was a gold-coloured BMW on bricks and Sgt Little said this has gone. There was also a metallic blue Vauxhall Corsa in the Co-op car park for some time and they will also look at this.

A resident reported that the bus shelter outside the Library has been vandalised but has not been repaired yet: this was repaired a few days after the Meeting. The resident also said that on Monday lunchtime there was a motorcyclist speeding through the town without wearing a helmet but she did not have any details to pass on to the Police. Sgt Little said people can always telephone 101 about speeding vehicles.

58 MINUTES

The Town Mayor said that Councillor Spendlove's apologies had not been noted. Subject to this addition, it was **MOVED** by Councillor Sumpter, **SECONDED** by Councillor Cross and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th August 2015 be confirmed and signed.

59 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

(1) Monday Market: Jillian Coleman said this is declining and two people have left because they are not making a profit. Councillor Wilson said the Lord of the Manor and her Bailiff organise this. Councillor Sumpter had some names from people who went to the Thrapston market and he will give these to Councillor Mills.

(2) Flytipping: Ms Coleman said some items have been dumped opposite Slade Valley Avenue and she was advised that people can telephone the Borough Customer Services number on 01536 410333 as soon as they see this.

(3) Library Garden: Ms Coleman said this is full of weeds and the Clerk thought this was extra to the work to plant it up but he goes when he can and she saw someone working there in the last few days.

(4) Damaged bollard: there is a bollard down at the bottom of Tresham Street but there is now a cone over this so it will have been reported. Councillor Hakewill said if anyone sees damage like this and can get the number of the vehicle which caused the problem they can report this because otherwise it is the County Council which has to pay for this.

(5) Town Plan: Margaret Harris said that in Milton Keynes some development was proposed but the Local Plan stopped some undesirable elements and she wondered what was happening with the Rothwell Town Plan. Councillor Mrs Talbot is going through the questionnaires and as soon as these are collated into the correct form, she will contact a group called Locality, and Julia Baish at the Borough Council is also going to help progress this.

(6) Sport England: Mrs Harris asked about progress on the Sport England project off Gladstone Street. Councillor Jelley, as Chairman of the Primary School Governing Body, confirmed that the planned sports hall project has been shelved but the funds for this will be retained for Rothwell. County Councillor Hakewill said the plan had taken so long because they wanted to reach agreement on the following:

- Not to use Gladstone Street but to go along Cecil Street
- The builders compound to be moved and both these were agreed with the developers

- As benefits for the people living in Gladstone Street and the School it was agreed to have a turning space.

The money is still allocated towards creating a two-form entrance school at Montsaye where there is already the sports facility so this will be for the young people in the town. He could not guarantee that there would be an extra sports hall on the Montsaye site. Councillor Jelley said the Junior School has agreed to leave their car park open during the evenings and at weekends for the Gladstone Street residents to use.

(7) Skateboard Ramp: Rachel Joyce, one of the parents, asked about the preferred option for the skateboard ramp. It was explained that the Town Council had seen about seven different designs and it was felt the one for £35,000 was the most reasonable and this would be affordable, and also the most environmental in terms of noise etc. The good news is that there is funding available but this project will have to go through the Borough Council's procedures. There has to be three different companies to quote for this but the Borough is working on this. The Town Mayor and Councillor Mills had a good meeting with Pia Bellamy and Dave Lane at the Borough. There is about £50,000 already but Mrs Joyce had wanted something a bit bigger than this. It was confirmed there is also to be a multi-use games area in Well Lane Recreation Ground as well. There could be objections to a larger skateboard ramp but concrete should be quieter than the existing wooden ramp. There is also something going up in the new leisure park in Desborough.

Some of the young people were also present at the Meeting and they said there are a lot of different riders and the preferred option is not suitable for every type of rider, but they have found something which would be better and should cost around the same as the one from Concrete and they will let the Clerk have the details. With the Borough procedures we have to get more than one quote in any event.

Mrs Joyce had thought we could get a grant from Mick George and she will contact them about possible grants. The lights for the skateboard ramp have not been fixed yet and the Clerk will chase this. The existing ramp is now in a very poor condition but this is still usable, and the young people will let the Town Council know if it becomes worse.

60 REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

- (1) Travellers: there was a single caravan in the old Lamport Road but by the time he had reported this it had gone. There will be new legislation about travellers having to be genuine and not just on a static site.
- (2) Road from the A6 bypass to the B576: Councillor Hakewill is keeping an eye on this.
- (3) Street Lights: this issue has gone quiet and now 85% of the County budget goes towards elderly people and children in care, particularly with the possibility of immigrant children coming to this area.
- (4) Hedge, Glendon Road: Councillor Cross said this has not been cut back yet but the Clerk had received confirmation that a ticket had been issued for the work, but we do not have a date yet and it was felt it could be up to three months.

There are also trees within this hedge and it was AGREED to ask if these can be removed and for the hedges to be cut back as much as possible: the Clerk will let Councillor Hakewill have a copy of the E-mail. They could perhaps sell the wood and there would be lower costs for maintenance in future.

61 ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITY

Skateboard Ramp

This has already been discussed earlier in the Meeting.

Police & Crime Commissioner

Copies of the Report of the Meeting with Adam Simmonds, the Police & Crime Commissioner, had been circulated prior to this Meeting. The issues discussed were as follows:-

- (1) Staffing Levels at Desborough Police Station
- (2) Combined Fire & Police Stations
- (3) Orton House
- (4) 101 Number
- (5) Parking on the A14
- (6) Travellers
- (7) Speeding through Rothwell.

It was MOVED by Councillor Mrs Talbot, SECONDED by Councillor Davis and RESOLVED that the Report be approved and adopted.

Town Centre Partnership

Copies of the Report of the Partnership Meeting held on 3rd September 2015 were available at this Meeting. It was MOVED by Councillor Wilson, SECONDED by Councillor Davis and RESOLVED that the Report be approved and adopted.

Since the Meeting Councillor Davis has had an E-mail from Paul Britton of Montsaye that there is a new Principal who is really interested in the work of the Arts & Heritage Centre and so they are meeting with the Principal as soon as possible.

The Town Mayor referred to the music in Market Hill Square, which is costing money out of the Partnership budget and they asked if the Town Council could take on paying for this. The Clerk suggested this should be dealt with in the Financial section of this Meeting and this was AGREED.

Play Equipment

The Town Mayor reported that a new roundabout has been put in the Blythe Close Play Area which is suitable for disabled children. The Bovis Play Area will also have a swing for disabled children. The Borough Council is now looking at making the Blythe Close area the first one in the country which is completely suitable for the disabled. It has also been discussed that we would like an outdoor gym and perhaps if this was also in Blythe Close then parents could use this while keeping an eye on their children. The gym would cost £12,000-£15,000, if this is approved.

The Borough Council had also said that the Town Council could take back and run the Community Centre if this was wanted. It was not thought this would be practicable at the present time.

Medical Centre

Councillor Jelley has been talking to Kevin Leigh of NHS England and asked if the Medical Centre was meeting the minimum standards, but the original agreement is rather woolly.

The Commissioning Group will be responsible for any terms of reference and they will have to work within these. He thought they might have been visited by NHS England, either by now or shortly. With the new terms of reference we now have a Patient Contact Centre and Councillor Jelley has the information for this and shared the concerns and the Practice is duty-bound to answer these queries. He explained the problems he has recently experienced in getting to speak to or see his Doctor. We do need another two Doctors here now, and there will be about 700 extra houses in Rothwell but there will be the s.106 money. Councillor Wilson said he now goes to the Medical Centre itself and gets an appointment the same day. Councillor Jelley will find out the contact details.

Street Lighting Upgrade

Councillor Mrs Talbot wondered when Balfour Beatty was going to do the town centre street lighting. It was thought this information could be obtained from the County website on Street Lighting Upgrade.

Events Publicity

Information had been received from the Borough Council that they have now created and manage a number of social media sites. There is the This is Kettering Facebook page which has 2,200 followers and is also on Twitter @KetteringBC where they promote Council related news. They are in the process of developing the this is Kettering website where it will promote places to eat, attractions to visit and accommodation providers among other things across the whole Borough. The homepage will feature the main events happening in the next three months and this is yet another opportunity to share the town events and successes. The text for the next highlights winter issue (December/January/February) is due by Friday, 25th September, along with high resolution images.

It was AGREED to let them have details about the Christmas Gala on Friday, 4th December. Councillor Mrs Talbot will E-mail St John Ambulance to arrange for them to attend, will contact the Pipe & Drum Band and also ask John Hollis if he wants to be Father Christmas again this year.

62 PLANNING

Notifications

A letter had been received from the County Council which confirmed that the application for a new sports hall at the Junior School had been withdrawn. Councillor Jelley said they are working towards getting work done at the Infant School but causing as little disturbance as possible.

The following Approvals had been received:-

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|------------------|--|
| KET/2015/300/301 | Rothwell Health Centre - Demolition of Health Centre and erection of Assisted Living Unit. |
| KET/2015/456 | 15-17 Bridge Street - Illuminated and non-illuminated signs. |

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

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|---------------|---|
| KET/2015/0638 | 94 Littlewood Street – Single storey side extension.
No objection. |
|---------------|---|

KET/2015/0640/678 Trinity Dental, Market Hill – Illuminated and non-illuminated signs. Rothwell Town Council has no objection to Nos. 2 and 3 on this application, namely the fascia panel and plaque, above and to the side of the door. However, Rothwell Town Council does object strongly to No.3 which is the large advertisement on the side/gable end of this building as this is visually intrusive and inappropriate in this area of Market Hill which is in the Conservation Area and between the two Grade I Listed Buildings of the Market House and the Parish Church, but the Town Council could accept a non-illuminated sign of similar size and appearance to the fascia above the door if this was lower down on the building.

KET/2015/0664 Woodland Hospital – Replacement portacabin.
No objection.

Councillor Mrs Talbot had spoken to Majors Richard and Pauline Cook and they have still not received Approval for the extension of hours at 9 Bridge Street. It was AGREED the Clerk will contact the Officer dealing with this and ask when a decision will be made as the Town Council fully supports this.

Neighbourhood Plan

This issue was been discussed earlier in the Meeting.

List of Applications

The Clerk had received an E-mail from the Borough Council that they are reviewing the distribution of its weekly list of planning applications and asked if any names needed to be added or removed from the list of recipients. It was AGREED that only the Clerk need receive this list, especially as the Borough Councillors receive this automatically.

63 HIGHWAYS

Lorries Parking on the A14

An E-mail dated 7th September 2015 had been received from Matt Read, the Area Asset Manager for Highways England, as follows:-

“Just to confirm what we spoke about last week. I am fully aware of the issues at Rothwell and have visited the location(s) on several occasions.

We are currently looking at solutions to remedy the issues. So for the service area we are looking to install bollards along the footpath from the entry taper, right through until the exit taper. In addition, we will aim to install temporary survey cameras to monitor the site, post completion of the works. For your information, I attach a scheme drawing of the proposed solution. We are also about to start a survey on-site, speaking to drivers to establish the nature of their stop, origin, destination and views on alternative parking. I think it is important to establish why this problem persists - not just here but throughout the County.

Unfortunately, at the moment, I cannot give a definitive date when these works will be delivered. This is because any proposed scheme on the network is subject to funding availability and needs to be considered in context with similar issues on our network. However, this scheme is to be discussed again at an internal appraisal meeting at the beginning of November. By then, we will have the survey results and should have a better idea of when this scheme can be funded and therefore delivered.

With regards to the lay-by, I am hopeful that this will be a quicker win. The options here include hatching the lay-by but retaining it as an emergency provision or simply close the lay-by. Either solution will require a Traffic Regulation Order which can take several weeks to execute. I am currently discussing the best and quickest way forward with our Orders Team, and will hopefully have a definitive way forward shortly.

I hope this email gives you re-assurance that Highways England is pro-actively looking to rectify the problems at Rothwell. As we discussed on the phone, I am more than happy to attend any future meetings or provide updates when required.

As soon as I have any further information, I will be in touch.”

Road Closures

Notifications had been received of the road closures in Oxford Street for drainage works on 24th September. There will also be a road closure in Harrington Road, on the far side of junction 3 of the A14, between 6th and 15th October to install a new water main.

Rushton Road

Councillor Wilson referred to the Site Meeting in Rushton Road regarding the speed of traffic there, and the Highways Officers did say they would consider whether a zebra crossing could be put in there between Littlewood Street and Cecil Street. It was AGREED to write and ask if a decision has been made on this yet.

Footpath, Market Hill

It was reported that the footpath outside Tesco's has been damaged by a truck. It was AGREED this should be reported to Street Doctor.

Slabs, Market Hill

An E-mail had been received from a resident that on 26th August she fell outside the café next to the Conservative Club due to the uneven surface. The resident had said that she would also write to explain but no letter had been received. The Clerk had inspected and could not see a slab which was very uneven but one was filled with tarmac so this could have been the repair. It was AGREED to reply that as no letter had been received it was assumed no action needed to be taken.

64 MATTERS OF BUSINESS

Library Garden

The Clerk confirmed that a 'signed for' letter had been sent to Mr Tibbles, but no reply had been received. Councillor Sumpter said that the Borough Council has a lot of tulip bulbs and he will ask if we can have some for this garden.

65 FINANCIAL REPORT

General 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>
Mrs C E Mackay	Clerk's Salary	£597.80
HM Revenue & Customs	Income Tax (3months)	£222.80
Rowell Fair Society	Refund from Borough for printing	£79.20
Inter County Cleaning Services	Cleaning Market House	£37.20
Mrs C E Mackay	Reimbursement for virus remover	£38.40
Cash	Petty Cash	£20.00

Town Centre Partnership

The Partnership has had two sessions by jazz bands and three by Barry Hale in Market Hill on Saturday mornings, and the total cost to the Partnership was £820. The Partnership did not feel they could afford to do this and thought the Town Council should pay for all of these. It was wondered if there could be piped music instead of live entertainment as this would be cheaper.

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Mrs Talbot, **SECONDED** by Councillor Wilson and **RESOLVED** that the Town Council would give the Partnership a grant of £410, which is half the total cost.

Councillor Cox had suggested that the Town Council could pay for the website upgrade to the Town Council entries. It was thought the Borough Council was still holding some of the money for the BID Scheme to pay Mo Aswat for setting up the Rothwell Today website, but he never finished this. It was **AGREED** to write to Guy Holloway and Collette Lilley to ask if the Partnership could have these monies to be put towards the rothwelltown.co.uk website upgrade.

66 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.