

## ROTHWELL TOWN COUNCIL

A Meeting of Rothwell Town Council was held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday, 13th December 2005 in the Market House, Market Hill, Rothwell.

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Councillor A C Pote Councillor C W Cross Councillor D W Jones Councillor N A Matthew Councillor M W Spendlove Councillor Mrs M E Talbot Councillor D A Whyte (8.10 pm)	<u>In the Chair</u>
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### 370 CHAIR

In the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair, it was MOVED by Councillor Spendlove, SECONDED by Councillor Cross and RESOLVED that Councillor Pote should take the Chair for this Meeting

### 371 PRAYERS

Before the business of the Council commenced, the Revd Canon George Burgon said Prayers, including for all families and the Christmas events in the town. He also mention those residents who had recently died.

### 372 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Councillors Mrs Brown, Weston, Mrs Weston and Whitlam.

### 373 COMMUNITY POLICING

There was no Police Officer present, although we had hoped that Sgt Kevin Burton would be here, as he is returning as our Police Sergeant. We can, however, pass on any queries from the members of the public. It was reported that a car has been left in Cross Street for some time with a flat tyre. It was AGREED to report this.

Another resident wanted to ask the Police why there are so many cars parked half on the footpath. She has a mobility scooter and has damaged three whilst trying to get past on the pavement. She lives in Gladstone Street and had to go up in the middle of the road because she could not use the pavement and she would like to know if the Police are going to do anything about this. This also occurs in School Lane and Castle Hill, as well as other areas of the town. The Town Council will pass these comments on. She is also worried that the situation will get worse with the proposed 15 flats at the old Rifle Band Club. It was explained that there is to be underground parking there and the Town Council did object to the number of units on this Planning Application. We asked them to make Castle Hill one way from Gladstone Street to Tresham Street so that no vehicles would turn right out of the car park. Councillor Pote had arranged a Site Meeting with the Borough Development Control Manager about the traffic situation there, but they did not agree with us. They are to make the road and footpath a little wider here.

A resident of Glendon Road said the children are still using cameras by the seat there.

Councillor Cross asked if we had heard anything about the Desborough Road Garage, but we had not yet had a reply. Councillor Jones said that just after our last Meeting most of the vehicles went but last week they were back again. He has not heard anything further from the residents and so this is his own observation. Councillor Cross had also heard that it was better here but when the cricket season starts again, there will be problems with obstruction of their gates.

Councillor Spendlove referred to the lists of all the crimes in the town but most of these are undetected. This is because the lists are sent out just after the crimes are reported so not much time has elapsed. We were promised a Police presence at the Meetings and Councillor Matthew was disappointed that no-one has come to this one.

Councillor Mrs Talbot would like to record our thanks to PC O'Hara for attending our Meetings when he can, either in uniform or even when he is off duty. She asked for an update about the ASBOs which affected Rothwell so that we could know about these but we have not received any information. Councillor Pote thought there were three in our area. He would also like to thank the Police for covering the Gala Evening, so we should mention this to Sgt Burton.

#### 374 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

(1) Christmas Lights: Mr West thought these were the best ever this year and he appreciated the fact that we were expanding them to Squires Hill. It was explained that we would like to put more there, but this will depend on finances.

(2) Bus Shelters: we have new ones by Fox Street and in Desborough Road, but there is still not a shelter in front of the Library. The Clerk explained that the County Council had funded a project to improve the bus stops on the Service 19 route which included the new shelters. When we were notified of the scheme, she had asked if this could be extended to Service 17/18 so that there could be a shelter in Market Hill. She had recently met the Borough Engineering Assistant on site to ask again about whether we could have a shelter in front of the Library but he felt there was limited space. The cost would be about £5,000 including the shelter itself, the base and installation. He was concerned that there are also a lot of the Utilities' pipes and wires in the area so it just may not be possible. The area towards the Library is on a slope and so the shelter could not go there but it might be possible to put one towards the edge of the pavement. The Clerk had given him the details of the County Officer who arranged the improvements to the Service 19 stops to see if he has any finance left to extend the scheme to Service 17/18.

Councillor Jones did not accept any of those explanations because if they really wanted to put a shelter there, they could do so. At present both the seats are missing so elderly people have to stand in the rain to wait for the shuttle bus. He felt there was plenty of room there and this is a well-used bus stop. He thought we had been offered a shelter for this area, but the Clerk said this was not so, as the only one available at the time was too large. A resident said there was a leaflet about the improvements which gave a telephone number which she telephoned but they said there were no more shelters in the pipeline for Rothwell.

It was AGREED to pursue this through the County Council rather than the Borough, especially as Mr Chapman, the previous Borough Engineer, is not being replaced.

(3) Removable Bollards: Mr West said these have still not been put in. It was AGREED to chase this again.

(4) Spencer Street: a resident said one of the Town Councillors said the letter about the state of this street was stupid, but the situation there is still very bad. The person who wrote the letter was Brenda Chambers who used to live at No.68. she came to stay one night with a friend and was disgusted at the area.

It was explained that it is the Borough who has to take action not the Town Council, but in any event sending a letter to the Evening Telegraph is not the way to get a response from the Borough because they would need a letter direct. We did have a walkabout in Spencer Street recently with the Borough Head of Housing and he should be reporting back to us in the New Year to explain any progress.

(5) A14: a resident asked if the next time the A14 is re-surfaced we could have the surface which makes less noise. We understand that it is now standard practice that every time there is re-surfacing they will use this better surface. It was AGREED we will try and confirm this.

(6) Planning Applications: a resident asks who inspects to check that any building work is carried out according to the Planning Approval. There are Enforcement Officers who look at this. Residents can telephone the Borough Planning Department and ask them to inspect if it is felt work is not being done as it should, and it is better to do this earlier rather than to leave it until the work is completed.

(7) Minutes: Mr Baines-Davies said there is no reference to the conversation he had with the Town Council and the comments Mrs West had said about the Town Council not discussing the seat in Glendon Road. This was never discussed at the October Meeting and he did not feel we had followed the proper procedure. The Clerk explained that this was not minuted because his perception was incorrect. There was a written Report of the Site Meeting so Members were fully aware of the issues and there was no need to discuss them unless anyone disagreed or wished to raise additional points. Sometimes the Reports state the decision which has already been made, but on this occasion those at the Site Meeting decided they should make a recommendation which would need to be approved by the full Town Council and this was done. If a resident wishes to make a comment on any item on the Agenda, they should do this under the section of 'Questions from the Public' but when Mr Baines-Davies pointed out that he would like to speak, the Town Council willingly suspended Standing Orders so that he could put forward his comments at that stage of the Meeting.

The decision made by the Town Council is now subject to the six-month rule so it will not be discussed again until after that time. If the resident is concerned, he should speak to the Police. Mr Baines-Davies wanted an assurance that the seat will be moved eventually but it was not possible to give this.

He also felt we should get a bus shelter in front of the Library and perhaps the young people will sit there instead.

(8) Play Facilities in Rothwell: Mr Baines-Davies said these facilities are very poor and we should be applying for money to improve these either from the Lottery or the Borough Council. We should tell Kettering that we are a town in our own right and we should demand the same services as they get. It was explained that we are due to get some more play equipment in the area of the Well Lane Recreation Ground in connection with the development off Jubilee Street. As to consultation with residents as to what would be going in there, we are not certain what form this will take but the Town Council is due to have a Meeting with the Borough and the equipment manufacturers soon to look at this. We should get a layout which perhaps can be put in the Library. We also get some play equipment through the Borough Leisure Services Department and the equipment for the younger children has recently been renewed in the Well Lane Recreation Ground.

The resident wanted to make sure we got an all-weather pitch and the equipment was suitable for the disabled. We had previously approved a scheme which had excellent equipment, but unfortunately those manufacturers had gone out of business, so we are now starting again.

### 375 MINUTES

It was MOVED by Councillor Jones, SECONDED by Councillor Matthew and RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th October 2005 be confirmed and signed.

### 376 HIGHWAYS

#### A14 Junction 4 On-Slip

A letter had been received from Carillion-URS that they have now met with the Highways Agency and the County Council regarding this junction. The improvement scheme that was proposed by the County to reduce the approach to the roundabout from Rothwell down to one lane will not now be provided. However, they are informed that there are proposals to provide a Vehicle Actuated Sign to remind drivers if they are travelling at a speed felt to be excessive for the location. They have also been informed of a proposed development in the area between the roundabout and Rothwell which will require a right turn lane to be installed, with traffic islands, which will effectively reduce the width of the approach from Rothwell and therefore reduce the approach speeds. At this time, there is no date available for when this work will be carried out.

#### A14 Roundabouts

The Clerk had received an E-mail from Robin Matthews of the MTI, attaching one from Marketing Force Limited that the roundabouts have been inspected but they are situated quite a way from the town and in very quiet locations. They were valued at the lowest end of the scale in an attempt to gain sponsorship but unfortunately, although nearly 20 people were approached

(including those names we passed to them), no interest was shown. Therefore they would not want to add these roundabouts to their inventory. If at any time they do get a sponsor who mentions these locations, they will pass on their details to Mr Matthews.

Mr Matthews had subsequently E-mailed us that RCH Landscapes of Desborough is interested in creating and maintaining the two 'old' roundabouts at the Rothwell A14 exit, the four at Orton junction, two at Braybrooke Road and The Hermitage at the junction of the old A6 and the bypass. This will involve talking to the Highways Agency, the County and Birse, which he will do if we feel this is a viable option in the light of Marketing Force's decision not to become involved with the Rothwell/A14 roundabouts. He asked what the Town Council felt about this.

McDonalds had offered to sponsor at least one of the roundabouts, but the price Marketing Force was asking was too high. It was AGREED to ask Mr Matthews and the MTI to pursue the option of RCH Landscapes maintaining all these roundabouts.

#### Access to Cemetery

The Borough Cleansing Manager had replied that the road leading to the Cemetery is swept on a monthly cycle and the area leading to and around the Cemetery is litter picked on a 3-monthly cycle. He was to organise an additional cleanse of the area to address our concerns, and will monitor the cleanliness in future.

#### Old Lamport Road

The Clerk had received an E-mail in response to her letter about stopping up this road so that the landowners could effectively stop flytipping and people moving onto the area. It appears it would be better to apply a permanent Traffic Regulation Order prohibiting vehicular traffic. This would have the same outcome as a stopping up (i.e. the gates could remain in position and be locked ) but would have some advantages, namely:-

1. The landowners would still have rights of access so would not need to draw up private rights agreements with each other.
2. The bridge would still be maintained by the County – apparently maintenance of bridges is often a stumbling block when trying to stop up a highway.

The cost for this would be roughly £2,000, about the same as a stopping up, and these costs are usually borne by the landowner. Mr David Grindley who is dealing with the matter did speak to the landowners, but has not heard anything from them recently. The County has managed to secure some funds from the Highways Agency to pay for the stopping up of Harrington Road, Desborough and if there is a surplus when this is completed, this could be used as a contribution to the costs at the old Lamport Road, although they could not give any guarantees at this stage.

The Clerk had sent a copy of this E-mail to the landowners, and it was hoped this would help them to make some progress on this issue.

#### Dip in surface of Market Hill

As there is no longer a Borough Engineer, the Clerk had written to Atkins about the dip in the centre of Market Hill Square, which has obviously got worse recently. She had explained that we feel this is likely to be over the cellar of one of the houses which used to be in the area, and had also mentioned the deep pothole nearby which was filled with rubble some time ago, and then had tarmac put on top. Some residents felt this latter depression was likely to have been an old well connected with the former houses.

#### Temporary Road Closure

We had received notification of the closure of Loddington Road and High Street in Harrington for a resurfacing scheme. There was a plan showing the diversion route.

#### Rep's Review

Copies of the November edition of Rep's Review had been circulated, for information.

Clearing Vegetation

The Clerk had received a letter from Atkins that they now have a member of staff to deal with all reports of vegetation growing over footpaths. They asked for details of who to contact for 29 Kettering Road, and the Cricket Club and the Clerk had been able to give them this information.

Bridleway UH7

Councillor Spendlove asked if we could write to the Highways Agency regarding this bridleway on the north side of the A14. Vehicles have been coming off the carriageway onto this path. This also means that livestock, both wild and domesticated, can get onto the A14 and there is a safety issue here. It was AGREED to write about this.

Flytipping

Councillor Cross reported that more rubbish has been dumped at the far end of Violet Lane, with four refrigeration units by the gate and two others in the area. There is also an old fridge at the back of the Cemetery by the gate in Loddington Road.

It was AGREED to report these matters.

Shotwell Mill Lane

The pedestrian gate in Shotwell Mill Lane had been padlocked and Councillor Jones had raised this at the A6 Towns Forum. This should not have a lock on because it is a public right of way. The Clerk said she had been informed that the padlock and the bracket had now both been completely removed. No-one knew who had put this on, or who had removed it but there does not seem to be a problem there now.

Rushton Road

It was reported that BTS Developments have taken their equipment and it looks as though they have finished the footpath. Councillor Jones thought this had been an excellent job and they have coped with a busy area extremely well and he wished to record his thanks to them for this.

377 PLANNINGReport of the Planning Referee

Councillor Spendlove reported that the following Refusals had been received:-

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|-----------------|--|
| KET/2005/0860   | Slade Valley House, Orton Road – Change of use of agricultural building to Class B1, B2 and B8 uses. |
| KET/2005/0903   | 25 Evison Road – First floor extension.  |
| KET/2005/0908 ) | 6 The Maltings, Desborough Road – Removal of conservatory and single                                 |
| KET/2005/0909 ) | storey extension.  |

Councillor Whyte joined the Meeting at 8.10 pm.

The following Approvals had been received:-

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| KET/2005/0794 | 3 Tasman Way – Extensions and canopy.   |
| KET/2005/0810 | Land off Scott Avenue – 45 Dwellings and ancillary works.   |
| KET/2005/0872 | North Kettering Business Park, Glendon Road – Implementation of development without compliance with condition 5 of KET/2005/0254. |
| KET/2005/0887 | 101 Desborough Road – Extension.  |
| KET/2005/0888 | Land adjoining 101 Desborough Road – New dwelling.  |
| KET/2005/0905 | 50 Rushton Road – Off-road Parking.   |

The following Applications had been received and dealt with by the Deputy Planning Referees as stated:-

- KET/2005/1003      Esso Service Station, Kettering Road – Site redevelopment with new shop.  
No objection, provided none of the illuminated signs face Rothwell, i.e. on north or east of the site, and there is sufficient planting on the site.
- KET/2005/1021      Esso Service Station, Kettering Road Various signs.  
No objection, provided none of the illuminated signs face Rothwell, i.e. on north or east of the site, and there is sufficient planting on the site.
- KET/2005/1024      5 Moorfield Road – Extension.  
No objection.
- KET/2005/1050      Grange Farm, Shotwell Mill Lane – 14.9 m 6.00kw grid-linked wind turbine.  
No objection, due to the unique location of this proposed development.

The following Applications had recently been received and had been looked at by Councillor Weston, but he wanted the Town Council to also see these. Our observations were agreed as stated:-

- KET/2005/1079      46 Kettering Road – Five dwellings and garages.  
No objection.
- KET/2005/1097      Land adjoining 92 Littlewood Street – Two detached dwellings.  
No objection.
- KET/2005/1104      North Kettering Business Park – New access from Glendon Road to serve Zone A Plot 1 and revised parking.  
No objection.

### Strategic Development Area

Peter Wilkinson of Landmark Planning, who is to arrange the public consultation on the SDA had informed the Clerk that the Borough has delayed going to Committee on the Core Spatial Strategy Options until after Christmas so it has been agreed to put back the public participation in Rothwell, probably until after March. He is still intending to use the Trinity Centre and the Salvation Army.

We had received a letter from the Chairman of the Trinity Centre Committee explaining that they felt they would meet the criteria for the Growth Area Funding Bid, and copies of this letter had been circulated prior to this Meeting. We are not certain what funding will be available here, although we anticipate that there will be about £5m available for Kettering, Rothwell and Desborough. There is to be a joint bid put in by the Borough Council but it is not yet known how any funds will be allocated. It was AGREED to acknowledge the letter and explain that the Town Council will not receive any of the funding direct. If they wish, they could write to Mrs Harvey, the Borough Head of Development Services and ask for the work proposed to be carried out at the Trinity Centre to be included in any bid.

Copies of the information on the proposed merger of Catalyst Corby and North Northants Together to create a single regeneration focused delivery vehicle had been circulated prior to this Meeting. We had also received one copy of the booklet 'Preferred Options for North Northamptonshire', and Councillor Pote offered to obtain sufficient copies for each Member of the Town Council. The Borough Council recommends that we do not attend any unofficial presentation but there will be one by the Borough in January. North Northants Together is the delivery vehicle and the Joint Planning Unit has three representatives from each of the Districts in the north of the County. Councillor Whyte thought it would be sensible for the two to join. It was AGREED to put this on the Agenda for the next Meeting.

Copies of the Reports of the Meetings held on 9th and 28th November 2005 had been circulated prior to this Meeting. It was MOVED by Councillor Whyte, SECONDED by Councillor Pote and RESOLVED that the Reports be approved and adopted.

Councillor Spendlove said there are issues which arose from the Gala evening, including the source of power. It has been suggested that a power supply could be taken from the Market House for the lights, subject to permission by the Preservation Trust. Some people also felt that the Gala could be moved from Friday evening to a Sunday, to avoid some of the problems in setting up the stalls. Councillor Matthew said thanks should go to those who helped us on the day, and the Clerk confirmed that we had already written to Councillors Spendlove and Whitlam and Mr Messinger for all the extra assistance they gave when we had various problems. The Gala Committee is to arrange a Meeting in the New Year to which these three people will be invited so that they can give their advice for next year.

Residents are pleased with the Christmas lights in the town and the fact that we have extended these to the High Street area. Mrs Pote, the Treasurer of the Gala Committee had sent an interim financial report which showed that at the end of this year we should still have a good balance of approximately the same we started with, due to the extra grant of £2,500 from Central Networks which will pay for the two new sets of lights in Squires Hill. Some people feel this area is poorly lit apart from the new Christmas lights. There are the old-fashioned lamp posts and perhaps we need some more of these to make this brighter.

#### Town Centre Partnership

Copies of the Reports of the Meetings held on 22nd and 25th November 2005 had been circulated prior to this Meeting. It was MOVED by Councillor Mrs Talbot, SECONDED by Councillor Whyte and RESOLVED that the Reports be approved and adopted.

We were pleased that some of the brochures had been copied in time for the Gala Evening. The remainder will be printed shortly. We now have the two draft forms to be completed by the businesses and the voluntary organisations in the town. These were approved, apart from some minor amendments. It was AGREED to ask Mr Fillingham if he will contact the businesses if we circulate the forms to the organisations. We will include a copy of the brochure with the forms, and do the business section first.

#### New Health Centre Site

Copies of the long letter from Primary Asset had been circulated prior to this Meeting. This gave the reasons why the new Health Centre could not be put on any of the following sites:-

- Abishot Factory
- The existing Health Centre Site
- Coopers Coach Yard.

The letter also listed all the other sites which had been considered. Councillor Spendlove wondered if the Fire Station could be on the site at the top of Desborough Road and the new Health Centre on the Fire Station site. If they omitted the pharmacy at the Health Centre there should be room for this. It was AGREED to respond to Primary Asset with the following comments:-

(1) We still do not understand the hurry as the town is not due for expansion for some years. There are 3,000 residential units in the town now and there will only be 750 new units constructed with the SDA. We do not understand the references to the “wrong side of town” since any site on the edge of the town boundary would be a disadvantage to the majority of Rothwell residents, whereas a town centre site does not suffer from this, especially as the shuttle bus comes into the centre.

(2) We would be grateful if they could consider the Fire Station site, if this could be re-located to the site at the top of Desborough Road above Montsaye School.

(3) As to the Well Lane Recreation Ground site, we would be grateful if they could explain in detail the “massive abnormal development costs and highways access issues”, and perhaps even look at this area again.

(4) We are more interested in brown field sites than green field sites and still feel very strongly that the Health Centre should be in the town centre and not on an edge of town site.

(5) If the pharmacy was omitted as part of the development we feel there would be sufficient space on more than one town centre site.

(6) There is the Growth Area Funding Bid which might be able to assist with the additional costs of a town centre site, and perhaps Primary Asset could contact Mrs Cath Harvey, the Borough Head of Development Services, about this possible financial assistance, and about developer contribution towards the costs as well.

### Seats in the Town

We have already discussed the proposal to have a bus shelter in front of the Library. It was reported that both the seats have now gone from this area, so people cannot even sit down when they wait for a bus. It was AGREED to ask for these to be repaired and replaced.

The seat in Desborough Road, opposite Coopers Lane is now broken and also needs to be repaired. It was AGREED to ask for this to be done.

### Spring Gardens

There have been several break-ins at these premises and the Borough promised they would put security locks on the windows, but this has never been done. On 23rd/24th November someone tried to gain access into 3 Spring Gardens from the front but this property is alarmed so they did not get in. This tenant has met the Borough Council but we should ask why no security locks have been put on. There has been some damage to the security fence at the rear.

It was AGREED to write to the Borough Head of Housing to ask for a special Meeting as soon as possible, as promised, to let us have the report on the walkabout in Spencer Street and to discuss security at Spring Gardens, with representatives from those residents also invited to the Meeting.

### Borough Open Spaces

We had received a consultation document on the Open Space provision and needs assessment from the Borough Council. Councillor Spendlove took this to complete and return.

### 15 Wales Street

The neighbouring resident had sent us copy of the letter she had received from the Borough Council in response to her complaint to the Ombudsman. It was AGREED to acknowledge this and to thank the resident for keeping us informed.

### Zebra Crossing, Bell Hill

A resident was recently knocked down on the zebra crossing here. The belisha beacon light was out as well as the wall-mounted light on the Co-op. Councillor Jones got in touch with Street Doctor and they fixed the belisha beacon but the other one still needs attention.

### Former Councillor

Councillor Pote suggested that we should get a gift for Trevor Atkins. It was AGREED to get this sorted out and to see if he will come back here to receive the gift.

We had received a letter, as reported at the last Meeting, that Councillor Whyte has resigned from this Committee and asking us to appoint someone else. It was AGREED we should ask Councillor Mrs Brown if she would like to be our representative on this Committee.

#### Casual Vacancy, Trinity Ward

The by-election will now take place on 9th February 2006 in the Community Centre. The Clerk expected to have all the necessary information shortly and will circulate this as necessary.

#### Registration of Land

The Clerk had received a letter from the Land Registry that they are now positively encouraging the lodging of voluntary registrations by Town and Parish Councils. She had responded that we do not own any land or buildings so this does not apply to us.

### 380 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk submitted a written Report as attached. It was MOVED by Councillor Whyte, SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Talbot and RESOLVED that the Report be approved and adopted and the following amounts paid:-

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Service or Goods</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Mrs C E Mackay	Clerk's Salary	£501.60
Inland Revenue	Tax and N I (3 months)	£199.30
Rothwell Gala Committee	Kettering Borough Council Grant	£2862.00
HF Design	Town Centre Partnership Brochure	£940.00
Kettering Borough Council	Lottery Licence	£17.50
Cash	Petty Cash	£20.00

The Meeting closed at 9.40 pm.

Chair

Date