

## ROTHWELL TOWN COUNCIL

A Meeting of Rothwell Town Council was held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday, 8th November 2005 in the Market House, Market Hill, Rothwell.

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Councillor Mrs C M Brown Councillor C W Cross Councillor D W Jones Councillor N A Matthew Councillor A C Pote Councillor M W Spendlove Councillor Mrs M E Talbot Councillor Mrs G Weston Councillor P G Weston Councillor A Whitlam	<u>Chair</u>
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### 354 PRAYERS

Before the business of the Council commenced, the Revd Canon George Burgon said Prayers, and mentioned Bruno Tarrant, the boy badly burned at the firework display at Wicksteed Park, and the others who were injured then. He also referred to the victims of the earthquake in Asia, and everyone who is still suffering in that area.

### 355 APOLOGIES

An apology had been received from Councillor Whyte, who was working late.

### 356 COMMUNITY POLICING

#### General Report

PC O'Hara had just received the crime figures for March to October 2005, and a comparison with the same period in 2004. Burglary dwelling is down 43%, from 23 to 13; burglary other is down 41%, a drop of 20 crimes; criminal damage is down 14%. Sexual offences increased by 50% but this only represents two crimes last year, as opposed to three this year. Theft from motor vehicles is down 32%, and theft/handling down by 56%. Theft of motor vehicles increased by 23% but this only represents six extra crimes. Violent crimes are down by 34%, which amounts to 26 incidents. Miscellaneous offences increased by 100% but still there were only 2 extra. The increase in theft of motor vehicles is disappointing but this is a national trend and occurred in all parts of the town.

Councillor Jones referred to the garage at the top of Desborough Road as there have been complaints about the number of vehicles which they park in this area. There are five cars in Fanny Joyce's Lane, and others in Desborough Road and Nunnery Avenue. Recently a disabled person with a scooter had to go into the road because the footpath was blocked. Residents appreciate what has been done with the road layout, but the parked cars are spoiling this. PC O'Hara believed the owner had been given a warning and he would look into this again. It might be that he is conducting a business on the roadside and there is probably a bye-law about this. Some of the local residents were present at the Meeting and said that one of the cars in Fanny Joyce's Lane is a wreck with no tax, and the white lining lorry is also parked there. This is a public right of way on foot, and a private road for access to the properties so the residents paid for the road to be put in. There are no regulations as to how many vehicles can be parked on a forecourt. The residents felt it was the workshop which was causing the main problems. They have spoken to the owner.

It was AGREED to write to the Borough Environmental Health Department and ask them to contact the owners of the two businesses about conducting business on the highway/footpath. We will also ask if they can check the white lining lorry which is there in the evenings and at weekends as to where this should be parked under the Operator's Licence, especially as this also has gas tanks on the back of the lorry which are not secure.

Councillor Mrs Talbot was pleased that the 5th November has finished because there have been fireworks going off for most of October. PC O'Hara felt it was quieter than last year. If the Police catch people, they will warn them.

At the recent Town Centre Partnership Meeting, the landlord of the Rowell Charter reported that there are cars speeding up and down the High Street late at night, up until about 2.00 am. Vehicles have gone into the wall of the Charter twice, and the lamp post opposite Fox Street was knocked down recently. PC O'Hara said the Police do not have any spare resources, especially at the weekends with incidents occurring in the towns, so they have to deal with Grade I calls. If people report these, they will try and send an Officer out. As to the CCTV cameras, these could perhaps obtain a registration number but they cannot show how fast a vehicle is going and their Control Room is also busy at weekends looking around the areas by the pubs and clubs.

It was AGREED to write to the Borough Council and ask the CCTV Control Room to check the weekend nights to see if there are any issues in Rothwell which should be reported to the Police. PC O'Hara will also check some of the cars in the area.

The resident who wanted the seat in Glendon Road to be taken away said that this evening there were 8 teenagers sitting there. PC O'Hara confirmed that he has monitored this area over recent weeks. The resident said they had a camera and were flashing this at motorists who passed and he felt this could be dangerous. These were the children who were in the photograph in the Evening Telegraph. PC O'Hara has only seen two or three young people sitting there at a time, and these were mainly girls. The resident had not reported the incident with the camera and PC O'Hara asked him to do this in future if he feels this could cause an accident, so that he receives the information and can look at this.

PC O'Hara has been informed that he will not be attending our Meetings in future because someone from the Management Team will be doing this. We had received a letter from Chief Superintendent Dean Smith that he has introduced a new policy which commenced on 1st November in relation to Police support to Town/Parish Councils in relation to providing public reassurance and supporting the democratic process. Councils have been sub-divided into large, medium and small and Rothwell has been categorised as large so the minimum expectation is as follows: once every 6 months a senior officer will personally attend to provide an update on local policing issues and take questions. In addition, a Police representative will endeavour to attend for a part of every Town Council Meeting. Responsibility for ensuring this takes place rests with our Sector Commander. The senior officer will be one of the following:

- a) The Sector Commander
- b) Chief Inspector Community
- c) Chief Inspector Operations
- d) Area Commander.

The Town Council should contact his Personal Assistant at Kettering Police Station so that they can plan appropriately the dates for their attendance. She will confirm the dates they will attend and notify us who the attendee is likely to be, and although they cannot guarantee it will be the named person, a representative will be provided on the date they indicated.

### 357 BOROUGH CUSTOMER SERVICES

Mr Ian Strachan, the Borough Head of Customer Services and Information, was at the Meeting to discuss the changes to be made. Councillor Pote declared an Interest as Chairman of the Preservation Trust which owns the Market House.

Mr Strachan had attended a Town Council Meeting when they were considering taking space at the new Health Centre but this fell through. They are now looking at the Library, especially the exhibition room. They are working with the Police, Fire Service and County Social Services to work out what they can provide with these partners. They are moving from being a cash office to a much greater range of services. The launch date is January 2006 and the closure of the cash office is anticipated to be at the end of March 2006. He had brought plans and an artist's impression of what the area in the Library will look like. There will be two customer service

posts and an office and the gallery can remain. The office will have opaque glass walls so that you cannot see who is there. At present the cash office is only open 15 hours a week and the customer services will have 30 hours, including one evening up to 7.00 pm and Saturday mornings. A lot of training has to be done for the Police and Social Services. The current local cashier will be in Rothwell Library. Mr Strachan felt the room in the Library would still be able to be used by other organisations, including the Town Council for our Annual Meeting. As to redundancies, Mr Strachan thought this would be dealt with by natural wastage.

The present use of the cash office is 30 transactions each day with 275 regular customers during a year. The Borough wants them to pay by direct debit, cards or cheques. If they want to pay by cash they can use the Post Office or other pay outlets. They do also answer queries at present. They cannot take cash payments at the Library because of security issues but people will be able to pay by debit and credit card there. They can take queries for the Police but there will not necessarily be a Police Office sitting there. How the facility develops will depend on how many people use this.

Mr Strachan was asked to let us have a list of all the services which will be provided in the Library before the office in the Market House is closed. We also need to know how they will explain to people what the alternatives will be to paying cash in the Market House. They have a communication plan and will be advertising and promoting this, as well as talking to existing customers. The Post Office does not make a charge to take the payments. Mr Strachan will come back to our Meeting in January to explain further.

Councillor Whitlam left the Meeting at 8.00 pm.

### 358 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

(1) Speaking at Planning Appeals: there is an Appeal on 29th November 2005 against the Refusal to permit 15 apartments on land at Oxford Street and a resident asked if residents could attend this. There is only one parking space per flat, but it was explained that the regulations now only permit a maximum of 1\_ spaces per unit. Our original comments on the Application were that we would prefer to see 2-storey buildings only on this site, and the parking must be available before any units are occupied. This would have automatically reduced the number of units. The Town Council will not be adding to these observations, which the Inspector will already have. The Clerk will find out about how people can speak, and will let the resident have this information.

(2) Seat, Glendon Road: the resident wanted to know when we will move this bench but it was confirmed that the Town Council had decided it did not want to have this taken away, and there was no alternative site for it. We had written in 2001 that the situation would be monitored and this was done at that time, and also recently. The resident thought we had said at the September Meeting that we would move the bench and look the following day to see where it could go. It was explained that we said we would inspect to find out if there was anywhere else suitable for the bench, but there is not anywhere better and we do not want to lose this seat. One of the Councillors had suggested the bench was removed until such time as the matter was resolved, but the rest of the Town Council had not agreed with this. We have also asked if the litter bin could be moved closer to the bench. The resident said at the October Meeting, he had to ask what was happening as the Town Council seemed to have already made up its mind, but it was explained that the Report of the Site Meeting had recommended that the seat stayed where it was and this recommendation was confirmed by the full Town Council as shown in the Minutes for the last Meeting. We have taken a decision and this cannot be changed for at least six months.

The resident had already reported that young people are using cameras to flash at motorists, and he wanted to appeal against the decision the Town Council has made about this seat. Neither he nor his partner have seen older people sitting there, but it was confirmed that Members of the Town Council have. The resident was not happy with the situation.

It was MOVED by Councillor Mrs Weston, SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Talbot and RESOLVED to move to the next business.

359 MINUTES

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

360 HIGHWAYSGlendon Road Traffic Calming

The Clerk reported that we had received a letter from the County Council, that the developer of the North Kettering Business Park is liable to pay the sum of £30,000 to the County under the s.106 Agreement for traffic calming in Rothwell. There would not appear to be any legal restriction on where in Rothwell the monies can be spent, but it would be reasonable to assume the most appropriate use would be works on roads directly affected, namely Glendon Road, and possibly Rushton Road. He intended to ask for the finance but he needed to know what the Town Council would require this to be spent on. The £30,000 has to cover design and administration of any scheme as well as the works themselves, so we need to be realistic as to what can be delivered so as not to raise expectations beyond the budget. In the first instance therefore, he asked for our initial views regarding areas of concern that could benefit from this budget and what the Town Council would like to see done in those areas. Once we have decided this, Mr Bond would be happy to discuss the options and advise on which are reasonable with the limited budget available. The process need not be rushed as we have up to five years to spend the money as and when we get it.

One of the areas we have been asked about is the speeding traffic in Glendon Road and we had discussed a pedestrian crossing in Rock Hill because this is so wide. We would like the works at this end of Glendon Road and one suggestion was a pinch point. This road has the same problem as Harrington Road so we want to slow vehicles down as they come into Rothwell. There are the flashing signs but we need to know what is the most effective solution here. A pedestrian crossing can act as traffic calming.

It was AGREED to ask for an initial daytime Site Meeting to discuss the most effective options to slow vehicles down coming in and going out of Rothwell.

Access to Rothwell Cemetery

Atkins had sent a reply that this area had been inspected and at present nothing warrants repair under the County Network Plan. The area is inspected on a regular basis and the next one is scheduled for March 2006. We should contact the Borough Council about the schedule for cleaning this area.

It was AGREED to ask the Borough Cleansing section if this area is on the schedule for cleaning and litter picking, and if so how often it is done.

White Lining in Rothwell

The Clerk had received a response from Atkins about renewing the white lines in front of the dropped kerbs in Rothwell, that this will be assessed during the next inspection which is scheduled for December 2005.

Plough Close

It was reported that the poles are out of the ground and need to be replaced. They did repair the lamps after a vehicle went into these recently, but not the poles.

Old Lamport Road

Councillor Pote is following up a response about clearing the rubbish from the old Lamport Road. It was AGREED that the Clerk will also write to the County Council about this, and when it can be passed over to the neighbouring landowners so it is no longer highways land.

361 PLANNING

### Report of the Planning Referee

As previously reported, we had received notification of the Appeal against the Refusal for Application KET/20040983 in respect of 15 apartments on land in Oxford Street.

The following Refusal had been received:-

KET/2005/0799      Land to rear of 19 & 21 Leys Avenue – Two Dwellings.

The following Approvals had been received:-

KET/2005/0646      Former Rifle Band Club, Gladstone Street – Demolition and erection of new building to form 15 apartments and car parking.

KET/2005/0749      1-5 High Street – Timber framed replacement windows.

KET/2005/0767      Tresham Cottage, 51 Kettering Road – Dropped kerb.

KET/2005/0783      1 Sharman Way - New detached double garage.

KET/2005/0802      62 Desborough Road – Vehicular Access.

KET/2005/0803      20 Tennyson Road – Rear extension and canopy over front window.

KET/2005/0804      77 Kipton Field – Rear extension and canopy to front.

KET/2005/0816      8 Columbus Crescent – Pitched roof on integral garage.

### Strategic Development Area

Copies of the Report of the Meeting held on 17th October 2005 had been circulated prior to this Meeting. It was MOVED by Councillor Mrs Weston, SECONDED by Councillor Pote and RESOLVED that the Report be approved and adopted.

### North Northants Joint Planning Unit

Copies of the latest letter from the Unit, with details of the forthcoming Meetings, had been circulated prior to this Meeting, for information. Councillor Mrs Talbot could attend the event in Kettering on 29th November and this was AGREED.

## 362 ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITY

### Rothwell Gala Committee

Copies of the Report of the Gala Committee Meeting held on 12th October 2005 had been circulated prior to this Meeting. It was MOVED by Councillor Matthew, SECONDED by Councillor Cross and RESOLVED that the Report be approved and adopted.

Councillor Pote reported that Rowell Lions will provide taped music for the event. We could ask Atkins for some cones if we cannot get these anywhere else.

### Rothwell Town Centre Partnership

Copies of the Reports of the Meetings held on 17th and 31st October 2005 had been circulated prior to this Meeting. It was AGREED that the Reports be approved and adopted.

As to the bids to update the Website, it was felt we did not have all the information we need, so there is to be another Meeting soon to ask some questions and the Borough Officers are to draft the questions for us. It was AGREED the next Meeting would be at 6.00 pm on Tuesday, 22nd November, and Mr Fillingham and Councillor Matthew will be asked to come along at 6.15 pm.

### Growth Area Funding Bid

Copies of the Report of the Meeting held on 18th October 2005 to decide what we would like this funding to be spent on had been circulated prior to this Meeting. it was MOVED by

Councillor Pote, SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Talbot and RESOLVED that the Report be approved and adopted.

#### Rothwell Health Centre Site

Copies of the Report of the Meeting held on 24th October 2005 had been circulated prior to this Meeting. It was AGREED that the Report be approved and adopted.

We had met with a representative from the Local Health Group and someone from the Company which is looking for a site for the new Health Centre. The Town Council asked for development on the existing site, but to build upwards so there are larger premises. We were told this was not possible because of the additional cost, including to provide temporary accommodation for the Surgery. However, they did not seem to have given this a lot of thought. The Town Council also asked if the Abishot site or Cooper's Yard would be possibilities, but their preferred option is on the old A6 right at the top of Desborough Road, further out than Montsaye. It was felt most residents would be amazed that this is seriously being considered. If it is this close to Desborough, perhaps we should ask whether we will end up with only one Surgery between the two towns. The representatives were left in no doubt as to how the Town Council felt and we think the public should be aware of this.

#### Rothwell Water Tower

We had been notified that construction works had started on the water tower on 1st November, and a programme had been sent for this. They seem to be demolishing a cabin and taking away the Ionica kit, but not putting anything extra there.

#### New Play Areas

The Clerk had received a telephone call from Daniel Oliver of Bovis, that he would like another Meeting to go over the elements of the play areas which are to be provided as part of their development off Jubilee Street. This will be arranged by Mr Peter Harris, the Borough Landscape Officer.

#### Rothwell Library

The ground outside the Library has been cleared of the shrubs, but rubbish has been dumped there. It was AGREED to ask the Borough Council if they could clean this away, or if this is the responsibility of the County Council as part of the Library land.

As to having a bus shelter outside the Library, we have not heard anything about this. It was AGREED to chase the Borough to see if there is a suitable shelter available.

#### Spencer Street

There was a letter in the press about poor state of Spencer Street, asking what the Rothwell Councillors were doing about this. However this is no longer our responsibility and perhaps the Evening Telegraph should realise this.

#### Violet Lane

There has been a three-piece suite dumped there for several weeks, near the Glendon Road end. It was AGREED to ask if could be taken away.

#### Fair Trade Scheme

Councillor Matthew reported that he has joined the Fair Trade Steering Committee and has been appointed Secretary. They are seeking some publicity and there was a photo-session at The Store recently. The Town Centre Partnership has agreed to put something in the publicity brochure. There will be a Fair Trade stall this Saturday at the Methodist Church, and his daughter Alex Matthew is giving her Nicaragua presentation to the Mother's Union this evening. The next step is to persuade businesses in the town to be more Fair Trade as we need a couple more outlets. They considered having a stall at the Gala but they will do this in the Methodist Church which will be open that evening. Council Matthew explained how the Fair Trade Co-

operatives do make a real difference to the poorest producers in developing countries. Councillor Weston said this was mentioned at the Infant School Governors' Meeting and they will try and get involved in this.

#### Manor Park

It was reported that there is a lot of dog mess in Manor Park which a resident has complained about. Several years ago the Park was locked at night. We did ask for a dog walk down the side of the Park, but this never materialised. It was AGREED to write and ask if the Park can be cleaned up.

#### Well Lane/Blythe Close Parks

The Clerk had received a response to our request about replacing the bollard in Well Lane Recreation Ground, that the Borough proposes to install a new lockable drop bollard near the Community Centre, which will allow easier and safer access for their vehicles. They are also fabricating new metal rails to fit the existing posts, in an attempt to make them more secure than the last ones. With a few additional bollards, this should make the whole site inaccessible to vehicles, other than the Borough Council's.

The missing bollards at Blythe Close, near the play area, have now been replaced.

#### 15 Wales Street

The neighbouring resident had written to inform the Town Council that she has contacted the Local Government Ombudsman regarding the lack of support she has received from the Borough Council on this issue.

#### Town and Parish Council Funding

Some Members had been able to attend the consultation on funding for Town and Parish Councils and it was reported that several Parish Councils seem to feel the same as the Town Council and some important points were brought up about the smaller Parishes where it might not be worth precepting. The general opinion was that provided we get some of what we pay Kettering taken off this could be used as the precept. We did not feel we would be able to carry out our own litter picking or street cleaning. The Officers will now produce a report on the matter. Burton Latimer has raised a small precept in recent years, but no-one from that Council spoke to explain how this was working out.

We have a reply slip to return to the Borough Council and the replies to the various questions were agreed. These included the fact that we should continue to receive the current level of grant but this must be index-linked, together with any special grants such as those for the Christmas lights, and this is the status quo. It was felt the current system saves on administration costs and duplication. The issue of double taxation must be taken into account as Rothwell people already complain that they pay the same Council Tax as Kettering but receive a poorer service, so they would not accept paying more. The decision was made at Re-organisation in 1974 to hand over all our capital assets to the Borough Council in return for their promise to pay an adequate grant in perpetuity.

### 363 MATTERS OF BUSINESS

#### Licensing Application

We had received notification of an application to transfer the Licence at Tesco Express to Mr J A Ford.

#### Temporary Event Notices

The Clerk had been notified that if we had been going to have live music at the Gala Evening, or at any other event, a Licence would have been needed for this. The most simple way to resolve this in the short term is for Temporary Event Notices to be submitted for all sites where a licensable activity is taking place, i.e. live music. Town Councils will need to decide whether

they are submitting the notices or the entertainer is. The relevant forms need to be obtained from the Licensing Unit at East Northants, and the advice is that the notice should only cover the immediate area within which the activity is located, and not entire High Streets. Councillor Weston thought there were exemptions for some parades etc.

It was AGREED to find out what is needed for processions, and whether the Borough is to look at licensing certain areas within the towns. In the case of Rothwell we should look at licences for the Market Hill Square and Manor Park.

#### Trinity Centre Committee

A letter had been received that Councillor David Whyte, the Town Council's representative on this Committee, has resigned and we are asked to nominate a successor to replace him. It was AGREED to put this on the Agenda for the next Meeting.

#### January Meeting

We had received a letter that the Mayor of Kettering would like to attend our Town Council Meeting on 10th January 2006, so the date for this will not now be moved.

#### County Council Assessment

The Audit Commission is carrying out a Corporate Assessment of Northamptonshire Council and a survey had been sent to us to complete. It was AGREED the Chair and Clerk would do this on behalf of the Town Council.

### 364 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk submitted a written Report as attached. It was MOVED by Councillor Mrs Weston, SECONDED by Councillor Pote 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
NRG Group	Photocopier Maintenance	£32.44
RBL Poppy Appeal	Wreath for Remembrance Sunday	£18.00
Cash	Petty Cash	£15.00

### 365 ADMISSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC

In view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it was AGREED hat the Press and Public be asked to withdraw.