

ROTHWELL TOWN COUNCIL

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

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs C M Brown Chair
 Councillor C W Cross
 Councillor D W Jones
 Councillor N A Matthew
 Councillor A C Pote
 Councillor M W Spendlove (8.30 pm)
 Councillor Mrs M E Talbot (7.20 pm)
 Councillor P G Weston
 Councillor A Whitlam
 Councillor D A Whyte

380 PRAYERS

Before the business of the Council commenced, the Revd Canon George Burgon said Prayers, and mentioned the arson attack at the Nursery Unit of Rothwell Infant School, for those affected by Hurricane Katrina and for the efforts to set up the Fair Trade scheme.

381 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Councillors Atkins and Mrs Weston; Councillors Spendlove and Mrs Talbot would be a little late attending the Meeting.

382 COMMUNITY POLICING

General Report

PC O'Hara had the crime statistics for April to August 2005 and a comparison with 2004. We are 120 crimes down on the previous year, which is nearly a 34% drop in overall crime. There has been a spate of burglaries which the Police are investigating. In Rushton Road there has been some damage by youths going home and again they are investigating. They have stepped up patrols in the Community Centre area, including Spring Gardens, and this seems to have quietened down.

Councillor Pote said the silver Mondeo is still parking on the pavement in Market Hill, and on Friday night there were three vehicles here. PC O'Hara has looked at this and will try and catch these when he is on duty.

The arson attack at the Infant School the previous night was mentioned but PC O'Hara has been off duty for four days so has not got any information on this. The Criminal Investigation Unit will be looking into this and he will check with them. It was reported that the Arson Task Force did visit this morning.

The Clerk reported that we had received a reply from Chief Superintendent Dean Smith to our suggestion on the necessity of reporting every crime and obtaining an incident number. He has passed a copy of our letter to their Public Relations and Marketing Officer who co-ordinates the production of the Frontline newsletter. She will ensure that an article is included in a future issue and will forward this for consideration to other key publications distributed in the community.

383 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

(1) Fair Trade: Mrs Tuffin had come to the July Meeting to informally put the proposition that Rothwell should try and become a Fair Trade town. They have now met the shopkeepers and there was a positive response. They need a formal proposition from the Town Council which will be sufficient for them to proceed as they do not need to contact the Borough Council. A representative from Garstang, the first Fair Trade town, said this movement is spreading rapidly, including in the US. We do not have tea or coffee at Meetings but if we have an event

we should make the refreshments Fair Trade, and flowers can also be included. We could have a postcard with this on it. They are sending further information for us. Mrs Tuffin gave the preferred wording for the resolution.

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Jones, **SECONDED** by Councillor Matthew and **RESOLVED** that this Town Council aims to be recognised by the residents, business establishments, schools and all organisations as a Council that actively supports and promotes the concept of Fair Trade, ensuring that producers from development countries get a fair price for their goods and labour. The Council will support all efforts to promote this cause.

Mrs Tuffin said this could affect everyone in the town with all the residents making a small contribution, perhaps by drinking Fair Trade tea and coffee.

(2) Seat, Glendon Road: the resident wanted to apologise as he was very upset at the last Meeting because he did not feel people were listening. The residents in Glendon Road and Ragsdale Street were also upset by Councillor Pote's comments about moving the seat a few yards. He had a list of names and addresses of people wanting the bench to be removed. He was not happy that his details were passed to the Evening Telegraph because he is now getting bags of dog mess and other items thrown into his garden. He has not seen anyone using the seat as a resting place but only being used by youths. He has been trying for 8 years to get rid of this bench, rather than the 4 years mentioned in the Minutes; it was explained that it was in 2001 that we had last discussed this and written to him.

The resident did not think the Councillors were monitoring this and he has contacted the Police and got an incident number every time and passed these to the Borough. They eventually moved the bench and there was no problem during the time it was gone, but the Town Council decided to have it put back. Councillors Mrs Brown, Pote and Weston have all been monitoring the area at various times of the day and evening up to about 11.00 pm since the last Meeting and have only seen elderly people resting there. The Chair said PC O'Hara and the CSOs have also been patrolling this area at the same time they look at Well Lane and she has seen them there. Councillor Pote said his comments had been taken out of context in that he was saying the Town Council would look at this and perhaps consider moving the seat. He felt we should ask residents who would like it to stay and who would like it to be moved. It was suggested that the resident photographs the youths, if not the younger children. The resident said there have been girls and youths there, and then cars race up and stop there. Members of the Town Council say they do not want to see facilities removed and the resident agrees there should be more for young people in the town. It was explained that we should be getting more play equipment in the Well Lane Recreation Ground area as part of the Bovis development. The Chair had had about 8 elderly people come to her asking where the seat was when it had gone and she still felt we needed to deal with this through the Police although we could consider moving the seat a little. Other suggestions were that we should discuss this with the Police again, and perhaps the Borough Council. There is the Neighbourhood Watch camera which can be borrowed. If we do have any suggestion for an alternative site we should ask everyone in the area for their comments.

It was **AGREED** that Members of the Town Council will try and look at this the following evening after the Meeting which the Clerk is trying to arrange for 4.00 pm.

(3) Parking, Bridge Street: a resident reported that on Monday, 15th August someone was trying to park and this completely blocked the road. The Town Council has discussed this issue with the police and they are keen to retain this parking because it acts as traffic calming and slows vehicles down. Councillor said we would have vehicles going much too fast all along Bridge Street if this was taken away, and he has seen this situation in other towns when there is nothing to make drivers slow down. The resident suggested if we only had disabled parking there it might assist. However, it appears that we are not likely to get any changes to the parking until the new scheme comes in and this will take about 18 months.

384 MINUTES

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Matthew, **SECONDED** by Councillor Cross and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th August 2005 be confirmed and signed.

385 HIGHWAYS

A14 Junction 7 at Kettering

The Highways Agency at Bedford had sent a reply that they are aware some drivers find the directions difficult to follow and they are monitoring the situation. Unfortunately, due to the number and proximity of roads that join this roundabout, there is a limit to what can be done to make the signing and markings clearer. They would not normally wish to provide overhead gantry signing in rural locations because of the environmental intrusion, especially the illumination. Modern street lighting is designed to throw most of the light downwards and very little spills outside the area to be lit. Because of their height and the fact that light is being thrown onto a vertical surface, illuminated overhead signs can be visually intrusive when used in rural locations. However, they are looking again at all the signs and markings around this junction to see if they can be made clearer and whether it is possible to provide extra road markings at places less likely to be obscured by stationary vehicles.

It was AGREED to write back that drivers get cut up every day at this junction and some of our residents will not now go to Kettering this way and we suggest he inspects the area for himself. This is not a rural area with the Telford Way Industrial Site next to the junction, and the situation will only get worse when the Kettering Northern Business Area is fully occupied.

Vehicle Actuated Sign

The Clerk reported that she had received two complaints from residents of Hobbs Hill about the proposed new location for the vehicle actuated sign in Kettering Road. After consulting the Chair and Vice-Chair she had written to both of them to explain this was the only site where this sign could be placed. Another letter had now been received since the sign was moved from the person who had recently moved into 1 Hobbs Hill that she was very upset that the sign has been placed adjacent to her property without her prior knowledge or the chance to discuss the situation before it was installed. It is a complete encroachment on her garden, and she is planning to extend out her fence onto the stone wall where the sign has been placed. It is not even a 30 mph slow down sign but some junction sign. Her neighbours have not had any written notification either. It has spoilt her garden outlook and she will now reconsider her fencing options to screen of this monster.

The Clerk had looked at this, and it might be that the sign needs to be moved along the bracket and tilted away from this resident's wall an inch or so and Mr Trimble is to have this inspected to ensure it does comply with current specifications. There is no need to consult for a road sign. It was AGREED to reply that we have asked the County/Atkins to inspect the sign and check that it has been installed in accordance with the current specifications and regulations. We have had many representations from Kettering Road residents to slow vehicles down, particularly by Gordon Street, which is why a sign warning drivers there is a junction there was deliberately chosen.

High Street Footway Repairs

The County Performance & Strategy Officer had replied that he has sent quotes for the works to the Highways Agency. They are happy with the figures for the footway repairs, but they require further clarification regarding the resurfacing at Sun Hill. These will be carried out at the same time by a single contractor, so it is important to get the Highways Agency's approval to both. He was hoping that once they receive the additional information the Highways Agency will give their formal approval to the works.

Desborough Road Zebra Crossing

We had received a reply from the Traffic Schemes Manager at Atkins, enclosing a drawing and site photograph to show the approximate location. She confirmed that the proposed zebra crossing complies with all current specifications and standards and an independent safety audit will be carried out on this scheme.

The drawing and photograph was passed round and it was thought the resident had a point about where the zigzags will go which means that no-one can stop in this part of Desborough Road. It

was AGREED this seems to be the only place the crossing can go safely and we feel children will use this.

Rushton Road Resurfacing

Atkins had written to confirm that the resurfacing of Rock Hill and Rushton Road up to the 30 mph signs is scheduled for completion during the current financial year and it is hoped this can start during late autumn/winter 2005. They cannot give a more precise start date as footway resurfacing works can only commence when those people who have applied for vehicle crossovers in Rushton Road have received the necessary Planning Approval from the Borough. We had not received any Planning Applications for these.

Disabled Parking Spaces

It had been reported at the last Meeting that to be legally enforceable, disabled parking spaces do require a Traffic Order and have to be larger than standard parking bays to allow for wheelchair access and loading.

Councillor Matthew thought they could put some markings where we would like these spaces to be so that, even if they are not legally enforceable, this would indicate where disabled people can park and most residents would respect this. The Clerk said the markings across the dropped kerbs in Market Hill and not legally enforceable either, but these have been very help as not many people now park across the dropped kerbs. However, the markings have nearly worn away and need to be re-done.

It was AGREED to ask for the disabled spaces to be marked in the locations we requested as we feel these will be respected, and for the white lines across the dropped kerbs in Market Hill to be renewed at the same time.

Balancing Pond, Harrington Road

As to putting up a new gate into the field where this pond is, a reply had been received from the County Council that their Highways Inspector will investigate so that appropriate action can be taken to secure the pond. They will let us know the outcome.

Street Cleansing

The Borough Cleansing Manager had replied to the following two issues:--

1. Fox Street/High Hill Avenue – the area round the Tommy Nichols seat has been added to the Cleansing Operative's daily schedule.
2. Recycling Banks, Market Hill – this area has been added to the schedule and will be checked and cleared as necessary on a weekly basis.

It was wondered if once a week was sufficient to clear the boxes and bags left round the recycling banks. It was AGREED to monitor this for a month and ask for this to be increased if necessary.

Weed Killing

Atkins had telephoned that the second weed spraying would take place at the end of August or beginning of September. However it had been reported that the Church Walk footpaths and the one from the Greening Road Park to Kingsley Road had not been done. It was AGREED to report this.

Highway Trees

Atkins had written to confirm that instructions have been issued for the trees at the junction of Tasman Way and Columbus Crescent to be lifted. An inspection of the trees in Moorfield Green will be undertaken and any required works identified will be carried out.

Highways Representatives Scheme

Copies of the latest edition of Rep's Review had been circulated prior to this Meeting, for information.

York Stone Slabs, Market Hill

The Maintenance Technician for Atkins had written, confirming that he has chased the following items with his Operations Manager and thanked the Town Council for its patience in this matter. He advised as follows:-

1. Extra Bollards – these are scheduled to be installed in the lockable bases by the end of September 2005.
2. York Slab Stones – these are currently on order and are due for delivery during October 2005. As these are being supplied in individual sizes to fit in spaces where broken or missing slabs are removed, the supplier will require longer to make up these. It is expected that these works will be implemented during November 2005.

Access to Rowell Charter Inn

This work has been carried out, but in one section of the slabs, the mortar is not satisfactory. The Clerk had telephoned about this and they will inspect and do any necessary remedial work.

Footway, Wales Street

A reply had been received from Atkins that the footway on the northern side of Wales Street from the Rowell Charter to the corner has been inspected. A number of reinstatements were noted but they do not meet the County intervention levels, for action to be taken at this time. In view of this the footway would not receive a sufficiently high ranking to be successful as a scheme. This will continue to be monitored as part of the routine inspection programme in accordance with the network plan.

Underwood Road

Atkins' Maintenance Engineer had written that this carriageway has been inspected and the general condition noted. Whilst there are a number of reinstatements and small areas of erosion, the road surface remains in a safe condition. Underwood Road will be submitted for a resurfacing scheme for consideration in the forthcoming financial year. They will advise on the outcome when the list of successful schemes is available at the start of the 2006/07 financial year.

East side of Market Hill

We have reported the path outside the Methodist Church as requiring attention and we were informed this would be inspected and any necessary repairs will be programmed. However, the surface is now deteriorating rapidly and Councillor Cross thought this was now urgent. There has been one accident there because it is braking up completely. It was AGREED to report this.

Glendon Road

The hedge has been cut near the Blue Bridge and there is a very clear sign of 40 mph but some people feel this is too high. It was not thought it would alter speeds to change this, but we will monitor the situation.

It was also reported that there is a large pothole in Glendon Road, near the turning to Rushton on the opposite side of the road to the junction. It was AGREED to report this to the Street Doctor.

Traffic Figures

Councillor Whyte asked if we have any up-to-date information on traffic coming through the town on the old A6, and in particular the destination of vehicles. There was a survey carried out just after the bypass opened, and we understand another one has been carried out since and we have asked for these figures. It was AGREED to ask again for a sight of the traffic surveys carried out since the bypass was constructed.

It was felt that more traffic is using the bypass and the Satellite Navigation System now have this on their maps.

386 PLANNING

Report of the Planning Referee

We had received notification of the Appeal by Bovis Homes Limited in respect of the Application for 245 dwellings on land off Jubilee Street. We had written again that we feel this should be dealt with by a full Planning Application because there are various concerns about the details of this development. We understand that they now have Permission for nearly 240 units, and they already have Approval for 160.

The following Approvals have been received:-

KET/2005/0074	Land at 46 Kettering Road – Five dwellings.
KET/2005/0515	Land off Jubilee Street – 160 dwellings.
KET/2005/0536	Land adjoining 15 Oxford Street – Two flats.
KET/2005/0542	18 Market Hill – Trough Lamps.
KET.2005/0546	Land at rear of 68/70 Rushton Road – Two single storey dwellings.
KET/2005/0567	Land adjoining 44 Tennyson Road – Outline for a bungalow.
KET/2005/0591	4 Market Hill – Change of use from A1 retail to A3 restaurant/café.
KET/2005/0613	26 High Street – Change of use from A1 to A3, new shop front and kitchen extension.
KET/2005/0635	25 Columbus Crescent – New detached double garage.
KET/2005/0647	15/17 High Hill Avenue – Reversion to two dwellings and extension.
KET/2005/0660	Automated Telephone Exchange, Kettering Road – New green metal palisade fencing and gates, 2.4 metres high.

The following Planning Applications had been received and dealt with by the Deputy Planning Referee:-

KET/2005/0739	Glenhill Farm, Glendon Road – Amendment to domestic curtilage and access etc and retention of imported spoil. No objection.
KET/2005/0740	7 Wales Street – Siting of a mobile home. We object because this would be out of keeping with the surrounding area and would create a precedent for Rothwell.
KET/2005/0749	1-5 High Street – Replacement of existing wooden windows with timber framed double glazed units. No objection.
KET/2005/0766	27 Gordon Street – Certificate of Lawfulness for Conservatory and Velux windows. No objection.
KET/2005/0767	Tresham Cottage, 51 Kettering Road – Dropped kerb for vehicle access along whole width of property. No objection.
KET/2005/0783	1 Sharman Way – New detached double garage. No objection.
KET/2005/0783	The Haybarn, Glendon Hill Farm, Glendon Road – Change of use from agriculture to stables and menage. No objection.

- KET/2005/0799 Land to rear of 19 & 21 Leys Avenue – Two dwellings.
We object because Desborough Road is still very busy and this proposal will impact on the street scene here. There will also be a serious loss of privacy for houses in Leys Avenue.
- KET/2005/0802 62 Desborough Road – Dropped kerb for access into driveway.
We object because this is too close to the sharp bend and would cut across the pull-in and grass verge.
- KET/2005/0803 20 Tennyson Road – Rear extension and canopy to front.
No objection.
- KET/2005/0804 77 Kipton Field – Rear extension and canopy to front.
This is a large rear extension that will have considerable impact on the adjoining properties. This and the canopy would be out of keeping with the other houses.
- KET/2005/0816 8 Columbus Crescent – Pitched roof on integral garage.
No objection.

Councillor Spendlove joined the Meeting at 8.30 pm.

The following two Applications had recently been received and the Deputy Planning Referee wished to consult other Members of the Town Council because we had received an objection on the first and the second is a fairly large development for the site. Councillors Mrs Brown, Whitlam and Whyte did not comment on these as Members of the Borough Planning Committees. Councillor Pote did not comment on the Application relating to 3 Tasman Way as he lives in the immediate area. The Town Council's observations were agreed as stated:-

- KET/2005/0794 3 Tasman Way – Extensions.
No objection provided the rear extension is single storey only as the second storey would result in loss of privacy for the property to the rear, unless the window had obscure glass.
- KET/2005/0810 Land off Scott Avenue – 45 dwellings, estate roads, landscaping bund and ancillary works.

Rothwell Town Council objects to this Application for the following reasons:-

1. We feel that the existing Approval for 22 single storey units is the maximum which should be permitted on this site and 45 dwellings would be too much for this area which is on an elevated position in the town. The additional traffic which would be created in Scott Avenue by any more than 22 units would be unacceptable.
2. The section of Public Right of Way UH.11 from Littlewood Street to Rushton Road must be protected from any vehicular movements from this development or from the existing properties in Scott Avenue although the occupiers of No.25 Littlewood Street will need vehicular access to the rear of their property at all times, as this is an established right. We therefore ask what specific action will be taken to ensure the gate is kept locked to prevent traffic coming through but which would still permit access for No.25. Could an electronically activated gate be considered?
3. The boundaries for each property, including at the front, should be clearly defined before any unit is occupied, particularly between the existing houses in Scott Avenue and the new properties. We also want the existing mature hedge along this boundary retained.

Strategic Development Area

Copies of the letter and plan from Kettering Borough Council had been circulated prior to this Meeting. Councillor Pote said we do have a couple of days to respond to this. He personally felt that we did not want any more development to the north of the town which would bring Rothwell any closer to Desborough. The issues raised were discussed in full and it was AGREED to respond with the following comments:-

The Town Council feels that the developers should come up with a design which better serves the needs of the town. In particular, we need an east-west relief road from the top of the old A6 in Rothwell to the bypass, and also a relief road to the north of the town from the old A6 eastwards towards Rushton Road. These new east-west roads would then provide the new northern town boundary and no development should take place outside them, to ensure that a sufficient green space is retained between Rothwell and Desborough. This will be the only opportunity to design these relief roads effectively and these should be agreed first, and the residential/mixed use development planned afterwards.

It is difficult for the Town Council to comment on the small scale plan provided, but when detailed plans are being drawn up, any small industrial units should be placed next to the bypass, not on the higher ground within the residential area. These small units should also be ancillary to the proposed industrial site to the south of the A14, which has already been agreed and which will constitute the main employment/industrial area for Rothwell.

There has only been a limited amount of time to comment on this proposal and we would be grateful if you could let us know when it is anticipated that a decision will be made in principle as to which areas will be included in the SDA because we do not think this should be decided too quickly. We would therefore be grateful if you could attend a Meeting with representatives from Rothwell Town Council in the Market House as soon as possible so that we can discuss these issues in more detail, and obtain clarification as to the procedures and timescales which are envisaged.

The Clerk had received a telephone call from Mr Peter Wilkinson who is a Town Planner, but is acting as an Independent Facilitator for Persimmon on the strategy for community consultation on the SDA proposals. He is coming to the area to meet Mr Robin Matthews of the MTI the following day and would like to meet representatives from the Town Council at 4.00 pm on 14th September. Several Members would be able to attend then and it was AGREED to meet Mr Wilkinson.

Following this Meeting the representatives will go to Glendon Road to inspect the seat there and advise on whether there is another location in the area to which it could be moved.

Community Planning Network

Copies of the latest letter and Network News were available at this Meeting, for information.

387 ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITY

Seat & Bus Shelter, Market Hill

The Clerk reported that, after consultation with the Chair, she had written to the Borough Council again asking for the one remaining seat in front of the Library to be repaired. We assume the second one had been taken to the depot for work and this should be returned beforehand. We also reminded the Borough that there have been several requests for a bus shelter in this area and we feel one of the smaller ones with seats, as has been placed in the High Street near the War Memorial would be suitable. This would also have to be without any advertisements.

Litter Bin by Brachers Wood

We had asked the Borough if a dog waste bin could be placed by the entrance to Brachers Wood, convenient for dog walkers in the wood and also those going up Loddington Road. The Cleansing Manager had telephoned that they did not have any dog waste bins, but he could provide a litter bin in this location, and this would also help the rubbish which is left by the seat further down Kettering Road. After consultation with the Chair, the Clerk had confirmed that this would be suitable and she understood the bin was now in place. This action was approved.

There is some work being carried out in this area, but it was not known exactly what was being carried out, or who was doing this but the Clerk will try and find out. We had asked some time ago for the bushes to be taken out and replaced with a grass bank, to make litter picking easier.

Overgrown Footpath

It was reported that the path from Trinity Road to Harrington Road has conifers growing over it, by No.17 Trinity Road. It was AGREED to report this.

Manor Park

It was reported that the collapsible bollard at the entrance to Manor Park had damaged some cars, but the Town Council has not been notified of this. We will wait until we have heard officially.

As to the flower beds in Manor Park and Squires Hill, some Members felt these were fairly poor this year and hoped they would improve in 2006. It was AGREED to write to the Borough about this.

On the other hand, the hanging baskets are good this year and have received a lot of compliments. It was also AGREED to write to the Borough with this comment, but suggesting a little more variety within each basket next year.

Access to the Cemetery

The footway from the A14 roundabout to the main Cemetery entrance around the area with the balancing pond has broken paving slabs and weeds over the path. The roadway markings for drivers coming out of the Cemetery have also almost completely disappeared. This area is also dirty and does not appear to receive any cleansing. It was AGREED to report these matters.

388 MATTERS OF BUSINESSRothwell United Charities

The Clerk had received a letter from Catherine Bromley, the new Clerk to Rothwell United Charities that Mr Norman Barker has stepped down as Trustee, leaving a vacancy for a Council representative.

Councillor Weston is a Trustee and he suggested that we should ask Canon Burgon if he has any suggestion for someone who would like to be appointed as a Trustee.

Licensing Applications

The Clerk had written to the Borough Council and the Northamptonshire Licensing Partnership setting out the framework within which the Town Council would like all applications for Rothwell to be decided, as agreed at the last Meeting. However, we are not allowed to send in blanket representations so the Clerk had endeavoured to submit representations on all applications of which she had been notified. There id not appear to be one for the Top of the Town Ballroom.

Rothwell Parish Boundary

The Borough Electoral Services Manager had written in response to our query about our Parish boundary, that this, along with others close to newly constructed roads, was moved by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in 2001 to run along the A43 (Statutory Instrument 2001/356 refers). He believed that all Town and Parish Councils affected by the changes were notified of them at the time.

389 FINANCIAL REPORTGeneral Statement

The Clerk submitted a written Report as attached. It was MOVED by Councillor Whyte, 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	£501.81
Inland Revenue	Tax and N I (3 months)	£199.30
Rothwell Town Centre Partnership	Brochure	£75.00
Clr Mrs C M Brown	Chair's half-yearly allowance	£300.00
Cash	Petty Cash	£20.00

Rothwell Gala Committee

Councillor Pote reported that we have been offered over £2,800 grant by the Borough and this Committee has £3,425 in hand so we will be able to purchase some new lights for this year.

390 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.