

ROTHWELL TOWN COUNCIL

A Meeting of Rothwell Town Council was held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday, 11th April 2006 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 Mrs C M Mullett
 Councillor A C Pote
 Councillor M W Spendlove (8.50 pm)
 Councillor P G Weston
 Councillor A Whitlam

419 PRAYERS

Before the business of the Council commenced the Revd Canon George Burgon said Prayers and mentioned Geoffrey Pentelow, Arthur Smith, Stanley Wright and Bill Greenshields who had all recently died. He also paid tribute to the Police and the other emergency services, including the Air Ambulance.

420 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Councillors Mrs Talbot, Mrs Weston and Whyte, and from Councillor Spendlove who would be late joining the Meeting.

421 COMMUNITY POLICING

General Report

Chief Inspector Mark Lacey and PCSO Samantha Gell were present at the Meeting. CI Lacey said that 31st March was the end of their performance year so they looked at the figures. There has been a 24% reduction in all crime compared with 2004/05. There was one more robbery, and one more sexual offence but in every other category there have been fewer incidents. Last month there were 33 crimes, a reduction of seven compared with February. Copies of the monthly Parish Crime Report were available at this Meeting. The Police have had quite a detailed report about the split between Trinity and Tresham Wards and this seems to be a fairly even.

There has been another incident at Rothwell Junior School where the overhead projector was taken. Schools seem to be targeted and this is being dealt with at Force Headquarters: some offenders from Nottinghamshire have been identified. As to the Slade Valley Avenue area problems with anti-social behaviour, Chief Superintendent Smith has asked for more information of these incidents. CI Lacey understands they are speaking to a resident and there have been complaints of vehicles being driven too fast there, and eggs being thrown. These matters have been passed to the local Officers and CI Aistrop is also looking into them. The PCSOs are aware of the problems. In April there was a burglary, which is the first since February. Auto-crime is also very low. The Police now have an Instant Response Vehicle for the rural areas and this is a real commitment from the Police. Some known Corby criminals have been coming out to Rothwell and Desborough but one is now in custody. CI Aistrop will be moving to Desborough soon, so he will be closer.

Councillor Whitlam reported a recent incident in Cabot Close where there have been several burglaries during March but these have not been recorded. The Chair confirmed there is a lot of juvenile nuisance in this street and CI Lacey was concerned he did not have the details of these burglaries. The detection rate for burglary is very good at 28% but this is because of the arrest of one individual recently. The overall rate is an average of 21%. Residents have mentioned that the old Lamport Road, off Harrington Road, is sometimes used for drug deals and this has been reported to PCs O'Hara and Cotterell.

Since the schools broke up, there have also been a lot of milk taken from doorsteps and smashed in Kipton Field and Slade Valley Avenue. Some of these have been reported to the PCSOs and they have been doing more patrols and handing out ASBO sheets for residents to complete about this sort of incident. This has also been happening in the Moorfield Road area from time to time. PCSO Gell will speak to the milkman and find out if there is a pattern to these incidents.

Alcohol Exclusion Zones

Copies of PC O'Hara's report had been circulated prior to this Meeting. There was a concern as to whether this could be enforced. We have at least two pubs where people sit outside. The PCSOs take alcohol from people who are under age, as well as drugs and cigarettes. It was reported at the last Meeting that Shotwell Mill Lane is another area where this also happens. We need to be socially responsible and ask shopkeepers not to sell alcohol to people they know will give this to youngsters. There is now the danger that shopkeepers can lose their Licence and the Police work with Trading Standards to make checks. The Town Council will monitor the situation as to possible Alcohol Exclusion Zones.

Police Questions from the Public

(1) Information: a resident said that at the last meeting the Officer did not know of incidents but we have now been given some useful information. He hoped we would get the same person attending Meetings, when possible. The Police hope the PCSOs will be able to attend regularly and they should have this information. It was confirmed that PC O'Hara has often attended when he was off duty. It has been wonderful to see PCSO Gell in the town, but there are a large number of crimes which it is not worth reporting, such as damage to cars and vandalism. There has been a lot of this in the Fox Street area and it is a real nuisance. He hoped the PCSOs would help to cut this down. CI Lacey said people should report these incidents because this is the way the information will be passed on.

(2) Parking: in Bridge Street and other areas, people are parking on the pavement. At present the PCSOs cannot issue parking tickets but they can speak to the people concerned and try and alter their behaviour this way. In future, they might have the power to also give tickets.

422 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

(a) New Health Centre Site: a resident was pleased to see that the Town Council oppose the proposed site at the top of Desborough Road. From the correspondence in the Evening Telegraph, people seem to think it is the best solution, but he felt this was for the benefit of the Doctors not the residents. He suggested they could also consider the Fire Station, which could then move to the site in Desborough Road and the Library could move to the Health Centre site. This would leave quite a large area available for the Health Centre and there would not be a need for so many parking spaces. He totally disagreed that the top of Desborough Road would be in the centre of the town when the proposed development takes place. In any event this will take a long time and the precise location has not been decided. Councillor Matthew thought this was an interesting proposal but thought they would use the same reason that it will be more expensive to remain in the town centre because of the additional work required. The Chair was disappointed at the complete lack of consultation with residents. The resident said another reason for his suggestion is that the Fire Station is not in a good place for the engines to be able to get away quickly. Councillor Weston expressed the concern that fire cover is now being cut and if we raise this suggestion we will be asked whether we really need fire cover here. However, the Funeral Director's site has been empty for some time and perhaps this could be used in conjunction with the existing site. Our main proposal is for Coopers Yard and part of the Greening Road Park. We asked the Borough Council to defer a decision on the Planning Application and we have had a response that they cannot do this, which Councillor Weston read to the Meeting.

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Weston, **SECONDED** by Councillor Whitlam and **RESOLVED** to write to Primary Asset and ask them to withdraw their Application, even at this late stage.

There could be environmental issues as this is a green field site and more people will use their cars. In the report from the Borough this is outside the Local Plan town boundary so it will have to go to the GOEM. However, there are no material planning considerations for refusing this

Application. Our aim is to keep the town centre viable and to put a pharmacy with the Health Centre will damage our existing chemists. It has already been decided that Councillors Pote and Whyte will speak at the Meeting. There were 13 residents who wrote to the Borough opposing this site. There is a petition in the Health Centre but this is worded that if you do not want this site, you will not get health facilities. The resident is to speak at the Planning Meeting.

(b) Precept: the resident who had previously asked if the Town Council supported raising a precept had found out the name of the Customer Services Adviser who had said that we wanted to do this. Marion Goodman had said it is Rothwell Councillors who decide whether we have a precept and this can only be for a specific thing. It was confirmed that Rothwell was one of the Councils who said they would never do this.

However, Councillor Pote said that if the Government cuts the grant we will have to do this. Councillor Cross did not accept this because he did not see why Rothwell people should pay extra Council Tax when Kettering people will not have to.

(c) Spencer Street: the pebbledash has been painted but this is coming off already as it was understood it was watered down. The Chair will take this up with Mr Conway, Borough Head of Housing.

(d) Fox Street: a resident asked if there could be a feasibility study into residents' parking permits here. He sometimes has to park as far away as Market Hill because there is nowhere to stop any closer. He would be prepared to contribute towards the costs. Decriminalised parking is coming in at the end of this year and we might have to wait until then, as we have to for disabled parking spaces. There is a local business and the Church so visitors park in this street.

423 MINUTES

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Cross, **SECONDED** by Councillor Pote and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th March 2006 be confirmed and signed.

424 HIGHWAYS

Red Lion Square/Market Hill

Copies of the summary of the responses from the surgery session had been circulated prior to this Meeting. The Clerk is asking for a copy of the issues raised at the workshop in the morning.

Glendon Road

Copies of the Report of the Meeting held on 5th April 2006 had been circulated prior to this Meeting. The County Community Engineer had not been able to make the Meeting, but the Members present had decided to recommend that we ask for the following:-

1. a mini-roundabout and traffic island at the Rock Hill junction.
2. a mini-roundabout at the Columbus Crescent junction nearest the town centre;
3. a gateway at the top of Glendon Hill near the 30 mph signs, which could then be incorporated into this gateway.

Councillor Jones had been approached by a resident in the area of Glendon Road Garage where some vehicles are now being parked on the pavement and these can cause a problem especially when the children are going to school. Councillor Pote will speak to the proprietor direct about asking the drivers of delivery vehicles to stop doing this. Councillor Mrs Mullett was concerned that vehicles will just speed up again after the Columbus Crescent junction, and Councillor Matthew also felt something is needed at the bottom of the hill and possibly we could ask for a build-out there. We had considered build-outs, but there is only a limited amount of finance available and these are expensive.

It was **AGREED** to put forward our preliminary suggestions although we are not certain this will be the most effective or what we can afford. It was **FURTHER AGREED** to re-arrange the Site Meeting to discuss this in more detail.

A14 West of Rothwell

The Clerk had received a reply from Carillion-URS about vehicles coming off the A14 just west of Rothwell near Bridleway UH7 that the area has been inspected by them and the Highways Agency but they were unable to identify any highway features here which could affect the safety of road users. They have the accident data for the last five years for this stretch of the A14 eastbound carriageway and this records two slight personal injury accidents and they gave details of these. No vehicles left the carriageway in either of these accidents. Therefore they are unable to recommend any safety improvements. It was AGREED to give Councillor Spendlove a copy of this letter, as he had raised this issue.

Emergency Resurfacing

Carillion-URS had notified us about the emergency repairs which were carried out on the A14 between junctions 3 and 6 at the end of March. This had been done because the surface in lane 1 had crazed badly during the winter and had potholes in 24 separate locations. These had been made safe with temporary material but potholes were continuing to appear. They therefore resurfaced 25 areas, but could not do the whole of this section of the A14 because they could not give the necessary notice or leave other schemes which had been scheduled. They have used the noise limiting surface and confirmed it is now standard practice to always put this down.

A14 Junction 4 Roundabouts

Mr Robin Matthews of the MTI had informed the Clerk that no second quote had been received so he suggested that we meet with West Lodge Plants & Gardens to discuss exactly what we would like to see on these roundabouts. Mr Matthews will then try and find sponsors, and he suggested he could ask Bovis Homes and Persimmon. It was AGREED to arrange a Meeting with the Landscape Gardeners.

425 PLANNINGReport of the Planning Referee

Councillor Weston reported that the Appeal had been allowed for Application KET/2005/0830 in respect of the proposed extension at The Thai Garden. The following Refusal had been received:-

KET/2006/0057 28 Bridge Street – Change of Use to hot food takeaway.

The following Approvals had been received:-

KET/2006/0006 Groococks Factory, Gordon Street – Demolition of 29 Kettering Road and part factory, to form 36 apartments and five town houses.

KET/2006/0033 North Kettering Business Park – Six signs.

KET/2006/0070 Esso Service Station, Kettering Road – Signs (part refused).

KET/2006/0073 Land adjoining 21 Littlewood Street – Detached dwelling.

KET/2006/0101 McDonalds Restaurant, Kettering Road – Signs.

KET/2006/0116 34 Kipton Field – Extension.

KET/2006/0119 Woodland Hospital, Rothwell Road, Kettering – Improved parking area.

KET/2006/0128 17 Davis Close – Extensions.

The following Applications had been received and our observations were as stated:-

KET/2006/0044 Hope Christian Centre, School Lane – Protective window grilles.
No objection.

KET/2006/0201 5 Cook Close – Study and new double garage.
No objection.

- KET/2006/0208 46 Kettering Road – Demolition of existing house and outbuilding, erection of eleven town houses and eight flats. Object because this would be gross over-development of the site and totally unsuitable for this area. There should be no more than the five units permitted by KET/2005/1079.
- KET/2006/0216 North Kettering Business Park – Vehicle maintenance area to serve distribution unit.
- KET/2006/0220 Glendon Road – 6m high vent column to alleviate existing sewer odour problem.
No objection.

Councillor Whitlam declared a Pecuniary Interest in the following Application, and left the room whilst this was discussed:-

- KET/2006/0257 Land adjoining 31 Manor Road – Two semi-detached dwellings. Object because this would be over-development for this site.

We had also received a County Planning Application for a 2.4m high perimeter security fence to Rothwell Infants and Nursery School, and the Town Council had no objection to this.

We had received a copy of the Report which will be put to the Borough Planning Committee on the new Health Centre Site.

426 ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITY

Library Opening Hours

A response had been received from Mr Ian Strachan, the Borough Head of Customer Services and Information that they will be opening the Service Centre the same hours as the Library. They have not discussed the opportunity of negotiating opening at times when the Library is closed but they would explore this option should footfall increase to a level that would justify such a move. We had also received a response from the County Head of Community Access and Information that all feedback is being brought together for consideration before the Cabinet Meeting on 10th April 2006 when the decision will be taken on this matter.

Councillor Pote explained that the County was going to have to close a couple of Libraries and stop the mobile ones but instead they have decided to keep all the Libraries open and have three mobiles instead of five. The opening hours were wrong in the local magazine produced by the Evening Telegraph. If the budgets are increased next year, it is possible that the hours could be reinstated. It is a problem for people who like to visit the Library in the evening.

Town Centre Partnership

Copies of the Report of the Meeting held on 27th March 2006 had been circulated prior to this Meeting. It was **MOVED** by Councillor Matthew, **SECONDED** by Councillor Whitlam and **RESOLVED** that the Report be approved and adopted.

Bovis Play Areas

Copies of the Report of the Meeting held on 4th April 2006 had been circulated prior to this Meeting. Councillors Mrs Mullett and Weston had looked at the basketball pitch at Burton Latimer and they were very impressed with this. There were several young people using the pitch at the time they arrived and Councillor Mrs Mullett's daughters also played football there. This had a 3m fence which was not too obtrusive, the pitch is floodlit but seems to be locked at night. There are markings on the pitch and it can be used for several different games.

It was **AGREED** to E-mail the Borough that we now approve this type of pitch and hope it will also be floodlit. We agree there should be a 3m high fence.

We had also discussed the Blythe Close Play Area improvements, where the Borough will put up a fence with two gates and renew the seating. The equipment itself complies with all their requirements so does not need to be replaced.

Youth Facilities

Copies of the Report of the Meeting held on 4th April 2006 had been circulated prior to this Meeting. It was AGREED that the Report be approved and adopted.

The Chair brought with her to this Meeting a questionnaire which her daughter had produced for us and this was available for inspection and was approved. Mr Matthews will ask the Borough if they will print 2,000 copies. We need to distribute this and we will ask the Junior School and Montsaye if they can do this for us and collect the responses and also put some in the Library.

Councillor Spendlove joined the Meeting at 8.50 pm.

Mr Matthews has followed up the Desborough Community Transport telephone number which goes through to Marlow House, who confirmed that it is available for use by local organisations. We should contact Councillor Mrs Humfreys about this, but he will find out who owns the vehicle before pursuing the booking procedure and will be back in touch with us.

Housing Estate Walks

Councillor Pote had brought details of forthcoming housing estate walks in the Borough, and copies were passed to the Members present. The walks in Rothwell will take place on 26th April and 16th August 2006, both starting at 2.00 pm, the first from Columbus Crescent and the second from Edinburgh Close.

Bus Services

Councillor Cross said Service 19 now runs every 20 minutes, and goes around the outskirts of Desborough. However, Service 18 does not touch the extreme edges of Rothwell any longer as it does not go round Moorfield Road. There is only a stop in Greening Road, opposite Daisy Bank Avenue, which is unacceptable as elderly residents with shopping will be disadvantaged by this. In addition, Columbus Crescent is now missed out but this bus also goes round Desborough to Ise Vale Avenue and Braybrooke Road opposite Hilltop Avenue. This means Desborough is much better served on the edge of that town than Rothwell. Service 18 travels onto Market Harborough instead of Service 19.

When we went to the launch of the new Service 19, the Clerk had asked Mr James Freeman, the Managing Director of Stagecoach if he would meet the Town Council to discuss the new services and had now received a letter that he could come to Rothwell on either Tuesday, 2nd or Wednesday, 3rd May. It was AGREED to ask for this Meeting at 7.30 pm on 3rd May.

Public Toilets

It was mentioned that the public toilets have been closed on occasion during the last month. This will be reported.

Publicity Brochure

Councillor Matthew referred to the distribution of this booklet prepared by the Town Centre Partnership. It has been arranged that the Labour Group will deliver in Tresham Ward and the Conservative Group in Trinity Ward. It is hoped to get this out before the next Town Council Meeting.

Walks in the Area

It was reported that the Co-op walking programme is now starting and goes on until September. There are leaflets for walks in this area and in Leicestershire.

Recycling Bins

Mr Robin Matthews of the MTI has spoken to Mr Bugby at the Borough Council and he confirms that the decision regarding the location of the recycling bank is for the Town Council to make. His view is that Rothwell deserves a permanent site and the Borough would be unlikely to object to any of the following:-

- Well Lane Community Centre
- Blythe Close
- The Bovis development off Jubilee Street
- The Rowell Charter
- The allotment access off the A14 roundabout
- Squires Hill.

Mr Bugby also said there is unlikely to be a great reduction in the number of bins necessary as a result of the doorstep collection, as other similar schemes have not negated the need for a central recycling bank. He would also suggest screening three sides of the permanent site with Buffalo sound fencing which costs approximately £2,000.

Mr Matthews had spoken to owners of the Rowell Charter some time ago, and they would be prepared to consider putting some of the recycling bins there, but they would not want as many as we have now. Councillor Spendlove thought that if the various licensees disposed of their bottles properly we would not need this. Another location was suggested as the wide footpath at the bottom of Tresham Street. This issue will be part of the consultation on Red Lion Square and Market Hill. It was AGREED to put this on the Agenda for the next Meeting.

Dead Tree, Rothwell Cemetery

This dead tree was removed on Monday, 3rd April and we had received a letter from the Borough Grounds Maintenance and Development Officer confirming this.

427 MATTERS OF BUSINESS

Ambulance Trusts

We had received a letter from the Patient and Public Involvement Forums thanking the Town Council for our response to the proposed reconfiguration of the Ambulance Trusts in the area. They have sent all the responses to the Department of Health, and attached a summary of these for our information.

Licensing Act 2003

The Borough Council had sent us a letter listing the types of entertainment which require to be licensed since the Licensing Act changed in November 2005. People can apply for a permanent licence which is free, but if only the occasional event is held people can choose to apply for a Temporary Events Notice each time which incurs a cost of £21 per application.

It was mentioned that the proprietor of Danny's Kebabs is asking for a full liquor licence until 2.00 am. Some Members thought this was only for deliveries up to that time.

428 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk submitted a written Report as attached. It was **MOVED** by Councillor Pote, **SECONDED** by Councillor Whitlam 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>
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Mrs C E Mackay	Clerk's Salary	£515.14
British Telecom	Phone Bill	£82.36
Colemans	Stationery	£9.95
Symantec Limited	Anti-Virus Subscription Renewal	£39.93
Ian Buchanan	Internal Audit Fee 2003/04 & 2004/05	£250.00

It was FURTHER RESOLVED that the letter prepared by the Clerk to notify the Market Harborough Building Society of her change of address should be signed by the authorised signatories, and that the invoice for the Website renewal should be paid direct from the Town Centre Partnership Account.

The Meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

Chair

Date