

ROTHWELL TOWN COUNCIL

A Meeting of Rothwell Town Council was held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday, 12th December 2006 in the Market House, Market Hill, Rothwell.

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Councillor A C Pote	<u>Chairman</u>
	Councillor Mrs C M Brown	
	Councillor C W Cross	
	Councillor D W Jones	
	Councillor N A Matthew	
	Councillor M W Spendlove	
	Councillor Mrs M E Talbot (7.20 pm)	
	Councillor Mrs G Weston	
	Councillor P G Weston	

521 PRAYERS

Before the business of the Council commenced, the Revd Canon George Burgon said Prayers and mentioned the women who have been murdered in the Ipswich area and their families, together with the members of the Emergency Services who have had to deal with these crimes. He also referred to the recent Gala Evening and Christmas Tree Festival and the community spirit which made these so successful.

522 APOLOGIES

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

523 COMMUNITY POLICING

General Report

PCSO Ian Kelman had put together some advisory notes to try and address the parking problems in the town, and he had copies available for the Members of the Town Council. The PCSOs do not have the power to ticket drivers but he is happy to put these notes on vehicles which are badly parked. The Town Council supports this initiative but some were disappointed that only the PCSOs would be able to do this as we had been told by C I Thompson that residents could as well. However, because this has the Police logo on and is initiated by them they would be the only people who could do this. Other Members felt it was better to leave this to the Police because of the insurance implications. PCSO Kelman confirmed that the wording is similar to that produced in Desborough, but he agreed it would be possible to mention that repeat offenders could be issued with fixed penalty notices. We would also like to know at the next Meeting how many of these had been put on cars. There are not double yellow lines on all the streets mentioned but the Members of the Town Council approved of those listed.

The Town Council had just received the crime figures and the comparison for the period April to November 2005 and 2006. These showed a reduction of 32 crimes which is a percentage of 9.1% this year. This is good, but there are some crimes we would want to monitor. PCSO Kelman said they are having to make a lot more effort on criminal damage but they have some CCTVs in the worst areas.

Councillor Weston referred to incidents of juvenile nuisance, such as eggs being thrown at windows, near Madams Gardens, so that one resident had to move flats so she was no longer

facing the street because of the distress caused by this problem. The Police responded very quickly to the complaint. The PCSOs regard this as a top priority and did ask all the shops not to sell eggs to young people at certain times, and the schools are also aware of this.

The Clerk had received a response from PC O'Hara on the speed camera being placed in Glendon Road that there is already a request for the Road Policing Unit to carry out an operation here. As to vehicles parking on the bend in the High Street, opposite Squires Hill, PC O'Hara felt personally that it would be better regarding traffic flow and safety if vehicles could not park on this bend. However, if the traffic flow improved some Members felt this would mean that vehicles would go faster. In addition, the County is not putting additional double yellow lines in now, mainly because the cost of the necessary Traffic Order is prohibitive.

Police Questions from the Public

- (a) Speed Checks: Mr West said that there was one recently in Harrington Road. PCSO Kelman did not have the figures, but Councillor Spendlove thought this was successful in catching some offenders. The Chairman reported that there was also a speed check in Glendon Road at the top of Columbus Crescent.
- (b) Woolpack Inn: a resident said that vehicles park outside these premises and obstruct people trying to use the footpath. Councillor Jones supported this comment and the PCSOs will look at this.
- (c) Market Hill Square: a resident said that there is a conflict with vehicles going in and coming out of this parking area, but some time ago this used to be one way in and one way out. It was explained that the Town Council had suggested this should be reinstated as part of the Red Lion Square and Market Hill Vision but we did not know if this would be done.

524 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

- (1) Christmas Lights: Mr West said these are very attractive, possibly some of the best in the area and most people think this. Some of the trees on the properties are not lit however, and it was explained that the owners sometimes forget to put these on.
- (2) County Councillor's Grant: Councillor Pote explained that £5,000 will be spent on the Youth Group which the Town Council has set up, mainly for outreach workers to come out from Kettering where the Youth Workers have formed a co-operative. There is a consultation period up to 12th December and the money will be available after that time. The remaining money is for four benches in the town and four litter bins. The small amount left over will be transferred to the following year when he is considering improving the lighting in Squires Hill and Church Walk because these areas are very dark.
- (3) Bridge Parapet: this is still being stored and Mr West thought this could go in front of the Manor House, or elsewhere in Squires Hill. The problem is where the funding would come from to re-build this as we had found that this would be very expensive. As the Manor House is owned by the Preservation Trust, this suggestion would need to be put to them.
- (4) Leaves: a lot of these have been left on the ground for a long time and sometimes litter has been picked up from them but the leaves themselves left. These do make the footways slippery and dangerous when it is wet, especially for elderly people. We had been told we would have a greener, cleaner town centre. It was thought the cleansing operator does go elsewhere sometimes but other people do come out here. The machine is often used in other areas. It was AGREED to ask someone from the Borough DLO to attend the next full Town Council Meeting to discuss what can be done next year to clear the leaves away more quickly.

(5) Bus Shelter: Mr West had understood that we could not have a bus shelter in front of the Library because there is not sufficient room, and in this case he felt it could be in front of Tesco where there is room. It was explained the main issue was that of the cost and no-one has the funds to provide this: there are also a lot of services in that area. In addition the actual bus stop is in front of the Library and there would need to be a new Order to move this, which is very expensive. There was a new shelter in Desborough Road but this has already been wrecked. The various bodies seem prepared to do work for service 19, but not for service 18. We tried to get this included in the Red Lion Square/Market Hill Study but it does not look as though this will be done. The other issue is that people would also want a shelter on the other side of the road. The Town Council is still trying to get this done, perhaps as a benefit with the new houses.

(6) Weight Restrictions: there is a weight restriction on the far end of Glendon Road which should stop heavy lorries going through. Mr West said there was a large lorry going towards Corby and another low loader on the bridge in Glendon Road.

(7) Traffic Calming: Mr West said there are several road humps being installed in Wellingborough on side roads. It was explained that these are not popular with many people because of the noise they create. We are talking about having a mini-roundabout at Rock Hill and he felt a table there would be better, but again Members felt this would create a lot of noise. We are to ask the County and the Police to carry out a complete survey of Glendon Road so we are trying to make the road safer in a way which is also satisfactory for residents.

(8) Homeless Families: it was reported that there are 43 homeless families in Kettering but the Chairman said this has already been brought down to 36. The Borough has a duty to look after homeless people and is doing quite well on this. There is a new hostel being completed in the spring with five flats. The only people in the Borough who are now sleeping rough are those who want to do this. Councillor Pote sits on the Tenants Forum and they discuss this issue regularly. Mr West said that No.13 Glendon Road was vacated on 21st July 2006 and for 4½ weeks there were Council vans coming and going to renovate the property. A tenant only moved in after three months and he thought this was too long. It was not known what work was being carried out but this could have needed extensive repair and renovation. It was AGREED to write to the borough Head of Housing to ask for the reason and for details of the standards they need to meet before a property is re-let.

(9) Recycling Bins: there is no definite plan to move these at the present time.

(10) Tree in Hospital Hill: the Warden of Jesus Hospital had asked a resident to mention that the tree near the entrance of this property creates a lot of leaves around the area which are never removed, and she asked if this could be taken out. We are to query the method of removing leaves.

(11) Play Area, Well Lane: a lot of youths gather in this area and a resident asked if they could be made to stop doing this. This is a long standing problem but we will ask the PCSOs to look at this area from time to time to persuade the older ones not to do this, as it causes a nuisance for the residents of Spring Gardens.

(12) Lighting, Squires Hill: this is very poor especially near the toilets but the Chairman is hoping to use some of his next year's County Grant to improve this. He reported that these grants will be rolled out to all County Councillors in a few years' time.

525 MINUTES

It was MOVED by Councillor Mrs Weston, SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Brown and RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th November 2006 be confirmed and signed.

526 HIGHWAYSPedestrian Crossings, Desborough Road

A letter had been received from Mr Trimble at the County Council that the new pedestrian crossing is part of a Section 278 agreement for the proposed Medical Centre, and he has been involved in discussions with the developer's agents because a crossing was not included in the original designs. The Notice of Intention did not refer to a specific type of crossing and discussions are still continuing with regard to the extra costs to the developer but he is hopeful that this will be a puffin style with traffic signals. The crossing is only being provided because it is funded privately by the developer but it would be unrealistic and unacceptable to ask for further funds for the mini-roundabout changes. With regard to the existing crossing further down Desborough Road, the developer would not consider funding any work at this location, and the County do not have available funds to change this to a puffin.

It was AGREED to respond that the developer for the Medical Centre has arranged for the shuttle bus service 18 route to be changed and it now comes out of Greening Road onto the B576 at the mini-roundabout so that it will be convenient for residents going to the new Medical Centre. In addition, the number of private vehicles in this area will be increased when the Medical Centre is completed so we feel it is both realistic and acceptable to ask the developer to fund the work to move the mini-roundabout and make it safe, which it is not at the present time.

It was FURTHER AGREED to point out that there will be a link road from the B576 to the A6 bypass as part of the Urban Extension Area and this will not be far away from the new Medical Centre and the zebra crossing. We therefore need a Meeting with the relevant County Highways Officers to discuss this and the proposed traffic calming in Glendon Road, together with the effects the Urban Extension Area will have on various highways schemes in Rothwell.

Highways Representatives

Copies of the Reps Review for November had been circulated for information. This included the rota for gully cleansing which shows that Rothwell is due during December. The Clerk had made enquiries as to what would be done, and was informed that this year all the gullies will be cleaned out, but next year only those which obviously need to be cleared will receive attention.

Street Adoption

A notice had been received that a small part on the corner of Marlow Close and Evison Road has now been adopted, although it was not known why this was not done earlier.

Weight Restriction

We had received notification that the Traffic Order for the weight restriction in various roads in Rothwell and Desborough came into effect on 1st December 2006.

527 PLANNINGReport of the Planning Referee

Councillor Spendlove reported that we had received Notice of two Appeals as follows:-

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| KET/2006/0207 | 33A Wales Street – Demolition of garage and erection of dwelling for two flats. |
| KET/2006/0594 | Land at 2 John Smith Avenue – Dwelling. |

The following Refusal had been received:-

KET/2006/0867 Woodfield Farm, Glendon Road – Outbuildings.

The following Approvals had been received:-

KET/2006/0788 23 High Street – Six apartments and studio.

KET/2006/0814 19 Nelson Drive – Extension.

KET/2006/0885 89 Connolly Drive – Extension.

KET/2006/0871 16 Balfour Drive – Extension.

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

KET/2006/0799 Glebe Farm, Desborough Road – Dormer bungalow
No objection.

KET/2006/0981 Land adjoining 49 Evison Road – Town House.
No objection, provided the access is considered safe and adequate for another dwelling in this location.

KET/2006/1030 North Kettering Business Area – Reserved Matters, building for B8 use.
No objection.

KET/2006/1042 Stanley Street/Norton Street – Dwelling.
We object as this would be gross over-development and take the gardens away from two family houses.

We had also been sent some of the documents relating to approval of reserved matters for the drainage at the North Kettering Business Area and we had responded that the Town Council has no objection, provided that the Environment Agency is content with the proposal, and it takes into account the future expansion of Rothwell and any pressure this might put on the sewerage and drainage systems in the area.

Urban Extension Area

Copies of the Report of the Meeting held on 6th December 2006 had been circulated prior to this Meeting. It was AGREED that the Report be approved and adopted.

Councillor Spendlove was cynical about some of the answers, especially in connection with the link road between the B576 and Rushton Road, as we were told Persimmon had no control over the land. He felt they would put a dead end there and then only agree to extend this if Planning Permission is given for even more houses. There is also the issue of affordable housing and the suggestion that if we have 750 houses instead of 700 we could increase the number of affordable units by 50. However, there is to be the report from the North Northamptonshire Development Company which might increase the proportion of affordable houses to 26%. It was AGREED to wait and see what this report does recommend. As to the Football club site, if they cannot get sufficient houses out of this to make it financially worthwhile, it does not look as though this will proceed.

Sewerage System

We had received a reply from Kathleen Rivett, the Borough Senior Planning Officer, that the sewage issues in general around Rothwell and Desborough are being considered as part of the North Northamptonshire Outline Water Cycle Strategy. This is being led by the Environment

Agency and a draft is expected on 4th December 2006. She is due to meet with the Environment Agency and their consultants later in December to discuss the implications of the report for development within Kettering Borough. Her understanding is that this does examine the sewage infrastructure around Rothwell and Desborough and gives strategic options for future consideration, but as yet she does not have any details. She will inform us of the contents of the study as soon as it becomes available in the public domain. In relation to the Bovis site, the Borough is notified but has no power over the development other than street naming and numbering.

It was AGREED to write to the North Northamptonshire Development Company and ask for a copy of this Report, or to look at this on the Internet.

Red Lion Square/Market Hill Vision

Copies of the letter received from the Borough Deputy Chief Executive regarding this matter had been circulated prior to this Meeting. The Chairman is still discussing the matter with the Borough Council. With Mr Hammond's agreement, he has arranged a Meeting with Paul Thomas and Cath Harvey in January and we will have a walk around with the plan and look at each of the suggestions and why we agree with certain of them, for example the one way system in Market Hill Square. As to who will make the final decision as to whether the money will come to Rothwell, it was thought the Officers would. The Meeting is to be on 8th January 2006 at 10.00 am at the Market House, and someone from the other Group will also attend.

Rothwell House Hotel

The Clerk had received a response from the Borough Monitoring & Enforcement Officer that this development at the front of the Hotel does require Planning Permission and Listed Building Consent and is therefore unauthorised. The Borough considers that these works have an unacceptably harmful effect on the character of the building as one of special architectural and historic interest and also harm the character and appearance of the Conservation Area. Consequently they have served Enforcement Notices detailing the steps required to alleviate the identified harm. These take effect on 16th and 17th January 2007 respectively, unless an appeal is made against them beforehand. If an appeal is made, they will notify us of the details and explain the procedure. If no appeal is made, or an appeal is subsequently dismissed, the Notices will take effect and both require full compliance within a further four months. It was AGREED to ask for copies of these Notices.

528 ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITY

Gala Committee

Copies of the Report of the Gala Committee Meeting held on 27th November 2006 had been circulated prior to this Meeting. The Chairman said that this had been a very good night despite the bad weather. He took the Mayor and Mayoress of Kettering around the stalls, and also to the Parish Church and the Arts & Heritage Centre. They both thoroughly enjoyed the evening. Councillor Weston said the Fair Trade Group had a stall and this was doing some very good work. Councillor Spendlove said that Mr Dines is the organiser on the day, but he will not be able to do this for ever, so perhaps we need to consider this.

It was AGREED to send a letter to the Letters Page of the Evening Telegraph, thanking everyone involved in the Gala Evening.

Bus Services

We had written to the County Council and asked if the first two buses to Market Harborough in the morning could start from Rothwell, rather than Desborough as at present. We have now received a reply that unfortunately the County Council's financial position will not allow them to make any further improvements, which means that the existing timetable for service 18 will apply for the foreseeable future.

Pocket Parks/Country Parks & Open Spaces

We had received a consultation document on these parks, and Councillor Weston will respond to this. Councillor Jones had completed a questionnaire some 18 months ago about voles and the national report was out the previous week.

Sports Hall & Swimming Pool

The Chairman had received a formal invitation to the opening of the sports hall and the refurbished swimming pool at Montsaye Community College. The Clerk had had a telephone call inviting other Members to this event. Councillors Cross, Mrs Talbot and Weston would be able to go along.

Carol Concert

Canon Burgon had notified the Town Council that the Annual Carol service would be held in the Parish Church on 19th December at 7.00 pm, with the collection going to Cransley Hospice.

Town Centre Partnership

We had received an E-mail from Howard Fillingham about future development of the website, as the current term has expired and he was wondering what the next steps are. The hanging basket columns are due to be delivered to the Borough Depot in the next day or so, and we will then need a Site Meeting to decide precisely where these should be put in Squired Hill. We will arrange this, and an ordinary Meeting of the Partnership.

Roadside Seat

The seat which the Lions are donating seems to be causing some controversy. It has been suggested this will be on the corner of Nunnery Avenue by the entrance to the bungalow there. It was AGREED to suggest this would be better near the cricket field.

Foundation Trust Application

We had received an E-mail that the team is putting together a large list of dates for consultation venues across the County, so asked us to suggest a couple of dates. We will arrange this.

Ballgame Facility

Councillors Jones, Mrs Mullett and Weston went out with Johan Esterhuizen of Playworld Systems and inspected the ballgame pitch at Burton Latimer which is a one-off size. They then looked at one in Corby and were very impressed with this. Mr Esterhuizen suggested that he could try and negotiate with Bovis to make this slightly larger than the one at Corby and all three Members felt this would make an excellent ball park of the right size for Rothwell. Instead of having a 3m fence, we would have a 2m one and we could have the youth shelter built there as well. He did not know if there would be sufficient funding, but he is looking at this.

Councillor Jones has also spoken to Mr Esterhuizen since the visit and he did not think there would be enough saving on the reduction in height at this stage, but there would be enough for a pathway.

It was MOVED by Councillor Weston, SECONDED by Councillor Jones and RESOLVED to ask the Borough Council if Bovis will provide extra funding for the youth shelter as on the photographs and a path to the facility. It will be cheaper having the youth facility at this stage rather than trying to add one later.

529 MATTERS OF BUSINESS

Youth Group

Councillor Mrs Brown has received draft Constitutions from Robin Matthews and these have been forward to Councillor Mrs Weston who will prepare one for the Group. It was AGREED we will have a Meeting the following week to agree the Constitution and set up a Bank Account.

Police Consultation

Councillor Jones had attended on behalf of the Town Council and listened to the presentation. This was very much about the figures involved and some of the village reports about criminal damage and disturbance were really very bad. Community Safety Teams are being rolled out throughout the County and Councillor Jones felt these were having a good effect.

530 FINANCIAL REPORT

General Report

The Clerk submitted a written statement as attached. It was MOVED by Councillor Mrs Weston, 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	£436.10
Inland Revenue	Tax and NI (3 months)	£437.49
Colemans	Drum and Toner for Printer	£127.39
Cash	Petty Cash	£20.00

Council Chamber Chairs

We had received some quotes from Steelco for re-covering the chairs in various materials. It was AGREED to obtain a second quote from Mr Tierney, and to get quotes for these in real leather in dark green as opposed to faux leather.

531 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.