

ROTHWELL TOWN COUNCIL

A Meeting of Rothwell Town Council was held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday, 10th January 2006 in the Market House, Market Hill, Rothwell.

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs C M Brown Chair
Councillor C W Cross
Councillor M W Spendlove (7.15 pm)
Councillor Mrs M E Talbot
Councillor Mrs G Weston
Councillor P G Weston

381 MAYOR OF KETTERING

The Meeting was attended by Councillor Matt Lynch, the Mayor of Kettering.

382 PRAYERS

Before the Meeting commenced, the Revd Canon George Burgon said Prayers, and mentioned the new Family Centres to be provided, the work of the Youth Service and those who are sick.

383 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Councillors Jones, Matthew, Pote, Whitlam and Whyte.

384 COMMUNITY POLICING

General Report

The Meeting was attended by Sgt Kevin Burton and PC Jim O'Hara. Sgt Burton had worked here several years ago and has now returned as our local Sergeant. PC O'Hara had brought the crime figures with him and went through these which showed an overall reduction of 26.4% for April to December 2005, compared with the same period in 2004. These need to be looked at carefully because, for example, Robbery showed an increase of 100% but this only means two crimes as opposed to one last year. He has now been able to give us information about the ASBOs in Rothwell and this was handed to the Clerk. These are only for the Members of the Town Council and not to be made public. The Police Officers did not have details of the current detection rate, but this is about 22%-25% which is on a par with the national average. Rothwell did not have one reported offence for seven days over the Christmas period. Most of the crime is in Desborough at the present time.

Sgt Burton reported that we used to lose our Community Police Officers to Kettering and Corby on a regular basis but this scheme is now staffed by other Officers which means that it is less likely that PC O'Hara and PC Cotterell will be called out. The Police have a DNU car with a single Officer which will deal with fairly minor crimes which still need a visit. Residents will be contacted when this Officer is to call. This scheme will free up the Instant Response Unit.

Councillor Spendlove joined the Meeting at 7.15 pm.

385 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

- (1) Bus Shelter, Market Hill: we have not yet received a positive response on this.
- (2) Council Tax: a resident said that apparently at Kettering Post Office you are charged £1.95 to pay your Council Tax there, although to pay rent is free. It was AGREED to write to the Borough Council to find out what the system will be at Rothwell when they close the Cashier's Office and to see if Mr Strachan will attend the February Meeting.
- (3) Library: a resident asked why the Library was now closing earlier. It was explained that this is because of the nuisance from young people in the evenings. PC O'Hara was aware they were having problems during the evenings but he did not know they were now shutting earlier.

There is a notice in the window about this. This will have an impact on the staff whose hours will be cut. It was AGREED to write about this and to inform the Library Service that our Community Police Officer is monitoring the situation.

(4) New Health Centre Site: it was confirmed that no final decision has been made but the current proposal is to put this in Desborough Road, on the left-hand side as you go out of Rothwell, just above the Greening Road junction.

(5) Seat, Glendon Road: Mr Baines-Davies said he was still experiencing problems with young people on this seat, using their cameras. He has reported matters to the Police previously, but PC O'Hara had asked him to report any incident for information, so that this is in the system. He has made a point during evening patrols to go past this seat, but he has not seen anyone there. He has looked from early evening until late at night/early morning. The young people are now congregating near the Community Centre and PC O'Hara was aware of this.

(6) Youth Facilities: Mr Baines-Davies asked what the Borough and Town Councils were doing about jobs being cut from the County Council, especially in the Youth Service because this will mean a lot more young people are on the streets. County Councillor Pote has an important County Meeting this evening, which is why he cannot be here, but we will raise this with him. Some of the Town Councillors are campaigning about this and we are also concerned. There is one County-run Youth Club here and although this is only for one evening a week it does help. We have also contacted the Youth Service Outreach Workers to sort out any problem of nuisance by the seat in Glendon Road. The Zone at Kettering does valuable work, including for Rothwell children. These cuts will put pressure on the Police and we need to retain the Youth Workers, one of whom helped some of our young people a few years ago by arranging the Young Firefighters Scheme, but he has now been given his redundancy notice. Councillor Mrs Weston was also worried about cuts for those with learning disabilities as this is another Service for vulnerable people which is at risk.

Councillor Lynch was also dismayed that the County is going to cut down on the Youth Service and he will be writing to the Leader and Chairman of the County Council to express his views. He advised everyone to write to their local County Councillor and the Leader to express their concerns about this issue, so that perhaps they will think again about making these cuts. It was AGREED to write to the County Council on this.

The resident thought the Town Council could look at what organisations are in Rothwell to see what they are doing and if they have small amounts of money which can be put together to keep some services in Rothwell and to pay for a Youth Worker. There are also grants, including from the Lottery.

It was AGREED that the Town Council will try and organise a Public Meeting to invite interested parties to discuss this matter. This will include the young people's organisations in the Town, the Youth Service, the Police, Churches, the Community Leisure Manager and Mr Baines-Davies would be prepared to assist as he works with young people at Corby. This could be held in either the Community Centre or the Trinity Centre. The schools are given extra money for activities outside hours and they should be involved although this can raise a problem with the Health & Safety Regulations which can affect these initiatives.

A small Group from the Town Council consisting of Councillors Mrs Brown, Mrs Talbot, Mrs Weston and Weston will meet to arrange this.

(7) Cars parked on the Pavement: this was mentioned at the last Meeting, but a resident said this is worse in Kettering Road than in Gladstone Street and there have been some near accidents because people using mobility scooters have to go out into the road. The area on the left-hand side of Kettering Road going out of the town is particularly bad. PC O'Hara said this has been discussed before at the Town Council Meetings and the Police understand that people have to park somewhere, but they should leave space for mobility scooters. He asked the resident to contact the Police when the pavement is blocked. The resident also referred to the plans for the development of the former Grocock's Factory and asked if he could look at these. We have the plans and these are due for discussion later in this Meeting but he can telephone to arrange to come and look at these.

It was MOVED by Councillor Mrs Weston, SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Talbot and RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th December 2005 be confirmed and signed.

387 HIGHWAYS

Weight Restriction, Rothwell and Desborough

Copies of the letter and plans to show the extent of the weight restriction it is proposed to implement here had been circulated prior to this Meeting. It was AGREED that we approve this proposed Traffic Regulation Order.

Market Hill

A reply had been received from Atkins that the dip in Market Hill has been inspected and its present condition assessed. Whilst there is evidence of sinkage of the surface, intervention is not considered to be required at this stage. However, the area will continue to be monitored as part of the monthly inspection of Rothwell town centre. Should further deterioration occur, they will arrange for investigative and remedial work to be carried out to address the cause of the sinkage.

The Clerk confirmed that she had informed them that we believe this is over the old cellar of the property which used to be in Market Hill and so we are concerned about this especially as it is still sinking noticeably. The small hole at the back of the Market House was deep, and this could be where a well used to be.

Parish Speed Boards

We had received the usual letter, asking if we wanted to have the speed boards again this year. It was AGREED to ask for these during April 2006.

Vehicle Actuated Signs

It was reported that the sign at the bottom of Kettering Road as you come into Rothwell is not working and it is understood this has been out since October. This has been reported because they took this down when they did the bus stop.

The Clerk had received some complaints about the sign in Kettering Road by 1 Hobbs Hill in that some residents believe this is set at too low a speed and stays on for too long. Members of the Town Council have checked this regularly and it is targeted at about 30 mph and they believe it is set correctly and is effective.

However, the sign at the top of Desborough Road near the cricket field does stay on for a long time. It was AGREED to report this.

Christmas Lights

It was reported that on the snowflakes unit by 33 High Street, the bottom one was not working. Kettering Borough Contractors were aware of this: it was working in the Depot but not after they installed this. It might be that the blanking plate fixings had damaged it but they will check this for next year.

A14 Crash Barrier

Councillor Spendlove reported that at about 6.00 pm on Boxing Day a vehicle came off the A14 again by the bridleway. This necessitated the Police coming out and a recovery vehicle to deal with the situation. He is still concerned that a vehicle will go into someone walking or riding there. It was AGREED to chase a response from Carillion-URS.

Trinity Road

It was reported that in Trinity Road, on the left-hand side as you go towards Moorfield Road and near that junction, there are two potholes in the gutter which were recently repaired but which have come out again. Councillor Cross felt that this repair did not last because vehicles were

driving over and parking again immediately. It was AGREED to report this and to suggest that perhaps Atkins could prevent vehicles using this side of the road when they do these repairs.

York Stone Slabs, Market Hill

We had received a response from Atkins' Maintenance Technician that he has once again asked their Operations Section for a timescale as to when these works are due to be carried out. They said the bollards and padlocks are due to be installed by the end of January 2006. An order was issued to the Operations Section in July 2005 for the York stone slabs but there was a delay in placing the order to the supplier, and delivery and installation is now expected in February 2006. He is chasing up these works with the Section to adhere to these dates to avoid any further delay.

High Street Footway Repairs

The Clerk had also asked when this work would be done, as agreed with the Highways Agency, the County Council and Atkins. This should include repairing the potholes at the bottom of Sun Hill. She had received a telephone call in response, that the County is chasing the Highways Agency to agree the funding.

Rushton Road

The Clerk had received a copy of the letter which Atkins had sent to the residents in Rushton Road, asking them not to park there when the resurfacing work is carried out.

Highways Representatives Scheme

We had received a letter from the Information Manager for Atkins asking if we could provide accommodation for one of the Evening Meetings. As he asked for access to a kitchen and crockery, if possible, it was not felt it would be suitable here.

Footway Fouling by Dogs

Councillor Mrs Talbot reported that there is a lot of dog mess on the pavements between Norton Street and Madams Gardens. It was AGREED to report this and to ask for a visit by the Borough Dog Warden.

388 PLANNING

Report of the Planning Referee

Councillor Weston reported that we had received notification of an Appeal against the Refusal to build two houses at the rear of 19 & 21 Leys Avenue, fronting onto Desborough Road. We had asked for a copy of the Appeal decision here.

There is also to be an Appeal in respect of the proposed rear extension at the Thai Garden, 3 Market Hill because of Non-Determination of the Application. If there is a small Application and it is not decided within the relevant time, you can notify the Borough that it has been deemed to have been approved by default and ask for a copy of the decision. The Applicants here have decided to go to appeal. It was AGREED to ask for a copy of the Appeal decision here as well.

The following Application had been withdrawn:-

KET/2005/0796 The Haybarn, Glendon Hill Farm, Glendon Road – Change of Use from Agricultural land to the keeping of horses, including stables and menage.

The following Refusal had been received:-

KET/2005/1021 Esso Service Station, Kettering Road – Various signs.

The following Approvals had been received:-

KET/2005/1024 5 Moorfield Road – Extension.

KET.2005/1003 Esso Service Station, Kettering Road – Site redevelopment.

KET/2005/1050 Grange Farm, Shotwell Mill Lane – Erection of 14.9m 6.0kw grid-linked wind turbine.

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

KET/2005/1103 6 Moorfield Green – Demolish existing and new attached garage.
No objection.

KET/2005/1124 Glebe Farm, Desborough Road – Replacement dwelling and garage.
No objection, provided no mature trees are lost: the plans seem to show that a beech and a laurel would be removed.

KET/2005/1126 31 Playford Close – Two storey side extension.
We object as this is a very large extension which will take the building right up to its boundary. This will impact on 32 Playford Close and would make building and maintenance difficult without encroaching on 32 Playford Close.

KET/2005/1147 68/70 Rushton Road – Approval of Reserved Matters for two bungalows.
No objection.

KET/2005/1152 9 Beverley Close – Extension and garage conversion.
We object as this would remove a garage facility for the house, and it is very large for this plot of land.

KET/005/1156 The Haybarn, Glendon Hill Farm, Glendon Road – Change of Use from Agricultural land to the keeping of horses, including stables and menage.
No objection.

The following Application had recently been received and our observations were agreed as stated:-

KET/2006/0006 Old Shoe Factory, Gordon Street – Part demolition and conversion to form 36 apartments and five town houses with associated stores and parking.
Rothwell Town Council has no objection to this Application, subject to the following amendments/conditions:-

(1) We do not feel that parking spaces 18, 20 and 22 are useful because they are directly in front of spaces 17, 19 and 21 so would cause problems and inconvenience for anyone trying to use these.

(2) We do not feel that the cycle/bin store for Block B should have doors opening directly onto the street, or be under the residential units because of the danger of people breaking into this store and the possibility of arson. There is also the possibility of smells within the residential units. However, there must be adequate bin stores and bins for this development, especially now that the doorstep recycling scheme is operational and so household bins are only emptied once a fortnight. There should therefore be another bin store and consideration could be given to putting this in the area currently shown for parking spaces 18, 20 and 22 mentioned above.

(3) The Town Council is still concerned about access by fire engines to the town houses in Block C and the Fire Service must specifically confirm that they are satisfied with this arrangement.

(4) Careful consideration must be given as to how the demolition of No.41 Kettering Road is to be carried out, so as to protect the amenities for the occupiers of No.39 and to ensure no damage is caused to their property. Any remedial work found to be necessary must be carried out immediately.

(5) The Town Council would like to see the draft s.106 Agreement and to have the opportunity to comment on this. One facility we would want included is an environmentally acceptable surfaced footpath along the western side of Manor Park to Squires Hill to provide a safe route to the town centre, including the primary schools.

The Mayor of Kettering left the Meeting at 8.40 pm.

North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit

Copies of the Preferred Options consultation document and summary had been circulated prior to this Meeting. Rothwell is designated a Smaller town, but several towns of a similar size in East Northamptonshire were either Rural or Local Service Centres. We will find out what the difference is between these. Paragraph 3.13 of the full document states that Desborough and Rothwell offer limited employment opportunities, and also that Raunds requires new employment to stimulate regeneration and investment in that town. It was felt that Rothwell has a similar need, especially as we were left out as to provision for employment land right from the beginning when this town was omitted from the Local Plan.

It was AGREED to have a special Meeting to discuss this in detail.

389 ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITY

New Health Centre Site

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

Councillor Spendlove had asked if we had ever seen a plan of the proposed site, but we do not seem to have a copy and it was thought a plan was brought to one of the Meetings but no copies were left for us. He was not happy that we were being asked to accept an out-of-town site for the Health Centre. This will be a Private Finance Initiative and this could cause difficulties. The Labour Group has carried out a survey and had over 275 replies, of which 98% have rejected an out-of-town site and most of the comments are about accessibility, especially for the elderly. There has been a problem with the new Surgery on the edge of the town at Burton Latimer; initially there was transport but now a charge is made for this. Both Groups on the Town Council agree we should retain our town centre and the facilities here. We have two, or possibly three, town centre sites which are being ruled out because they say there is not sufficient parking. This matter was discussed further in some detail.

The Clerk has arranged the next Meeting for 18th January with Mr Peter Forrester, the Chief Executive of the Heartlands PCT, and Cath Harvey and Simon Richardson from the Borough Planning Department as well as Mr Richard Black of Primary Asset and Dr John Holden. It was AGREED that the Reports of all the previous Meetings should be circulated so that Members have full information before this Meeting.

Doorstep Recycling Scheme

A letter had been received from Mr Martin Hammond, the Borough Deputy Chief Executive, that part three of the recycling scheme starts soon with the remaining part of Rothwell going live in late February. Information will start going out to households in January with boxes and bins being delivered early in February. They expect to have a road show in Market Hill Square beforehand, but if we feel that any other event or meeting would be helpful, they would be happy to consider them. It was AGREED that the roadshow would be good, but perhaps they could also have a small display in the Library.

Library Garden

The Clerk had received a letter from Rowell Lions that for some time they have maintained this area, and on a monthly basis they have pruned, trimmed and litter picked this area. They have received favourable comments on how this looks. They last time they did this was on 16th October, only to find on 17th October the whole area was hacked to the ground. This was the only green area in the town centre and, although youths used to congregate by the Library doors, they felt the action was rather drastic. The area outside the doors could have been removed and paved, leaving the main area intact. Rowell Lions therefore feel that they have no alternative than to remove their sign because they have had comments to the effect that this was their doing. They also feel that as the Council were aware that they looked after this area, they could have been notified as to what was happening.

It was AGREED to reply that the Town Council was not aware either of the action which was to take place although we know the Library has been having problems with nuisance and vandalism there. It was FURTHER AGREED to include this item in the letter to the Library, asking them to let us know what the options are for this area.

Gala Evening

A further letter had been received from Rowell Lions thanking the Gala Committee for organising another good Gala Night. With the addition of the extra lights, Rothwell looked really good. They were, however, disappointed to find another stall selling the same items as the Lions, especially as they understand that he was not a Charity but someone who turned up and offered £20 for a stall. They realise there are often duplications and if this had been another Charity stall they could understand better.

It was AGREED to ask the Gala Committee to respond to this and we will arrange a Meeting shortly.

Bus Shelter, Market Hill

We had written to the County Council and have received a reply from the Senior Public Transport Officer that it is unlikely there will be further improvements to bus stops in Rothwell in the near future, as the County does not at present have a budget for maintaining or providing bus shelters: this is currently the responsibility of Town or Parish Councils. The improvements to stops on the 19 route are part of providing such infrastructure enhancements on a "corridor" basis where there is a partnership between the County and the bus operator. In the case of shelters, this still places a responsibility of the Parish or Town Councils concerned for ongoing maintenance.

It was wondered if we could do anything through the Town Centre Partnership. It was AGREED to write to Mr Hammond, the Deputy Chief Executive, with a copy to Ms Claire Bonnie, Economic & Community Development Officer about this matter.

Manor Park

We had written to the Borough Grounds Maintenance Department about the amount of dog faeces in Manor Park, and a reply dated 4th January 2006 had been received from Ms Sarah Easty. She had spoken to the workman who would be clearing the Park the following day. She has also contacted the Litter and Dog Wardens and asked them to keep an eye on the area and to look at the possibility of more signs stating the penalties. The workman will also keep an eye out for offenders, although he has already pointed out that the majority of dog walkers in the daytime are very responsible and they always pick up their dog faeces. If we know who any of the offenders are, they would appreciate any information we have. It was not known who might be doing this, but we did feel it was probably after dark.

390 MATTERS OF BUSINESS

Borough Consultation

Copies of the letters regarding the Task & Finish Group and the Budget Meeting had been circulated prior to this Meeting, for information.

Holocaust Memorial Day

Copies of the letter from the Borough Council with details of the sixth Holocaust Memorial Day at 2.00 pm on Sunday, 22nd January 2006 had been circulated prior to this Meeting for Members to respond individually if they were able to attend.

County Minerals Local Plan

A letter had been received from the County Council in connection with the proposed modifications to the Northamptonshire Minerals Local Plan. A copy can be provided at a cost of £20, or inspected at the Library.

391 FINANCIAL REPORT

General Statement

The Clerk submitted a written Report 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	£501.61
Cllr Mrs C M Brown	Chair's Half-yearly Allowance	£300.00
British Telecom	Phone Bill	£89.71
Colemans	Stationery	£62.39

Grant 2006/07

A letter had been received from Mr Graham Soulsby, Borough Acting Deputy Chief Executive in connection with the consultation exercise about the future operation of the grant funding arrangements and copies of this letter had been circulated prior to this Meeting. The Committee has made the following resolutions in relation to Town and Parish Council funding:-

- (1) the results from the consultation process be noted;
- (2) for budget planning purposes, the cash levels of grant to individual Town and Parish Councils be maintained for 2006/07 (adjusted for inflation only) and the Councils be informed that a new system of funding is likely to operate as from 1st April 2007
- (3) a new system of funding for Town and Parish Councils be developed during the first half of 2006/07 and reported back to the Executive for further consideration.

It was AGREED that we accept the grant suggested with the increase for inflation.

The Meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

Chair

Date