

## ROTHWELL TOWN COUNCIL

A Meeting of Rothwell Town Council was held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday, 11th July 2006 in the Market House, Market Hill, Rothwell.

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Councillor A C Pote Councillor Mrs C M Brown Councillor C W Cross Councillor D W Jones Councillor N A Matthew Councillor Mrs C M Mullett Councillor M W Spendlove (7.20 pm) Councillor Mrs G Weston Councillor A Whitlam	<u>Chairman</u>
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### 459 PRAYERS

Before the business of the Council commenced, the Revd Canon George Burgon said Prayers and mentioned the recent Carnival, those residents who are sick and the young people in the town.

### 460 APOLOGIES

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

### 461 COMMUNITY POLICING

#### Anti-Social Behaviour

Marion Goodman, the Borough Customer Response Centre Manager, was present at the Meeting to explain the proposed pilot scheme to combat anti-social behaviour. The Rothwell Customer Service Centre is now up and running in conjunction with the Police and the County Council. With the success of the Rothwell community policing initiative, they are to set up this pilot as they know people here are concerned about this issue. Residents will be able to drop in and report this type of incident direct to Customer Services. People can also telephone and there will be a line specifically for reporting anti-social behaviour. There will also be a form which can be completed on the internet, or people can text and send photographs this way. The Borough Council and the Police will train these special Customer Service Officers, and people will be able to contact the service 8.30 am to 5.00 pm Monday to Friday and 9.30 am to 1.00 pm on Saturday.

Sgt Ian Fletcher, of the North Northamptonshire Community Safety Department and PCSO Sam Gell were also present. Sgt Fletcher felt this pilot scheme was a real opportunity for the town and people can quickly report incidents which they cannot do now if they cannot get through to speak to an Officer. On Thursday afternoons there will be an Anti-social Behaviour Special Officer to give advice. Obviously not everything will be a Police matter but they can pass information on to the relevant agency. Various matters do upset people, such as excessive noise, footballs being kicked at their property, or litter. PCSO Gell also thought this was a good scheme for us and she will receive the same training as the Customer Service Officers and hopefully this will enable them to re-assure people.

Councillor Mrs Weston was concerned about residents taking photographs of what could be criminal activity and wanted to know if they would then have to go to Court. Sgt Fletcher said the Police would only expect a member of the public to go to Court if it was a very serious offence. People can even report matters anonymously. Every household in the town will receive a letter explaining the scheme and the various means by which they can report incidents.

#### General Report

PCSO Gell had only received the crime figures for April to June and not for the month. These figures are now split into the two Wards and the overall totals for the town are as follows:-

- 3 Burglary dwelling
- 9 Burglary other
- 37 Criminal damage
- 3 Deception/fraud
- 1 Drugs offence
- 3 Other offences
- 1 Sexual offence
- 8 Theft from motor vehicles
- 9 Theft/handling
- 9 Theft of motor vehicle
- 21 Violent offences.

Councillor Cross reported that at 10.45 pm on Saturday, 10th June a vehicle stopped at the build-out in Harrington Road and a branch fell on the car. Someone did telephone the Police and he had the incident number. The Police Officers thought this would just be recorded and it would have to be followed up with the County Council if attention was needed to this tree. There are only three people on the Borough Tree Team, but it was felt this is probably the responsibility of the County Council as the tree is next to the highway.

Residents have asked about the High Street and the number of cars parking opposite the War Memorial as they feel this is dangerous on this sharp bend. It might be that we need to talk to the County about restricting parking there. The PCSOs cannot issue tickets at the present time but they can talk to the drivers. We are trying to get the "No Waiting" signs replaced in Bridge Street. At present there is no Traffic Warden to cover Rothwell.

Councillor Spendlove joined the Meeting at 7.20 pm.

#### 462 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

(1) Spencer Street: some residents reported that it is better in this area now than it was 18 months ago but there is an empty property and they have heard this is to be allocated to a large family which is likely to cause problems. They need to know if this is true because it would not be fair to the existing residents. The Chairman will speak to the Borough Housing Officers and try to find out about any likely allocation and get back to the residents. Some of them have approached the Borough Council but they cannot give them any information. Councillor Mrs Weston thought this information would be confidential although she understood the concerns. However, we do not want this to develop into an even more difficult situation. The residents had previously been given an assurance that the Borough would be careful about who was moved into Spencer Street because of the previous problems and the Town Council felt it would be a great pity if there were problems here again.. The Chairman mentioned the Tenants Forum and said they need representatives from Rothwell and the Borough will pay for taxis in and out of Kettering. He will put forward their concerns to the Borough.

#### 463 MINUTES

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Mrs Weston, **SECONDED** by Councillor Cross and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th June 2006 be confirmed and signed.

#### 464 HIGHWAYS

##### A14 Junction 4 Roundabouts

Copies of the Report of the Meeting held on 7th June 2006 had been circulated prior to this Meeting. It was **AGREED** that the Report be approved and adopted.

It was reported that the County Council is now saying that we cannot actually get sponsorship ourselves because there is to be a new contract for all the roundabouts shortly. The Chairman is pursuing this, as is Robin Matthews of the MTI. The grass has been cut this week. If we do get permission from the County Council to have the roundabouts landscaped, Mr Matthews will look for sponsorship, perhaps from Persimmon or Bovis.

Mr Jell said at the Meeting that the soil needs to be completely replaced. Councillor Mrs Weston said there is a roundabout in Market Harborough where they have put tarmac over with large planters of about 7' in the centre, which would be low maintenance.

#### Traffic Calming, Glendon Road

Copies of the letter from the County Community Engineer had been circulated prior to this Meeting. Mr Leighton felt that if we put a mini-roundabout at the Rock Hill junction it would be necessary to realign this due to visibility and deflection issues. This would push the cost of the scheme over the £30,000 which has been allocated. However, it may be possible for a mini-roundabout to be introduced without the need for the junction to be realigned if the area was traffic calmed and vehicle speeds were below 20 mph. He has undertaken a brief safety assessment at the Columbus Crescent junction and it is unlikely that a mini-roundabout would be possible there because there is not enough room and visibility would be poor. As an alternative, it had been recommended that we have a gateway feature at the 30 mph signs at an approximate cost of £2,000 and two VAS signs costing about £8,000. He has arranged for the following to be repainted:-

- the slow markings on Glendon Road opposite Stanley Street
- the give way markings on Columbus Crescent (Kipton Field side).

Some Members felt that the only thing which would be successful in slowing traffic down is to put a build-out in Glendon Road. Mr Leighton had said he was not keen to put one here, as a build-out can slow people down too much and too quickly and also generates a lot of signs.

It was MOVED by Councillor Spendlove, SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Brown to ask Mr Leighton to come back to Rothwell to discuss this further as we are not entirely satisfied with these suggestions.

#### Developers' Signs

Councillor Matthew asked if we yet knew when these were to be removed as he had recently counted those on both sides of the old A6, and from the A14 slip road to 15 Desborough Road there are 42 signs. The Clerk has recently E-mailed the County Council again and asked for a definite date when they will be removed but has not yet had a response.

#### Litter Bins

We had received a letter from the Borough Street Cleansing Manager that an order has been raised to move the bin in Glendon Road near the seat there, and to install a new bin between Kipton Field and Slade Valley Avenue. It was confirmed that this has already been done.

#### Temporary Road Closure

We had received notification that Harborough Road, Desborough is to be closed on 17th and 18th July to install a new water main.

#### Rep's Review

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

#### Overgrown Hedges

The hedge at the top of Glendon Road opposite the Glendon Hall wall and near the turning to Rushton is overgrown and obstructs visibility. It was AGREED to report this.

The hedge between the Lamport Road and the A14 is growing out from between the fences and over Lamport Road. It was AGREED to report this.

#### Decriminalised Parking

The Chairman reported that he has now been told officially that there will be no parking charges in Rothwell. We might, however, have the parking restrictions enforced more stringently than before which will be an improvement.

#### 465 PLANNING

##### Report of the Planning Referee

Councillor Spendlove reported that we had received copy of a letter sent to the Borough Planning Department in connection with Application KET/2005/0810 for the development off Scott Avenue that the gate is sometimes left open, and asking how the condition that this was to be locked at all times isto be enforced. The County Council Application for security fences at the Infant School had been approved. The following Application had been withdrawn:-

KET/2006/0208      46 Kettering Road – 11 town houses and 8 flats.

The following Refusals had been received:-

KET/2006/0303      15 Vickers Close – Extension.

KET/2006/0316      Land at Jubilee Street – Application for Variation of Condition 1 of Outline Permission KET/2000/0119.

KET/2006/0439      47 Kettering Road – Dropped Kerbs.

The following Approvals had been received:-

KET/2006/0347      23 High Street - Studios 2 and 3 from A1 to A2.

KET/2006/0419      26 High Street – Non-illuminated projecting hanging sign.

KET/2006/443      2 Meeting Lane – En-suite Facilities.

KET/2006/0515      25 Columbus Crescent – New detached double garage.

KET/2006/0516      4 Lewin Close – Extension.

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

KET/2006/0515      25 Columbus Crescent – New detached double garage.  
No objection.

KET/2006/0516      4 Lewin Close – Extension.  
No objection.

KET/2006/0533      6 Balfour Drive – Extensions.  
No objection, provided the pitched roof over the garage is lowered to break the line from the existing roof.

KET/2006/0549      Slade Valley House, Orton Road – Retrospective for change of use to Class B2 and ancillary office space.  
No objection.

KET/2006/0579      Glendon Hill Farm, Glendon Road – Amendment to domestic curtilage, accesses, parking, boundary fences and gateways.  
No objection.

KET/2006/0594      Land at 2 John Smith Avenue – New dwelling.  
No objection, provided the access is regarded as safe and adequate.

##### North Northamptonshire Development Company

We had received a reply from the Borough Council that they were not sure what form we feel that conflict of interest might take. The NNDC applies national codes of conduct to its Directors and the Local Authority Members are bound by the code as it applies to all Councillors and will need to declare their interest and withdraw from the Meeting where such a conflict arises. Looking at the other local delivery vehicles, the Deputy Chief Executive noticed that every one of them throughout the UK has appointed to them the relevant Council Leader(s). Delivery

vehicles, whilst not setting overall development policy, are nevertheless involved in its implementation and in the generation of investment in their area. These are important issues for the well-being of any area, and can sometimes be highly politically sensitive in themselves.

It was AGREED to take no further action here.

#### Rothwell/Desborough SDA

This is now called the Rothwell & Desborough Urban Extension Area, and copies of the letter and Action Plan received from the Borough Council had been circulated prior to this Meeting. Copies of our previous letter on the preferred options were available at this Meeting. There are some important issues which we should discuss in some detail.

It was AGREED that we would have a special Meeting to discuss this.

Copies of the Report of the Meeting with Ms Jenny Smith held on 4th July 2006 to discuss the public consultation on the Urban Extension Plan were available at this Meeting.

### 466 ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITY

#### Town Centre Partnership

Copies of the Report of the Town Centre Partnership Meeting held on 5th June 2006 had been circulated prior to this Meeting.

It was MOVED by Councillor Mrs Weston, SECONDED by Councillor Matthew and RESOLVED that the Report be approved and adopted.

We have not yet delivered a copy of the publicity brochure to every household in the town. It was AGREED to ask the Borough Council if they could deliver this with their letter on the pilot scheme to combat anti-social behaviour. If this is not possible, we will ask if the Army Cadets could deliver these for us if we made a donation to their funds.

#### Red Lion Square/Market Hill

Copies of the Report of the Meeting held on 22nd June 2006 to agree our joint response to the Vision Plan had been circulated prior to this Meeting.

It was MOVED by Councillor Mrs Weston, SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Mullett and RESOLVED that the Report be approved and adopted.

#### Youth Facilities

Copies of the letter and schedule from the County Director for Children and Young People had been circulated prior to this Meeting, for information.

We had received an E-mail from the Borough Council on their consultation that for the play equipment in the junior area the young people chose the Hermes piece of equipment, which is also the one the Town Council preferred. The children also chose to have a ball court rather than a skateboard facility and we believe this includes a basketball ring. Councillor Mrs Brown had the results of the questionnaire which our Youth Committee had sent to the Junior School and Montsaye, and the results from this were as follows:-

Rothwell Junior School	
265 replies	77 for a skateboard facility
	188 for the all-weather ball court

Montsaye Community College	
137 replies	44 for a skateboard facility

93 for the all-weather ball court.

It was AGREED to write to the Junior School and Montsaye and thank them for ensuring that their pupils did take part in replying to the questionnaire. It was FURTHER AGREED to send the results of our questionnaire to Pia Bellamy at the Borough Council, together with a copy of the questionnaire.

#### Operation Kleen Sweep

We had been informed that our original letter had been passed to Mr Isbister, the Borough Head of Environmental Health and he would be able to advise us on the educational visits to schools and other public involvement. It was AGREED to write to Mr Isbister and ask about this.

#### Country Parks & Open Spaces Review

The Clerk reported that she had a letter from the County Council about the new arrangements they are trying to make to bring investment to the Country Parks and open spaces, including the administration and support of the Pocket Park scheme to ensure its continued development and improvement. They are looking for organisations interested in taking over the management of the parks to enhance the facilities whilst at the same time making them self-financing and removing their cost to the tax payers.

#### Public Toilets

It was reported that on the day of the Carnival and Fete on 8th July some visitors to the town were upset by the very bad state of the toilets near Manor Park, and in particular complaints had been received about the ladies toilet. It was AGREED to write to the Borough Council about this and we would appreciate it if all of them could be checked and a full report sent to the Town Council on the action taken to keep these clean and generally in a better condition.

#### Weed Killing

It was reported that there are still a lot of weeds and grass in the gutters, particularly in Underwood Road, Moorfield Road and Nansen Close. It was AGREED to report this and to ask for a copy of the Service Level Agreement as it applies to Rothwell.

#### Listed Buildings & Frontage Grants

It had already been reported that the Borough Council is bringing in this scheme where up to £5,000 can be available for suitable repair schemes. Anyone who is interested has to apply by the end of July, and we have already suggested Tote Bookmakers and the Borough has said they will get in touch with them.

It was AGREED to let Canon and Mrs Burgon have this information in case it could assist with the work on the Trinity Centre, and the Chairman will also pass copies to various owners in the town centre.

### 467 MATTERS OF BUSINESS

#### Gambling Act 2005

A letter had been received from the Northamptonshire Licensing Partnership which requires all operators to obtain an operating licence and a personal licence from the Gambling Commission, a new national regulator. The legislation also requires the premises to obtain a licence or permit from the local authority. It was AGREED to check whether these new regulations would apply to small lotteries.

#### Supplementary Planning Document

We had received details of this County document as it relates to waste management and minerals.

#### August Meeting

Councillor Cross asked whether it was intended to have a full Town Council Meeting in August this year. It was **MOVED** by Councillor Mrs Weston, **SECONDED** by Councillor Jones and **RESOLVED** that we do not have a Meeting in August this year.

#### 468 FINANCIAL REPORT

##### General Statement

The Clerk submitted a written statement as attached. It was **MOVED** by Councillor Mrs Weston, **SECONDED** by Councillor Jones 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	£437.42
Clr A C Pote	Chairman's half-yearly allowance	£300.00
British Telecom	Phone Bill	£93.58
Holy Trinity, Rothwell PCC	Hire of Trinity Centre – Annual Meeting	£10.00
Cash	Petty Cash	£20.00

##### Accounts 2005/06

The Clerk had prepared the Annual Return for the audit of the Accounts to 31st March 2006. We need to agree the Risk Assessment for this Annual Return and any matters which might affect our financial situation. There is the financial statement prepared for each Meeting and the Building Society Pass Books are available to ensure the balances are as stated in these reports. If any error is made, then this is picked up when the next month's statement is prepared and therefore can be corrected quickly. We also need to be aware of any exceptional payments which might affect the Town Council. There is not anything which is likely to occur in the foreseeable future but circumstances might change if we have to arrange the cleaning at the Market House ourselves or if the Borough forces the Parish Councils to raise a precept as this could incur additional costs.

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Spendlove, **SECONDED** by Councillor Jones and **RESOLVED** that the Annual Return be approved and signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

#### 469 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.