

ROTHWELL TOWN COUNCIL

A Meeting of Rothwell Town Council was held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday, 6th June 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 Mrs M E Talbot Councillor Mrs G Weston Councillor D A Whyte	<u>Chairman</u>
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442 CHAIR

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman at the beginning of the Meeting, it was MOVED by Councillor Mrs Weston, SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Talbot and RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs Brown should take the Chair.

443 PRAYERS

Before the business of the Council commenced, the Revd Canon George Burgon said Prayers, and mentioned the town's heritage with Rowell Fair starting soon, the Youth Committee, and the proposed new developments here. Prayers were also said for people who were ill, and those residents who had recently died.

444 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Councillors Spendlove, Weston and Whitlam. Councillors Mrs Mullett, Pote and Whyte would be joining the Meeting late.

445 COMMUNITY POLICING

General Report

PCSO Ian Kelman was present at the Meeting, and copies of the crime statistics were available. The figures are quite consistent for the year to date although they are trying to decrease these. As to the category of other crimes, quite a large proportion is criminal damage to vehicles late at night in Fox Street and Harrington Road. There will therefore be more patrols and surveillance using the CCTV. Other crimes can also include crimes of violence, including domestic violence.

Councillor Jones said there was a stabbing in the town recently but we have not heard anything about this. Mr Kelman understood an arrest was made and this will be going to Court but it does take a while for the case to be prepared. As to the knife amnesty, he did not have the figures but there has been quite a good response.

Mr Kelman wanted to raise the issue of the CCTV cameras as there might be an opportunity for the Town Council to have an input on this. If there are any future allocations we should leave a letter for him in the Library marked "PCSO" and this will be passed to him. Councillor Mrs Weston said we are not satisfied with the way the cameras in Rothwell are being monitored from the Centre. Incidents do happen in the town centre but these are not picked up and there could not even be a guarantee that they would give priority to Rothwell during Rowell Fair. It was suggested that there could be another camera by the Community Centre and the play area in Well Lane Recreation Ground. The A6 Towns Forum Meeting is next week and we could raise this issue there as well. Sgt Burton has stated that there will be a high visibility presence in the town for Rowell Fair.

It was mentioned that vehicles are not stopping at the new zebra crossing in Desborough Road, particularly those coming from the Desborough direction. Mr Kelman said they have a de-

activated car which could be parked to deter people from driving straight on here. There are signs and we hope people will soon get used to this crossing. Councillor Matthew wondered if this crossing is too close to the corner so perhaps the signs are not prominent enough.

We had received a letter from the Borough Council about a possible on-street drinking ban in the town centre. This has been discussed previously and we should try and encourage the shopkeepers to be more vigilant who they sell alcohol to, but it was felt an actual ban could not be enforced. It was AGREED to respond to the Borough Council that we do not think this is appropriate for Rothwell at this time.

Mr Kelman confirmed that PC O'Hara does visit the publicans and has a good working relationship with them. The PCSOs also regularly visit and monitor the off-licences which is where the Town Council think the problem is coming from.

446 CHAIRMAN

Councillor Pote joined the Meeting at 7.20 pm and took the Chair for the remainder of the Meeting.

447 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

(1) Glendon Road Traffic Calming: the Chairman explained that we met the Community Engineer on site and we will have a report back on what we can have here within the available finance. We have suggested the following:-

- A mini-roundabout at the Rock Hill junction, provided there is sufficient room for this to be provided safely. We do not want to repeat the situation we have at the top of Greening Road where the roundabout is in the wrong place because the kerbs were not altered so that it could be put sufficiently forward to provide good visibility. If we do have to widen this area, it will cost a lot more.
- A mini-roundabout at the Columbus Crescent junction nearest the town, or as an alternative two Vehicle Actuated Signs coming into the town, one just before this junction and the other near the Slade Valley Avenue junction which would keep reminding drivers to slow down. There are the SLOW markings on the road and Mr Leighton said these also need a sign to indicate why people should slow down.
- A gateway at the entrance to the town, to incorporate the 30 mph signs, to show people coming into the town that this is a built-up area as the hedges give the impression of a rural road.

Councillor Mrs Mullett joined the Meeting at 7.25 pm.

(2) Affordable Housing: It was explained that this can be Housing Association properties which are rented out at a reasonable cost, and there are also schemes in which people have the right to buy into half a property. The District Councils do not run this as their properties are really social housing and the other schemes are affordable housing.

(3) Litter Warden: there is one Warden for the whole Borough. Mr West complained that there are cigarette ends outside the Blue Bell Inn, but they do not sweep these up. It was AGREED to write and ask if they could sweep this area. These tables are on highway land so there could be enforcement. The music from here also needs to be monitored.

(4) Development Signs: the Town Council has already asked the County to look at the large number of these signs in Rothwell, and a response has just been received that they are arranging a blitz on removing these in the next few weeks.

(5) Glendon Road: there is a double kerb here which was last swept on 30th September last year. Mr West has been in touch with the Borough Council about this. He also raised the question of the weeds in the gutters and it was AGREED to write to the County Council and ask when these will be sprayed.

(6) Market Hill: some residents from the Sovereign Heritage site said they have seen the plans for this area in the Parish Church and they do not think we want a youth shelter in the Market Hill Square. It is only since the PCSOs came that they have had any peace because youths used to kick footballs and run around Market Hill. The Chairman explained that the Town Council has met the Borough Council and Atkins but we are to have another Meeting to ask for some alterations to the plans. The Town Centre Partnership discussed this the previous evening and felt that some of the elements of this plan were not workable and not right for the Market Hill. As we are not certain about the funding, the youth shelter would not be provided for at least a couple of years and we appreciate that a lot of people living in or near the Square would not want this. There will be public consultation later on. We feel it is important that members of the public attend any Public Meeting to put forward their views as the planners should know what residents feel. If it was left to the Town Council, then several of the proposals would not be implemented.

Another resident of this area said they also have the youths revving motorcycles and cars, and the recycling bins are very noisy from early in the morning. The parking is now round their houses although they had to have one parking space for each unit in this development. There are eight or nine cars parked outside and this causes fumes in the houses. Some are residents' cars, but others are not and they wondered if there could be double yellow lines in this area. It was explained that this is in the Conservation Area which restricts double yellow lines; people ignore these in any event and it is impossible to enforce this, especially as the PCSOs cannot deal with this although they are aware of the juvenile nuisance at night. It was not felt we could reduce the parking as this is necessary especially because of the growth in businesses and restaurants in the town. This resident is taking advice from the Environmental Health Officer about the fumes. We could perhaps look at having the pavement widened but this does happen in other areas such as New Street.

(7) Kipton Field: there is a proposal for a house to be demolished and flats built on the site opposite Littlewood street and by Nelson Drive, and local residents wondered what they could do about this. It was confirmed that there was recently a similar application for flats on the corner of Lancaster Road but this was turned down, and approval given only for a single dwelling. The Town Council cannot comment until the Planning Application comes in when we will send our observations to the Borough Council. However, the Town Council is only a consultee the same as any resident. There will be notices in the area but if no-one objects, the Application can be decided by the Officers under delegated powers, otherwise it has to go to a Committee. Councillor Mrs Brown can comment on pre-planning matters, and she did not think flats would be agreed there. It is also open to residents to raise a petition.

448 MINUTES

It was MOVED by Councillor Mrs Weston, SECONDED by Councillor Cross and RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th May 2006 be confirmed and signed.

449 HIGHWAYS

Red Lion Square/Market Hill

The Town Council has until 30th June 2006 to submit our observations on this proposal. The Town Centre Partnership has already prepared its comments and it is hoped that we could submit a joint response. It was AGREED to try and arrange a Meeting with the Borough Council and Atkins before we decide on our comments.

There is a copy of the Vision in the Church and the Clerk had received an E-mail from the Borough Council that this has not yet been released for formal consultation, and the final draft will be put out later in the year. These documents have caused some confusion and they felt it might be appropriate to take these down from public view, so suggested that the Town Council could approach the Church about this. It was not felt that we should ask them to take this down, but if the Borough Officers have concerns they should contact Canon Burgon direct.

Glendon Road Traffic Calming

Copies of the Report of the Meeting held on 31st May 2006 were available at this Meeting and the Town Council's suggestions have already been reported here.

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

Highways Representatives

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

Bollards, Market Hill

The Clerk had received a letter from Atkins that the bollards have been delivered to Atkins and will be installed during the week commencing 19th June 2006. Two keys for the padlocks will be sent to the Clerk once they have been installed.

Underwood Road

The Assessment Manager for Atkins had written that this carriageway/footway was put forward for a scheme, but it did not rank high on the schemes list for this year, based on the survey data. They will keep monitoring the path, it will be kept on the schemes list, and any potholes fixed as appropriate.

Columbus Crescent

Atkins had confirmed that this does not rank high on the schemes list. The Assessment Manager has checked the site and areas of carriageway surfacing are starting to fret, so this road will be put forward for a scheme in the 2007/08 financial year, subject to funds being available.

450 PLANNING

Report of the Planning Referee

Councillor Jones presented the Report, and confirmed that the following Refusals had been received:-

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| KET/2006/0254 | 32 Tennyson Road – Rear dormer loft conversion. |
| KET/2006/0257 | Land adjoining 31 Manor Road – Two semi-detached dwellings. |

The following Approvals had been received:-

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| KET/2006/0044 | Hope Christian Centre, School Lane – Protective window grilles. |
| KET/2006/0201 | 5 Cook Close – Conversion of existing garage and new double garage. |
| KET/2006/0220 | Glendon Road – 6m vent column to alleviate sewer odour problem. |
| KET/2006/0291 | 25 Playford Close – Rear extensions. |
| KET/2006/0311 | 12 Balfour Drive – Conservatory. |
| KET/2006/0319 | 6 Barlow Close – Conservatory. |

The following Applications had been received and our observations dealt with by Councillor Spendlove as stated:-

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| KET/2006/0303 | 15 Vickers Close – Extension.
No objection. |
| KET/2006/0413 | 68 Rushton Road – Single garage.
No objection. |
| KET/2006/0439 | 47 Kettering Road – Dropped kerbs for vehicle access. |

- No objection.
- KET/2006/0443 2 Meeting Lane – Application for Listed Building Consent for en-suite facilities.
No objection.
- KET/2006/0476 69 Harrington Road – Extensions and new garage.
No objection.
- KET/2006/0488 8 Scott Avenue – Conservatory.
No objection.
- KET/2006/0507 9 Nansen Close – Conservatory.
No objection.

Councillor Whyte joined the Meeting at 8.17 pm.

The following Applications had been received, and Councillor Jones' draft observations were AGREED as stated:-

- KET/2006/0425 The Old Bakery, 19 Market Hill – Change of Use to shop and restaurant including fire escape and extensions.
No objection.
- KET/2006/0428 The Old Bakery, 19 Market Hill – Four shop units for A1 use.
No objection.
- KET/2006/0498 Glebe Farm, Desborough Road – Erection of replacement dwelling.
Object, as it is felt a bungalow would be more appropriate in this open countryside and a two-level dwelling will be obtrusive.

North Northamptonshire Development Company

A reply had been received from Mr Martin Hammond, Borough Deputy Chief Executive that Councillor Freer's role as a Director of this Company is both to represent the interests of the Borough and ensure the Company meets the targets in its business plan. These targets concern the delivery of housing and job growth in North Northamptonshire, the identification and delivery of infrastructure and project management of major new investment schemes. NNDC will help 'join up' all the agencies and interests with a role to play in delivery growth. One of the Company's first tasks will be to devise ways of communicating with all manner of bodies, including Town and Parish Councils, and it is clear that good communication will be the key to its success. The Borough Council, as a key partner, will also wish to use its communication methods such as the A6 Towns Forum, to engage with stakeholders as well as, and in conjunction with, NNDC.

It was felt there could be a conflict of interests with Councillor Freer being the Leader of the Borough Council and a Director of this Company. It was AGREED to write back to Mr Hammond, with a copy to Mr Eatough, that the Members of the Town Council have raised this question and asking for their response.

We had also received a letter from the North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit that they are drafting the Plan and they aim to submit this to the Secretary of State in October. There will be a six-week consultation period, followed shortly afterwards by further consultation on any strategic sites put forward by objectors. A public examination of the Plan is likely to take place in Spring/Summer 2007. The papers are available on the website. They mentioned the fact that they had not fully complied with the regulations on consultation and we could contact them if we feel prejudiced by this. We can obtain a copy of the Agenda papers and it was AGREED to ask for these to pass to the Chairman.

Bus Services

Further to our Meeting with the Managing Director of Stagecoach East, we had received a letter from Mr Freeman that they are currently finalising the details of the timetable to be introduced at the beginning of September but confirm that this will restore the operation of services via Columbus Crescent and Harrington Road/Moorfield Road/Manor Road/Underwood Road, thereby meeting most of the concerns of local people. As soon as the proposed timetable is to hand, they will let us have a copy for our consideration.

Listed Building & Frontage Grant Scheme

The Borough Council had responded to our queries, that this is shortly be advertised in the local press, and they will send Tote Bookmakers a copy of the introduction to the scheme.

Town Centre Partnership

The Report of the Meeting held the previous evening was not available, but this will be circulated with the Agenda for the next Meeting.

Operation Kleen Sweep

Copies of the original letter had been circulated prior to this Meeting. Mr Isbister, the Borough Head of Environmental Health, is to deal with the educational visits to schools. It was AGREED to put this on the Agenda for the next Meeting to discuss public involvement.

Bovis Development off Jubilee Street

We had now received from the Rowell Fair Society a list of suggested names for the streets at this development to commemorate the 800th anniversary of the Charter and Fair. It was AGREED to submit the following list:-

- Charter Court
- Horse Fair Lane
- King John
- King James
- Proclamation Walk
- Halberdiers Walk
- Clare
- Hall Close
- Cockayne.

As to the play areas, Councillor Jones and the Clerk had met Mr Johan Esterhuizen, formerly of A S & A Leisure who had originally quoted for the play equipment but had gone out of business. He explained that that Company had been taken over by Playworld Systems and they had now been given the opportunity to quote for the ball court which would be similar to the original one inspected by Councillors Jones and Weston. This would be approximately 20m x 10m with a 3m fence, and Mr Esterhuizen will ask for this to include basketball hoops.

We had also received an E-mail from the Borough Council that the consultation event on the play equipment would be held from 3.30 pm to 6.00 pm on Tuesday, 27th June at the Community Centre. The choice for the young people will be for an enhanced skate facility or the fenced ball court area.

The questionnaire by the Youth Committee has been printed and we have asked for these to be returned by 23rd June 2006. It was understood that Mr Robin Matthews has already delivered these to the Library, the Junior School and Montsaye.

Rothwell Pocket Park

We had received information from the Pocket Parks Officer about the scheme throughout the County and with details of the Summer Sortie to be held on Saturday, 24th June. It was reported that our Pocket Park now needs some work as it is almost impassable in places. However, the bluebells we planted a few years ago have come up for the first time this year.

452 MATTERS OF BUSINESS

Electoral Review of Kettering

We had heard from the Boundary Committee for England, enclosing a copy of the report containing its final recommendations. They still suggest only three Borough Councillors for Rothwell, as opposed to the four we have now. They are to retain four for Desborough. The Chairman had attended a Meeting of the Borough Periodic Electoral Review Task and Finish Group and has arranged for them to write that Rothwell is not satisfied with this. It was AGREED to write direct to the Electoral Commission that we do not accept we should have only three Borough Councillors.

Several points should be made including the fact that Rothwell is a growing town and we need to retain four Borough Councillors to represent us. They have agreed this for the neighbouring town of Desborough and Rothwell is now beginning to have the same amount of new housing development as that town because both are part of the Rothwell/Desborough Strategic Development Area. We are to retain two Wards for the Town Council, with six Councillors for each Ward, and we feel it will be confusing for residents to have one Ward and three Councillors for the District Authority. The Boundary Committee seem to have taken more notice of an individual, namely Mr Christopher Nelson, than the elected Members of Rothwell Town Council, despite the fact that Mr Nelson lives in the town of Kettering and does not have any direct knowledge of Rothwell or the proposals for the Strategic Development Area. It is anticipated that within five or six years, there will be an additional 1,000 houses in Rothwell, increasing the population by about a third and bringing us to about the same size as Desborough.

Town Centre

Councillor Mrs Talbot was pleased to see the two refurbished seats have been replaced outside the Library. There is no bus shelter yet, but the Chairman is talking to Martin Hammond about the possibility of obtaining one to be put in this area.

The litter bins have been full and overflowing recently so they do not seem to have been emptied frequently enough. It was AGREED to report this and ask why this is happening.

453 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk submitted a written statement as attached. It was MOVED by Councillor Mrs Weston, SECONDED by Councillor Whyte 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	£516.92
Inland Revenue	Tax and N I (3 months)	£198.82
Cash	Petty Cash	£20.00

454 ADMISSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC

In view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, the Press and Public were asked to withdraw.