

ROTHWELL TOWN COUNCIL

A Meeting of Rothwell Town Council was held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 14th March 2006 in the Market House, Market Hill, Rothwell.

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs C M Brown Chair
 Councillor C W Cross
 Councillor D W Jones
 Councillor N A Matthew
 Councillor A C Pote
 Councillor M W Spendlove (7.30 pm)
 Councillor Mrs G Weston
 Councillor P G Weston
 Councillor D A Whyte (8.05 pm)

405 PRAYERS

The Revd Canon George Burgon led a minute's silence in memory of Mr Ken Cheaney, who had died early this morning, and who had been a previous Chairman of the Town Council as well as being involved in many of the town's organisations. Canon Burgon also said Prayers and mentioned health care and hospitals in the area as well as people who care for children.

406 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Councillors Mrs Mullett, Mrs Talbot and Whitlam, and from Councillors Spendlove and Whyte who would be joining the Meeting late. Sgt Burton had also sent his apologies.

407 COMMUNITY POLICING

General Report

PCSOs Peter Firth and Ian Kelman were present at the Meeting. We had received the monthly Parish Crime Report, which showed a slight increase on the previous month with 40 crimes in Rothwell during February as follows:-

- 2 Burglary dwelling
- 3 Theft of motor vehicles
- 3 Theft from motor vehicles
- 32 Other crimes (mainly criminal damage)

There have been 472 reported incidents during the year to date, which is down on last year, particularly for burglary dwelling. The number of crimes so far in March are fairly low with 11 in total. The PCSOs did not have the current detection rate but will ask Sgt Burton to send these in. There have been some distraction burglaries in the area, particularly in January/February with at least one in Rothwell. The Police are trying to push the message of how to avoid distraction burglaries, and on Tuesday, 4th April there will be a play in Kettering. They left a poster to advertise this.

Councillor Pote reported that there had been an arson attack on a hedge at the bottom of the Well Lane Recreation Ground and this had been reported. It was also reported that there is a problem again with youths and children playing football at the rear of the Market House and sometimes kicking these very hard at parked cars and along the footpaths.

At the last Meeting we had been informed of the serious incidents of juvenile nuisance and criminal damage in the Slade Valley Avenue area. The Clerk had received an E-mail from Chief Superintendent Dean Smith's Personal Assistant ask for the names of the people who made the calls and approximately when these were made. Councillor Weston understood that this might have quietened down a little now. PCSO Firth said an individual call might not get a response but if there are several calls this will be handed on and generate further patrols. These residents were very concerned and it is disheartening when nothing happens. The Town Council will monitor this. Members were able to let the Clerk have the names of one or two people who have

complained about this. Residents also now have the option of reporting such matters through the Borough Response Centre in the Library.

Police Questions from the Public

(a) Slade Valley Avenue: a resident felt the Police did have sufficient information to follow up the problems here. We are still waiting for information from last month and we will respond to Chief Superintendent Dean Smith with the names and addresses of people who can give more information.

(b) Alcohol Exclusion Zones: Mr Stenning, the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator for Shotwell Mill Lane and Rushton Road felt that the Lane was a good indication of behaviour in Rothwell because youths access this from Spencer Street, particularly during the summer. The residents feel strongly that the whole of Rothwell should be an Alcohol Exclusion Zone if this can be considered. Daily they have to clear up the bottles and cans which is why it looked tidy. The youths are starting to destroy the feeling of this part of the town. He would be happy to give details of possible ways forward and the youths involved. Councillor Jones supported these statements: he walks there regularly and has seen the result of under-age drinking. They take cars down as well as leaving the cans and litter and this is a serious problem. Mr Stenning felt the Police have done a good job within the constraints they are under. Perhaps the community could help them more. PCSO Firth thought this area could be included in an Alcohol Exclusion Zone. We were looking at Bridge Street, Squires Hill and Manor Park. The PCSOs have taken alcohol off children in most areas of the town. PC O'Hara feels a lot of the incidents he deals with are alcohol related. They have put in a lot of reports. If you make the town centre an alcohol-free zone they tend to move to the edge of town. Councillor Mrs Weston wondered how realistic it would be to monitor the whole of the town because we do not want to set up something which is bound to fail, but we should try and stop young people getting alcohol in the first place. PCSO Firth thought a lot of the drink comes from their homes. If we put a zone throughout the whole of the town, this would reflect badly on Rothwell. They can take alcohol from underage people now. Mr Stenning said some of the children drinking in Shotwell Mill Lane are aged about 10 to 11, and there is another group 13 to 14 years old. There is also drug use there.

Councillor Spendlove joined the Meeting at 7.30 pm.

Mr Stenning said these children will be a big problem later on. One young person is allowed to wander round the town every afternoon causing a lot of damage. PCSO Firth said there will be a greater presence in Rothwell by next month. Mr Dent has spoken to Montsaye Community College recently. Councillor Weston was also concerned that the cuts in the Youth Service will make the situation worse. Councillor Pote said the reason for the cuts is a big deficit left by the previous administration but Councillor Mrs Weston thought the peripatetic Youth Workers, who talked to the children who will not join any of the organisations, did help a lot. The Town Council has now set up a new Youth Group.

The Clerk had received an E-mail from Sgt Burton that the figures do not support an argument for an Alcohol Free Zone. Between December 2004 and November 2005 there were 107 incidents reported to the Police that referred to Bridge Street or Squires Hill, but only one mentioned drunkenness. The Chair said PC O'Hara thought alcohol was a major factor in juvenile nuisance and she has a copy of his statement on this. It was AGREED that this statement would be circulated for the next Meeting and this item will be put on the Agenda again then.

408 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

(1) Precept: Mr West said that at the last Meeting he understood Rothwell was against this, but he was told by the Borough Council that we had asked for this. Another resident had actually visited the Borough Customer Service Centre and was told this. She is to go again and will get the name of the person who told her. Councillor Pote said the only Councils who do want to raise a precept are Burton Latimer, Mawsley and Cransley. The others, including Desborough and Rothwell, are against this.

(2) Seats in front of the Library: Mr West said these have been replaced today but they have been moved so there might not be room for a bus shelter.

(3) Bollards, Market Hill: Mr West asked when the bollards were to be put in. It was confirmed that Atkins had started work on the York slabs today, and the bollards are part of this scheme.

(4) Lamp posts, Church Walk: the two lamp posts on the lower Church Walk footpath have been removed, although only one of these was damaged. It was AGREED to write and ask when the lights will be replaced as this is a vulnerable area.

(5) Library Cuts: Mr West had brought details of the new opening times at the Library, which will mean that we lose 11_ hours a week. The Borough Council has now opened an office there, and it was assumed that this would be open the same hours as the Library itself. The Customer Service Centre would still be open a lot longer than it is now in the Market House but we had been informed they would be there until 7.00 pm on a couple of evenings. It was reported that there were a lot of problems again the previous Thursday with juvenile nuisance and the Police had to be called. It was AGREED to write to the County Council about these cuts, and to the Borough Council that the Service Centre will be closing earlier because the Library hours have been cut.

(6) Bus Services: We had received details of the new bus timetables. Service 19 is to have more frequent buses between Kettering, Rothwell and Desborough, running every 20 minutes and using the low floor buses that will be of benefit to wheelchair users and passengers with pushchairs. Service 17/18 is now numbered 18 only, will run hourly and is re-routed via Rockingham Road to serve Kettering North Business Park and extended from Rothwell via Desborough to Market Harborough replacing that part of Service 19. Stagecoach will be producing timetable leaflets in due course, and a new edition of the County's timetable book is being prepared. We had received an advance copy of the timetables but it was not clear from these whether the shuttle bus would still visit Moorfield Road, as it only mentions Greening Road opposite Daisy Bank Avenue. In addition, it does not mention Columbus Crescent so it was not known if the shuttle would still go round there. Some representatives from the Town Council have been invited to the launch of the improved Service 19. Councillor Jones has had a lot of people ask about this. Service 18 will no longer go to Loddington and Thorpe Malsor: there is to be a Service 79 to serve those villages but we do not have any details. This will mean that those residents will no longer be able to come into Rothwell to shop and this could affect the town centre.

We had been told that the new timetables would serve the new Health Centre if it was built at the top of Desborough Road, and we need to know how much it will cost to get from other parts of the town to the top of Greening Road.

It was AGREED to ask for a Meeting with the County Council and Stagecoach as soon as possible. If the Borough Council assists with the subsidy of the services, we will also invite them to attend.

(7) Gordon Street: a resident referred to the Planning Application to turn the factory into flats. They do not object to this, but they are worried about parking as there are not two spaces per flat. They understood the Application was to be considered on 28th March and they asked how they could object to this. Councillor Mrs Brown explained that two spaces per unit is more than the Government requirement, which is only for a maximum of 1_ spaces per unit. The residents do have the right to attend the Planning Meeting and have three minutes to put forward their concerns. They will be allowed to speak even if they are not objecting. They can telephone the Borough or call in at the Resource Centre in the Library.

(8) Former Councillor: Councillor Jones explained that the glass bowl on the table was to be a gift to ex-Councillor Trevor Atkins.

Councillor Whyte joined the meeting at 8.05 pm.

(9) Oxford Street: residents would like to know how long it will take for them to actually do the construction work here. They have two derelict sites at present. It was confirmed that they now have three years to start construction. Applicants can then request an extension of time. If these areas are really bad we could ask the Enforcement Officer to get the site secured. Again,

residents can put in this request at the Resource Centre in the Library. There is also the Environmental Control Department, although they will only do something if there is vermin.

409 MINUTES

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

410 HIGHWAYS

A14 Junction 4 Roundabouts

The Clerk had received from Robin Matthews of the MTI the first quotation for planting up and maintaining these two roundabouts. This is from West Lodge Plants & Gardens Ltd and is for a maximum of £3,000 to plant up each roundabout and £2,500 a year for both based on a three-year contract. This is for very dense planting of a large variety of shrubs and flowers, and it would be much cheaper if a lot was left to grass with only a few plants. It was AGREED to wait for the second quotation.

Glendon Road Traffic Calming

An E-mail had been received from the County Community Engineer, that his work was being passed to Mr Andrew Leighton during April but Mr Leighton would be happy to deal with this in the meantime. The Clerk said that the latest copy of Rep's Review, which was available at this Meeting, contained details of various traffic calming methods.

It was AGREED to arrange a Site Meeting to start at 5.00 pm, and we will then move to the Market House to discuss the matter further.

Red Lion Square/Market Hill

The Clerk had been able to inform Members beforehand that the further parking surveys here were to have been carried out on Friday 10th, Saturday 11th and Monday 13th March.

We had received from the Secretary to the Rowel Fair Society copy of a letter from one of their Members about the real possibility that Rowell Fair would be disrupted or even lost if they could not keep the whole of the area which is used now. Copies of this letter were available for the Members and was also read to the Meeting in full. It referred to the Fairs which have been depleted or lost because of street furniture put in the way of a particular ride. Wisbech Mart has lost the Waltzer, Ely has lost its autumn fair and the spring event is not what it was because they were moved out to a car park, and the Onion Fair is no longer held in Birmingham. Fairs are a way of life and a source of income to the show people and he felt Rowell Fair was special to many of these families, such as the Hollands.

It was confirmed that it was a unanimous decision of the Fair Society that this letter should be sent to the Town Council, and this course of action had the permission of the writer.

It was MOVED by Councillor Pote, SECONDED by Councillor Weston and RESOLVED that we endorse these sentiments that Rowell Fair should continue as it is, and to send copies of this letter to Robin Matthews of the MTI with the comment that the Town Council supports the principles in the letter and this reflects the concerns of the public.

Councillor Matthew said there is the finance for proposed changes to Red Lion Square and Market Hill Square, but it has been impossible in the last year to decide on disabled parking spaces although this was mentioned at the Workshop.

It was AGREED to write to the Borough and County Councils that they have spent all this money on the parking survey but when we requested two disabled parking spaces, there was no finance available. It was mentioned that the area known as Red Lion Square is actually part of

Market Hill, although it is often called this informally to show which side of the Market House is being referred to.

Councillor Pote said the de-criminalised parking is to commence in October 2006. He felt we would then have to pay to park in Rothwell. Some Members did not think there was any suggestion of having to pay but instead it was to identify where people should park and where this should be restricted. There will be on-street parking charges in Kettering but Councillor Pote did not know if this would come to the A6 towns. Councillor Whyte felt we could resist any moves to alter the Fair in any way, but this would perhaps be a little extreme as amendments might need to be made over time. Councillor Jones is a Member of the MTI Rothwell Steering Group and all the initial talks were only ever about Red Lion Square and nothing else, but suddenly they are now talking about the whole of Market Hill.

Yellow Signs

The Chair referred to the number of yellow AA signs which have been put up on the old A6 in Rothwell. She counted 20 signs between the A14 Cemetery junction and the old Midland Bank. A lot of these are sending people to The Grange estate but it would be better if people used the A14 and the new A6 of the bypass. It was AGREED find out who deals with these and ask them to check whether they all have permission and should be there.

Large Lorries

The Chair thought we should look at what we can do about the large lorries in the town, as the previous day there were several here including haulage, delivery and construction lorries. Part of the parking survey was carried out when there was this problem. Councillor Spendlove reported that the landfill site in Glendon Road is nearly full and the Licence is due to expire soon. The Chair wondered if we could limit the hours lorries are allowed into the town. It was AGREED we will discuss this at the Glendon Road Meeting.

Bypass Signs

Councillor Cross said we now have a sign for the Orton Road indicating that access is only for that village, although they have left the sign saying Slade Valley. The Vehicle Actuated Sign coming into Rothwell on the Kettering Road is still not working and neither is the street lamp next to this. It was AGREED to E-mail Mr Trimble about these matters. The fonts on the town entrance signs have now been altered so that they do match.

Highways Representatives

Copies of the January and February editions of the Rep's Review were available for information.

Footway, Market Hill

We had received a response from Atkins that at present the work to carry out repairs in front of the Methodist Church is scheduled to start on 23rd March 2006, along with repairs in Market Hill, Rothwell. This is a provisional date, but the work will be carried out in this financial year's budget.

Customer Survey

The Clerk had received a questionnaire in connection with the work in Rushton Road, and Councillor Weston had completed this on behalf of the Town Council.

411 PLANNING

Report of the Planning Referee

Councillor Weston reported that the following Refusal had been received:-

KET/2 005/1152 9 Beverley Close – Extension and garage conversion.

The following Approvals had been received:-

- KET/2005/1126 31 Playford Close
Side extension.
- KET/2006/1156 The Haybarn, Glendon Hill Farm – Change of Use from agricultural land to the keeping of horses, including sables and menage.
- KET/2006/1157 23 High Street – Change of Use, extensions and sub-division of existing shop to create two shops, one additional shop, four B1 units and six flats.

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

- KET/2006/0103 Windmills, 26 High Street – Change of opening times from 0800-1800 hours to 0900 to 2100 hours.
No objection.
- KET/2006/0108 The Thai Garden, 3 Market Hill – Extensions/alterations.
No objection.
- KET/2006/0122 24 Trinity Road – Kitchen extension.
No objection.
- KET/2006/0128 17 Davis Close – Extensions.
No objection.
- KET/2006/0157 North Kettering Business Park – New landscaped park and outdoor sports facilities, changing facilities and associated works.
We support this Application as it will provide enhanced facilities near Rothwell.
- KET/2006/0180 North Kettering Business Park – Approval of reserved matters for B8 and ancillary B1 use and associated infrastructure.
No objection.
- KET/2006/0186 The Granary, Shotwell Mill Lane – Replacement automated metal gates and fences.
No objection.
- KET/2006/0211 Land adjoining 57 Harrington Road – Bungalow and detached garage.
No objection.

For the discussion on the following two Applications relating to properties in Wales Street, it was MOVED by Councillor Pote, SECONDED by Councillor Cross and RESOLVED that Standing Orders be suspended to allow neighbouring residents to explain their problems with the proposals and our observations were agreed as stated. The Chair and Councillor Whyte declared Indirect Interests as Members of the Borough Planning Committees which means that they cannot make any comment.

KET/20060080 Sunnyside Cottage, 7 Wales Street – Siting of mobile park home 20' x 19'.
The Town Council objects for the following reasons:-

- (1) This would create a dangerous precedent to allow a static park home in the garden of a residential property. If Planning Permission was given, it could be that in the future the park home is sold off, creating two dwellings on this small plot.
- (2) This park home would obstruct a private right of way to No.33 Wales Street and be placed on top of the sewer serving that property.
- (3) We would query whether there is room for a semi-permanent structure here, as in fact the boundary is not as shown on the application plan, but slants inwards.

KET/2006/0207 33A Wales Street – Demolition of existing garage and erection of a two storey dwelling to provide two flats.

The Town Council objects for the following reasons:-

- (1) Loss of privacy for adjoining properties as there are windows overlooking the neighbours' bedroom and bathroom, as well as the gardens. There would also be a serious loss of light particularly for No.31 Wales Street.

(2) There is no amenity land as the building will take up virtually the whole plot apart from a small parking area, so we cannot see there would even be room for the refuse bins. We estimate that there would be a space of only 11" one side and 4" the other side.

(3) We would query whether there is space for off-road parking for two medium sized cars as stated and would ask how you could stop any occupier having a larger vehicle.

(4) We would welcome this site being tidied up and the asbestos being removed but this is gross over-development.

Highways Issues

The Clerk had circulated copy of an E-mail from the County Council explaining the criteria used when making decisions on highways issues relating to any Planning Applications.

Network News

The latest copy of Community Planning Network News dated February 2006 had been circulated prior to this Meeting, for information.

Health Centre Site

It was reported that this application is going before the Borough Planning Committee B on 18th April. It was AGREED that we should chase Mr Richardson at the Borough Council for an urgent response on the Cooper's Yard site.

It was MOVED by Councillor Mrs Weston, SECONDED by Councillor Weston and RESOLVED to write to Mr Hammond, with a copy for Mrs Harvey to explain that we have suggested an alternative site of Cooper's Yard and Mr Richardson was tasked to find out whether this would be suitable and if the Borough Council would permit a relatively small portion of the Greening Road site used with this. We would therefore ask if a decision could be deferred on this Application until this alternative site has been considered. The Clerk and the Chair will prepare this letter.

Councillors Pote and Whyte could speak at the Planning Meeting as they can talk for longer. It would be very useful to have representatives from both Groups address the Planning Meeting.

412 ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITY

Youth Facilities

Copies of the Report of the Meeting held on 28th February 2006 had been circulated prior to this Meeting. It was MOVED by Councillor Mrs Weston, SECONDED by Councillor Pote and RESOLVED that the Report be approved and adopted. We will arrange the next Meeting of the Youth Committee at the end of this Meeting.

Bovis Homes Development

(a) Play Areas: copies of the E-mail received from the Borough Council, together with the attachments, had been circulated prior to this Meeting. It was AGREED to ask for a Meeting with the Borough representatives and perhaps the suppliers of the play equipment because we would like an input into the discussion before a decision is made.

(b) Street Names: Councillor Jones had suggested that the street names should reflect Rowell Fair and the 800th anniversary of the Charter. It was MOVED by Councillor Jones, SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Weston and RESOLVED that we write to the Fair Society and ask them to suggest suitable names.

Town Centre Partnership

We will arrange a date for the next Meeting of the Partnership at the end of this Meeting. We need to look at progress on the updating of the Website and so Mr Fillingham will be invited to this Meeting. The arrangements to deliver the brochures to every house in Rothwell can be made then.

Twining Association

A letter had been received from the Secretary to the Rothwell Twining Association that the Comice Agricole is to be held on 1st and 2nd July 2006 in Droué. This is a large agricultural show held once every nine years and it will also be attended by people from Gondelsheim, the town in Germany twinned with Droué. A number of their members will be going and they would like to invite Members of the Town Council to attend the show. If we would like further information, there was a Committee Meeting recently or we can contact any member of the Association.

School Transport

Councillor Pote had provided the Clerk with a copy of the criteria for providing school transport and this had been circulated prior to this Meeting, for information. It was felt that now the road is de-classified, we do not have as much of a case against withdrawing this service.

Rothwell Cemetery

Councillor Jones reported that the dead tree about two-thirds of the way up the Cemetery hedge in Loddington Road has still not been removed despite an E-mail sent in September/October 2005 and permission to take this down by November. It was AGREED to write to Martin Hammond, with copies for Paul Fox and Claire Summerley at the Borough Council.

Rothwell In Bloom

It was AGREED that this scheme should go ahead this year as usual, and the Clerk was asked to contact those people who might have a hanging basket.

413 MATTERS OF BUSINESSPrimary Care Trusts

Councillor Mrs Weston has drafted our response to the consultation on the Primary Care Trusts. She felt it would be wrong to move from three to one geographical area within the County. We have never done very well at the northern part of the County. If there was one Trust for the north and one for the south, there would be a better degree of liaison with the District Authorities. She will let Councillor Pote have a copy of the draft for approval before we submit our response and this course of action was AGREED. It was reported that the Borough Council is supporting the same option. Councillor Pote explained that the County Health Scrutiny Committee has opted for one Trust.

Licensing Applications

The Clerk reported that she had received notification of applications by the Borough Council for Premises Licences for the Market Hill car park, Manor Park and the Bowling Club, the Community Centre and Well Lane Recreation Ground. This will mean that events such as the annual Fete and Gala Evening will not need separate Licences.

Reviewing Suppliers

The Clerk had received a letter and survey about the public duty to monitor and review suppliers to promote equality and diversity in employment. It was AGREED to write back that the survey does not apply to us as we usually use Kettering Borough Contractors for any work such as the Christmas lights and rely on them to deal with this type of requirement.

Forthcoming Meetings

It was AGREED that the Annual Town Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 9th May 2006 before the ordinary Town Council Meeting. The Annual Parish Assembly will be held on Tuesday, 16th May and the Clerk will find out if we can hold this in the Trinity Centre.

As to the June Meeting, this is due to be held during Rowell Fair week. It was therefore AGREED that we will move this to Tuesday, 6th June 2006 as this will only transpose the four week and five week gap between Meetings.

As to the Annual Parish Assembly, it was AGREED to find out what the current legal requirements are for holding this.

Payment of Council Tax

Councillor Whyte reported that the new Borough system will not be up and running in the Post Office and other payment outlets until May, but the Borough has promised to keep the existing facility in the Market House until they are ready. There is also the issue of the opening times being cut at the Library.

Trevor Atkins

We now have the glass bowl to present to ex-Councillor Atkins. It was AGREED to invite him and his wife to attend the Meeting on 9th May, which will include the Annual Town Council Meeting as we have a small presentation in recognition of his services to the town over many years.

414 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk submitted a written Report 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	£501.81
Inland Revenue	Tax and N I (3 months)	£199.30
HF Design	Rothwelltown Website	£223.25
Holy Trinity Church	Hire of Trinity Centre (Youth Meeting)	£10.00
Post Office Limited	Re-direction of Mail	£67.20

415 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.