

ROTHWELL TOWN COUNCIL

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

PRESENT: Councillor A C Pote Chairman
 Councillor Mrs C M Brown
 Councillor C W Cross
 Councillor N A Matthew
 Councillor Mrs C M Mullett
 Councillor M W Spendlove (7.15 pm)
 Councillor Mrs M E Talbot
 Councillor Mrs G Weston
 Councillor P G Weston
 Councillor A Whitlam

504 PRAYERS

Before the business of the Council commenced, the Revd Canon George Burgon said Prayers, including for the future of our community with the proposed changes, for those people with a drugs problem, for young offenders, and also for those residents who had recently died.

505 APOLOGIES

An apology had been received from Councillor Whyte who was working late.

506 COMMUNITY POLICING

As no Police Officer was able to be present, this item was left.

507 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

(1) Glendon Road: since the second fatality on this road, the Town Council has been chasing progress on the traffic calming. We have been promised that we will have the drawings for the build-out and the mini-roundabout shortly. This last accident was not caused by parked cars, but it was understood it was different circumstances. We have also looked at having some vehicle actuated signs here if there is sufficient money left from the other work. We assume that the build-out will be similar to that in Harrington Road but we will need to study the drawings. Councillor Mrs Weston said the Town Council has had some consultation on the development plans for Rothwell and there is a proposal for a link from the old A6 to the bypass and we are pushing to have this extended to Rushton Road which might take some of the traffic off Glendon Road and make this safer.

(2) Bridge Street: as to vehicles parked on the double yellow lines here, the PCSOs are giving warning notes although they cannot yet give tickets. If there is a repeat offence, the Police Officers will issue a ticket. Councillor Matthew has spoken to PCSO Kelman and CI Thompson and in Desborough they have notes which they put on inconsiderately parked cars. Our local Police Officer has given a ticket to the person who used to park on the pavement outside the Lotus House and also on a car in Bridge Street. We hope to have some of the notes by the next Meeting and these will have the Police logo on. There was a vehicle parked completely on the pavement outside the Nationwide today.

(3) CCTV Cameras: these do work but parking tickets are not a priority so this will not necessarily be noted. One of the cameras assisted in an arrest earlier this week.

(4) Urban Extension Area: We have not yet received details of the responses to the consultation. A resident attended the Friday Meeting and he and others felt it was a foregone conclusion as to what will be done. As to how many homes are already being built, there are 240 on the Bovis site, and more on the Avalon Allotments and the Football Club field. These are in addition to the 700 under the Urban Extension Area. The Town Council is making comments on the infrastructure which will be required. A resident understood that the Football Club expects to get Planning Permission to develop their field. The average density is 35 houses per hectare, which is that recommended by the Government.

(5) Ragsdale Street: a resident complained that it is very difficult to come out of this street into Glendon Road, and wondered if there could be a mirror there. It was confirmed that road safety in Glendon Road is a priority for the Town Council. Councillor Weston thought this road warranted a thorough investigation by the County Road Engineers and the Police and we will try and arrange this.

Councillor Spendlove joined the Meeting at 7.15 pm.

508 SALE OF FIREWORKS

Notice of the following Motion had been given on the Agenda:-

It is MOVED by the Chairman and SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Brown that the Town Council write to the relevant Government Department urging the banning of the sale and distribution of fireworks apart from those for licensed displays.

The Chairman had put this on because he was upset by the reports of animals and elderly people being hurt or frightened by fireworks, which have got much bigger and louder over the years. Councillors Jones and Weston declared Interests as Committee Members of the Co-operative Society. Some Members were concerned that our residents would be able to buy fireworks from other places, including over the Internet. It was UNANIMOUSLY AGREED to write to Philip Hollobone MP as per the Motion, but specifying this should be a national ban and including the sale of fireworks over the Internet.

We had received a reply from one of the retail outlets in the town complaining about our letter asking them not to sell fireworks in future, and copies had been circulated prior to this Meeting. The Clerk's original letter was read to the Meeting, and she confirmed that she had already E-mailed the retailer back with a list of Councillors and letting them know when this Meeting was taking place.

509 MINUTES

It was MOVED by Councillor Mrs Weston, SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Brown and RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th October 2006 be confirmed and signed.

510 HIGHWAYS

A14 Roundabouts

Copies of the Report of the Meeting held on 11th October 2006 had been circulated prior to this Meeting, including to Mr Matthews of the Market Towns Initiative. We would have to notify all the Public Utilities in case there were any pipes or wires under the roundabouts, and there are lights there. Councillor Jones said that the MTI had given a report to Churches Together in Rothwell and some Members felt we did not need any planting apart from grass and bulbs in

spring because visibility here is difficult in any event. If we had found sponsors, we had been informed that they might have been allocated other roundabouts so this would not have helped the Rothwell ones. Councillor Mrs Brown said the roundabouts outside Brixworth look very good all year round.

It was AGREED that we wait until April 2007 when the County Council will take these over, and to write to them and ask for the Rothwell roundabouts to be dealt with first.

Traffic Calming, Glendon Road

As mentioned earlier in the Meeting we had received an E-mail from Mr Leighton that he will arrange for drawings to be designed as a matter of urgency. Some years ago there had been another fatality there, when the chef from Peeping Tom's was killed. It was AGREED to E-mail PC O'Hara and ask if the Police speed camera can be placed in Glendon Road.

Councillor Jones said it had been suggested that vehicles should only be allowed to turn left out of Stanley Street and Ragsdale Street and we can consider this again.

Works, Market Hill

A reply had been received from the Head of Asset Management at Atkins that he understood the replacement of the York stone slabs had been fully completed, so he believed that the missing and broken paving to which we referred had been damaged or are temporary repairs carried out since that time. There are no plans to currently carry out repairs in Market Hill other than for safety reasons. The Clerk said the tarmac area by the access next to the Conservative Club have white marks on them from where they were to have placed a bollard so these have been missing for a long time. It was AGREED to write back to Atkins with this information, and that these slabs need to be replaced in any event and we look forward to the work being done.

In addition, the replacement slabs have never been put in the High Street area. It was FURTHER AGREED to contact the County Council about this.

White Lining

A reply had been received from Atkins that they have now inspected and material has been tracked by a vehicle or vehicles, having run over the lines before they had time to go off. They felt this was not extensive and is minor in nature but they will be discussing the matter with the contractor. In Harrington Road this has occurred on a new surface and removal needs to take this fact into consideration, but the area in Desborough Road should be quite simple to deal with. He will now also visit the A6003 with the white lining contractor when they look at the Desborough sites. It was AGREED to accept this.

New Pedestrian Crossing, Desborough Road

Copies of the plan showing the site for this new zebra crossing had been circulated prior to this Meeting, and this showed it would be past the Greening Road junction, near where the access to the new Medical Centre will be. It was AGREED to comment that the mini-roundabout at the Greening Road/Desborough Road junction needs to be re-aligned because drivers cannot see whether other vehicles are approaching this, and to ask whether this and the crossing at the bottom of Desborough Road could be pelican crossings.

Highways Representatives Scheme

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

Underwood Road

Councillor Cross said this road has been patched up but he felt we should chase this being re-surfaced because it is in such a bad condition. It was reported that some of the potholes were very deep so it seems the foundation of the road is being eroded. It AGREED to find out when this will be re-surfaced.

Glendon Road

Councillor Mrs Talbot said that at the end of Glendon Road, when you come off the roundabout by the Kettering North Business Area into Glendon Road, there is only a wire fence by the steep drop down to the warehouse area. Councillor Whitlam said they are putting a crash barrier there within a few months as part of the development. It was AGREED to write to the Planning Officer and ask for this to be expedited.

High Street Area

Vehicles are still parking on the bend by Idolz. It was AGREED to ask PC O'Hara for his opinion and if he thinks this area should have double yellow lines put in.

Councillor Mrs Brown reported that Carters Travel of Broughton stop in Rothwell to take students to Moulton College and the driver parks in the bus stop in the High Street from about 7.30 to 7.45 am. At about this time there is also the normal school bus and the scheduled bus. She has spoken to Carters and the situation seems to have improved but she wondered if the Town Council could also write and ask them to stop there just long enough to pick up the young people so that the other coaches and buses can use the bus stop. This was AGREED.

511 PLANNINGReport of the Planning Referee

The following Refusal had been received-

KET/2006/0810 4 Lancaster Road – Two-storey side extension.

The following Approvals had been received:-

KET/2006/0789 10 Rushton Road – Conservatory.

KET/2006/0858 1 Chichester Close – Conservatory.

We had received amended plans in connection with Application KET/2006/0755 for seven town houses and six flats at 46 Kettering Road. Although the slight amendments were noted we had repeated our original comments on this Application.

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

KET/2006/0952 Former M & M Auto, Desborough Road – Six dwellings.
No objection, as this will tidy up this site but three-storey buildings will be too high and there needs to be one extra parking space.

On this issue, Councillor Jones had spoken to a resident and there is a drain from the old A6 along the wall to the cricket field. There has been an extension built over this drain and there could be a problem. It was AGREED to inform the Planning Department.

Planning Applications

The Clerk had received a letter from the Borough Development Control Manger clarifying how the responses from Parish Councils to Planning Applications are dealt with. If only the "No Objections" part is ticked, it is taken that a Parish Council does not definitely either support or oppose an Application and this will not automatically go before the Planning Committee if it can be dealt with under delegated powers, in accordance with the current scheme of delegations. If we have no particular views, the "No objections" will cover this. If we do either support or object, reasons and other relevant comments are asked for. If this Application then goes to a Planning Committee, it is helpful for a representative to explain the reasons at the Committee Meeting.

Urban Extension Area

Copies of the Report of the Meeting held on 8th November 2006 were available at this Meeting. Our observations, as agreed at that Meeting have been submitted to the Borough Council, with a copy for Persimmon's Consultation Agents. It was **MOVED** by Councillor Mrs Talbot, **SECONDED** by Councillor Mrs Weston and **RESOLVED** that the Report be approved and adopted.

Sewerage System

We had written to the Borough Building Control Officer about the manhole covers being blown off the drains on the Bovis site during recent heavy rain, and had included in this the problems being experienced by the residents of Dempsey Drive with their sewerage system. The Clerk had received a telephone call that the Borough Building Control Officers do not have any input on the Bovis site as they have private Inspectors appointed by the NHBC. As the Planning Officers do still look at this site, our query has been passed to them.

Brown Signs on the A14

Following a query by the Chairman, we had received a letter from the Borough Monitoring & Enforcement Officer that the Rushton Hall Hotel "brown signs" are on the public highway but are not licensed by the County. The County is therefore in the process of having the signs removed. It would be useful if we could let them know of any which are still there in a few weeks' time.

Football Club Site

Councillor Mrs Brown referred to the consultation by Persimmon, and said a resident was upset because when her husband died, his ashes were to have been scattered on the new pitch. However it now seems that the Club is not to move. It was **AGREED** to ask whether the Football Club is still planning to build on their existing site and create a new pitch.

512 ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITY

Town Centre Partnership

Copies of the Report of the Meeting held on 30th October 2006 had been circulated prior to this Meeting. It was **AGREED** that the Report be approved and adopted.

Councillor Cross thought the point about the work at the Rothwell House Hotel was relevant. It was **FURTHER AGREED** to contact the Borough Planning Department from the Town Council as well as the Partnership.

Gala Committee

Copies of the Report of the Meeting held on 1st November 2006 had been circulated prior to this Meeting. It was AGREED that the Report be approved and adopted.

The Chairman explained that the power for the lighting on Gala evening is now coming from the Market House as Councillor Whitlam has put in a socket and will provide the transformers. He also has some covering for the wiring. Councillor Spendlove also has some and will also look at providing sandbags, if necessary.

Rothwell Youth Group

Copies of the Report of the Meeting held on 2nd November 2006 had been circulated prior to this Meeting. It was AGREED that the Report be approved and adopted.

Councillor Mrs Brown felt this had been a very good Meeting and we had a lot of information given to us by the representatives from Youth Works C.I.C. Mr Matthews is trying to find out about additional funding as well. She has spoken to Martin Hammond and the Bank Account for this Group needs to be totally separate and should be done by 12th January 2007. As this has to be separate, the Town Council cannot do this and Councillor Mrs Brown will sort this out.

Air Pollution

We had now received a reply from Dr John Holden of the Rothwell & Desborough Health Care Group that he has canvassed the opinions of the other doctors and their feeling is that, while nationally asthma is more readily diagnosed by general practitioners, there is very little in the way of a true increase. They do not perceive that the A14 with three lanes would be a hazard to the respiratory health of the town.

Members of the Town Council were still concerned, and felt that we needed monitors on the lower ground in Rothwell and it was AGREED to ask if one could be placed either in Columbus Crescent or on the Bovis site off Jubilee Street.

Litter Bins

A response had been received from the Borough Council that they will try and replace the bin next to the Rowell Fayre chip shop. They are compiling a list for replacing litter bins in the next financial year, and our request for the ones with tops will be put on the list. They feel the bins in Bridge Street, Market Square and Bell Hill areas should be a priority and they will let us know what is to happen in due course.

The Chairman said part of the funding from his County Councillor's grant is being put for metal seats like the ones in Manor Park and some extra litter bins. The cost of each bin will be £440 and for each seat £550, which includes fixing.

The Clerk had received an invoice from the Borough Council for £334.88 (including VAT) in connection with repairing two seats, and installing a third on Desborough Road. She had queried this and understood that they repaired the seat at the bottom of Desborough Road and the one between Rothwell and Desborough, and the new seat was that by the bus stop near the cricket field. They are also repairing or replacing one in Shotwell Mill Lane. Apparently the Borough is responsible for the cost of those within the town boundary, but not those outside it. She will ask for a replacement invoice and check the details.

It was reported that on Operation Kleen Sweep, 18 bags of rubbish were removed from the Well Lane Recreation Ground and Columbus Crescent Open Space. Councillor Mrs Weston was upset that although people do pick up the dog mess and put this into a bag, they still only throw it into the hedges.

Rothwell Community Centre

We had received a response that the building is being monitored monthly for a year by the use of "tell tale signs" as advised by structural engineers. They will have a year's readings by June 2007, and a scheme will then need to be drawn up by professionals to address the issue; they will also obtain interim advice. The Borough would prefer this work to be carried out during the summer holidays, as the Centre bookings are lower at this time, so Ms Bellamy has been given approval to proceed with the preliminary work, but the tenders will still be subject to the capital funding being approved. It was AGREED to accept this situation.

Greening Road Park

Ms Bellamy from the Borough Council had asked exactly where the PCSOs would like a light in Greening Road Park, and she sent a plan so we could indicate this. It was AGREED that we should ask the PCSOs, and the Clerk subsequently ascertained that this should be by the footpath near Tennyson Road, between the two seats and if possible in a location where there could be some light over the play equipment and she informed the Borough Council of this.

Columbus Crescent

An E-mail had been received from Ms Bellamy that she agreed the notice should not be put up at Blythe Close, especially as they will provide one for the play area once it is enclosed. The fencing has been commissioned but they do not yet have a start date. As to the sign to be placed near Cook Close, she was happy not to have bicycles banned. They have had a number of complaints this summer in respect of cricket in this area, mainly the safety aspect; golf is another common problem and she also considers rounders in the same way, i.e. the safety factor. She felt that football or rounders should be played in the nearby Well Lane Recreation Ground. The wording for this could therefore be altered to "Football and Rounders can be played in the football area near the Community Centre in Well Lane".

It was AGREED that we only wanted golf to be banned, although there could be the suggestion that there was a better area for the other games. It was FURTHER AGREED to ask when the all-weather pitch would be installed as this will help the problem.

Hospital Foundation Trust

Councillor Mrs Weston had attended the first Public Meeting on the consultation about Kettering General Hospital applying for Foundation Trust status. The Hospital management will go out and talk to Town and Parish Councillors about this and she felt we could have a special Meeting. Several copies of the consultation document were available. It was AGREED that we would ask them to come and talk to the Town Council at a special Meeting on this.

56 Littlewood Street

A reply had been received from the Borough Health Services Manager that they had responded to a similar allegation in September. This was investigated in relation to the possibility of a dog breeding licence being required but he confirmed this is not necessary for the activities at the premises at this time. No allegations of nuisance were made and the complainant advised that should any such concerns arise, then further contact would be made but nothing further has been

heard. They are therefore satisfied that this is operating within current legislative requirements, but we should let him have details of the complainant if we receive information to the contrary and they will investigate further.

Rothwell Swimming Pool

Councillor Spendlove asked when this would re-open and Councillor Whitlam has details of the timetable for the pool, which he can let other Members have. Although we lobbied for this to be refurbished, we have not yet been invited to look at this. The Swimming Club is starting up again soon, and the Headteacher of the Junior School is happy with the lessons his pupils are having.

Tenbury Way

The Borough Council had sent the Clerk an E-mail that they are unaware of any definite proposals to provide a formal footpath link between Tenbury Way and Slade Valley Avenue, or to transfer the land to the Borough Council. Although this was indicated as public open space within an earlier application, it was outside the 'red line' boundary and the provision could not therefore be enforced.

513 MATTERS OF BUSINESS

Delivery of Prescription Drugs

Copies of an E-mail sent by Councillor Matthew to the Clerk had been circulated prior to this Meeting together with copy letter he had sent to Philip Hollobone MP. Councillor Matthew had sent this as a concerned resident, and he declared an Interest as he works for the Company that owns Lloydspharmacy.

The issues raised by the possibility that there would be an exclusive distribution outlet for Pfizer drugs were discussed. It was AGREED to write to Philip Hollobone MP and ask him to raise the issue with the relevant Minister as we would be concerned if this resulted in a monopoly situation or additional delivery lorries in Bridge Street.

Licensing Applications

It was reported that the Red Lion had agreed to reduce the hours it was applying for to 1.00 am on Fridays and Saturdays, and outside no later than 11.00 pm any night, as requested by the Town Council. As to Rothwell House Hotel, their hours would be no later than 10.30 pm outside and inside 12.30 am, because of the proximity of the houses in School Lane.

Water Pipeline

We had received a letter from Anglian Water about their new water pipeline from Empingham to Hannington which passes through our Parish as it goes from Rushton to Thorpe Malsor. this is to upgrade the water supply and it was AGREED to take no action here.

Casual Vacancies

A letter had been received from the Borough Electoral Services Manager informing us that any vacancies that occur within six months before the day on which Councillors would regularly have retired (i.e. 3rd May 2007) are not required to be filled by election. In such instances, the Town Council may fill the vacancy by co-option. This means that it is still necessary to give public notice of any vacancy that occurs, but there would be no requirement for an election to be

held if such a request is received signed by the requisite ten electors for the area. If there is a vacancy, we should inform him and he will arrange for it to be advertised as normal.

Councillor Mrs Weston referred to the boundary changes with there being one Ward for the Borough Council and two Wards for the Town Council, which could be confusing. It was AGREED to write to the Borough and has how they will arrange this so it is clear for residents when they go to cast their votes.

Miscellaneous

The Clerk had circulated copy of the notice of the Annual General Meeting for the Market Towns Initiative. Councillor Mrs Talbot is our representative, with Councillor Mrs Mullett as the substitute, but the Meeting is open to the public.

We also had information on Local Government funding, and on a conference in connection with the White Paper 'Strong & Prosperous Communities'.

514 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk submitted a written statement as attached. It was MOVED by Councillor Mrs Weston, SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Talbot and RESOLVED that the Report be approved and adopted and the following amounts paid:-

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Service or Goods</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Mrs C E Mackay	Clerk's Salary	£436.10
BDO Stoy Hayward	External Auditor's Fee	£141.00
RBL Poppy Appeal	Wreath, Remembrance Sunday	£18.00
Cllr N A Matthew	Reimbursement, purchase domain names	£12.17
Cash	Petty Cash	£40.00

The Clerk reported that we had received Notice of Conclusion of Audit from BDO Stoy Hayward. The only comment was that we should consider preparing an Asset Register and the Clerk would raise this with our Internal Auditor.

We still have to consider the quotation for re-covering the Council Chamber chairs. We will have a Meeting of the Finance Committee, perhaps just before the next full Town Council Meeting.

515 ADMISSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC

In view of the confidential nature of the business about to be discussed, it was AGREED that the Press and Public be asked to withdraw.