

## ROTHWELL TOWN COUNCIL

A Meeting of Rothwell Town Council was held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday, 12th September 2006 in the Market House, Market Hill, Rothwell.

PRESENT:                      Councillor P G Weston                      In the Chair  
   Councillor Mrs C M Brown  
   Councillor C W Cross  
   Councillor N A Matthew  
   Councillor Mrs C M Mullett  
   Councillor M W Spendlove (8.17 pm)  
   Councillor Mrs G Weston

### 476 PRAYERS

Before the business of the Council commenced, the Revd Canon said Prayers and mentioned the young people in the town, those who are trying to improve facilities for them, and the Schools with their staff and governors. He also mentioned Mr Peter Bliss who died recently and the members of his family.

### 477 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Councillors Pote, Jones, Mrs Talbot and Whyte, and from Councillor Spendlove who would join the Meeting late.

### 478 COMMUNITY POLICING

#### General Report

Chief Inspector Aistrop attended the Meeting to explain the significant increase in crimes of burglary dwelling at the present time. They believe there are about three separate groups carrying these out and it is very unusual for this to happen. Those they think are responsible have been arrested and PC O'Hara has put a lot of hard work into dealing with these incidents, assisted by PC Floody.

He also wanted to ask about the policing level in the town since the PCSOs came and the Safer Communities pilot scheme being carried out here. It was confirmed that the residents are pleased to see the PCSOs walking around and there does not seem to be the gangs of kids around, especially on Friday evenings. PCSO Kelman was also monitoring the new zebra crossing in Desborough Road since we reported that some vehicles were not stopping there. CI Aistrop said there is also a big recruitment drive in the County and this will help Rothwell as well as other communities. PC O'Hara is ring-fenced for Rothwell unless there is a very serious incident in the area. Rothwell is a small town to be included in the Safer Communities initiative and he hoped that the Town Council would be able to

supply information to the Joint Action Group. There are no Youth Workers available to work with them although there are voluntary agencies they can call on.

The Town Council felt it was unfortunate the PCSOs cannot deal with parking problems and CI Aistrop confirmed it was a decision made by the Chief Constable to take this power out because he was concerned it would end up that this was the only issue they dealt with. We are in a vacuum at the moment with responsibility for parking being taken over by the County and Borough Councils soon.

#### Police Questions from the Public

(a) Untaxed Vehicles: Mr West asked what the Police policy is on these. CI Aistrop said this information is passed to the DVLA for them to take responsibility. They now have an option to fine people without going through the Courts. Apparently a vehicle has been reported to the Police and the DVLA but nothing has been done within the last four weeks. However, if a vehicle has been untaxed for a period of time, the DVLA can make the owner pay for this period when they do renew their tax. The ELVIS scheme does deal with untaxed vehicles and we should let the Police know by telephoning 08453 700700. As to foreign vehicles which are not taxed we believe they are permitted quite a long time in this country before they have to do this.

(b) Glendon Road: Mr West said vehicles are still speeding there. The Town Council is discussing traffic calming with the County Council. CI Aistrop will discuss this with PC O'Hara and if it merits it they could ask the Camera Safety Team to investigate. They would need to satisfy themselves that the threshold has been reached and then they could put a camera there, although there are restrictions on where they can park their van because they need to be visible for Health & Safety reasons.

#### 479 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

(1) Seats, Squires Hill: Mr West thought these were filthy and people could not sit on them. The memorial bench for Jeremy Freestone has now been moved to the Greening Road Park because this got a lot of debris on from the trees and the birds and his parents asked for this to be done. It was AGREED to ask the Borough Council if these seats could be given a good clean and then kept in a good condition so they can be used.

(2) Litter and Dog Mess: Mr West thought the town was in a bad state with the litter bins overflowing, with dog mess and bags of rubbish left by the recycling bins. The Clerk confirmed the Borough did make special journeys to collect the bags and boxes left by the bins. There was a problem with the litter bins overflowing when the operator was away and the contractor who replaced him had difficulty keeping to the schedule. However, it has been better for quite a while now. It was pointed out that it is residents who are responsible for leaving litter and bags of rubbish, and dog owners should clean up after their animals as well. We will monitor the situation over the next few weeks.

Councillor Mrs Brown reported that once we have a Traffic Warden, he can also deal with litter and dog mess so this should assist the general situation.

(3) Bollards, Market Hill: Mr West asked when the extra bollards were to be put in as these are very much overdue. The Clerk had seen Mr Trimble of the County Highways Department, who was inspecting the area with Mr Thomas of the Borough in connection with the Red Lion and Market Hill Study and was concerned about the broken York stone slabs. She had asked him about the bollards and he promised to chase this with Atkins. It was AGREED to write to the Leader of the County Council on this matter, with copies to the Chief Executive, Mr Trimble and Atkins to express how fed up we are with this delay despite many promises that the work would be done and having been given several start dates.

(4) Bus Shelter in front of the Library: Mr West asked when this will be done. It was explained that unfortunately no-one is prepared to put a bus shelter here. We have been informed that there are problems with the utilities in the area and that there is not sufficient space. However, we have repeated the request in connection with the Red Lion Square and Market Hill Study to see if this can come up with a solution. There is also the issue that if we put a shelter on that side of the road, people will also want one on the opposite side.

#### 480 MINUTES

It was MOVED by Councillor Cross, SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Brown and RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th July 2006 be confirmed and signed.

#### 481 HIGHWAYS

##### Glendon Road Traffic Calming

Unfortunately the County Community Engineer did not turn up at the Meeting. It was AGREED to write to him and express our dissatisfaction that he did not come to the Meeting and that we still consider there could be a mini-roundabout at the Rock Hill junction and we would like to have a build-out at the top Columbus Crescent junction.

##### Weed Control

The Clerk had spoken to Mr Foster at Atkins and he said there is only a brief specification and they treat weeds as required. This is really to prevent causing a hazard or damage to the surface of the road or footway. Councillor Pote had obtained a copy of the Management Plan for grass cutting and weed treatment which had been circulated prior to this Meeting. This is rather vague as it only indicates that weed control should be undertaken "as required".

It was AGREED to write to Atkins that the standard of weed killing has not been satisfactory this year and we expect the specification to be upgraded in urban areas for the channels and tops of kerbs, as well as for footways (particularly between these and adjoining buildings) so that all the weeds are killed off. This might mean that the operators need to treat some areas on an individual basis, for example behind litter bins or post boxes where a lot of weeds remained.

#### A14 Junction 4 Roundabouts

Copies of the E-mail from Mr Grindley, the County Streetworks Manager, to Councillor Pote and the conditions for a Parish or Town Council to carry out landscaping works within the highway had been circulated prior to this Meeting. It was understood that the County is to let a new contract for all the roundabouts in April 2007 and they will insist that the contractors take over all of them, and they will no longer be allowed to omit those which do not have a large volume of traffic.

Councillor Mrs Weston explained that she and Councillor Pote had discussed this and she had requested a copy of the licence. It was felt that the conditions were onerous for the Town Council and we would not know if the contractor was complying with the relevant regulations as specified.

It was MOVED by Councillor Mrs Weston, SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Brown and RESOLVED that we wait until April 2007 when the new contract comes in but in the meantime we will ask the County that, if we wait until next year, will they guarantee that the Rothwell roundabouts are dealt with first because these have never been landscaped the way most of the County ones have.

#### Air Pollution

A response had been received from the Borough Environmental Services Manager that they do not hold data relating to air pollution before the A14 but they have monitoring sites at the Community Centre, Tennyson Road, Gladstone Street and the A14 roundabout. These show low levels of air pollution and a good margin of compliance when compared to the National Air Quality Standards. They do review their monitoring locations but the current sites are considered appropriate and they have no plans to relocate any of them.

It was AGREED to send a copy of this letter to Dr John Holden to ask if he feels this is satisfactory and represents the current situation, in particular whether levels of chest complaints have increased in recent years. It was FURTHER AGREED to ask for this to be put on the Agenda for the next A6 Towns Forum Meeting on 28th September and to try and get a reply from the Health Centre by then.

#### Development Signs

The Borough Council has taken down a lot of these on behalf of the County. It was AGREED to monitor the situation.

#### Highways Representatives

Copies of the Annual Questionnaire and Rep's Reviews had been circulated prior to this Meeting. The responses to the Questionnaire were agreed for the Clerk to complete and return.

#### Moorfield Road

It was reported that the grit bin at the bottom of Moorfield Road has been moved onto the pavement and it is obstructing the footpath, especially for people in mobility scooters or with prams. It was AGREED to report this.

#### White Lining

There is a lot of white paint over the road in both Desborough Road and Harrington Road. It looks as though the paint has been dropped or there was a leak. It was AGREED to report this and to comment that there is the same problem on the A6003 between Kettering and Corby so if the same contractor does all the white lining there will be a poor standard throughout the County.

#### Fox Street/Kettering Road

It was reported that there is a large pothole in the middle of this junction where vehicles turn into Fox Street. It was AGREED to report this.

#### 482 PLANNING

As Councillor Spendlove was not yet at the Meeting, it was AGREED to deal with the other Agenda items under Planning first.

#### Urban Extension Area

Copies of the Report of the Meeting held on 18th July 2006 had been circulated prior to this Meeting. It was MOVED by Councillor Matthew, SECONDED by Councillor Cross and RESOLVED that the Report be approved and adopted. Councillor Matthew thought this was well done and made some good points.

The Clerk confirmed that The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Councillors Mrs Brown and Mrs Weston had agreed a Press Release which had been sent out to the media on 30th August 2006 because we had been informed the consultation was to start on 4th September. This confirmed the main points on why we need Site 8 to be retained in the Action Plan for an industrial site and asking residents to support this during the

consultation period.

Councillor Mrs Brown had attended the Planning Policy Meeting and they did not accept any of our points although she put forward our case. The Borough were planning to put an industrial site backing onto Moorfield Road which would be much worse for existing residents than Site 8. There will be a consultation which is now planned to start at the beginning of October. The new developer interested in Site 8 is however still talking to the Borough. The planners said that Site 8 is outside the town plan although it has received Planning Permission and that ProLogis have never signed the s.106 Agreement. However the new developer is prepared to do this. The Borough owns a portion of this land which must be worth quite a lot of money to the tax payers.

The Town Council is very disappointed that the Borough has omitted this site from their Preferred Option. There is no point in asking a Planning Officer to come and talk to us as Mrs Harvey, the Borough Head of Development Services, has not replied to any of the three letters we have sent to her in the last year or so about progress on the industrial site. There are standards at the Borough including a time limit by which Officers should respond to any letters.

Councillor Spendlove joined the Meeting at 8.17 pm.

It was AGREED to write to the Chief Executive about the fact we have not received any replies from Mrs Harvey to our letters and to send him a copy of our Press Release. It was FURTHER AGREED to inform the Chief Executive that we had been informed that the consultation was to start on 4th September, but this has now been delayed until October and we would like to know the reason for this.

#### Land North of the A14

Copies of the letter from Development Land & Planning Consultants, together with the plan they sent, had been circulated prior to this Meeting. They would like to meet the Town Council to discuss their proposals and it was AGREED this Meeting would take place at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, 19th September in the Market House. In accordance with the Town Council's normal policy when discussing matters with developers, this Meeting will be Without Prejudice and the Town Council will only make a formal observation on any Planning Application submitted to Kettering Borough Council.

#### Report of the Planning Referee

Councillor Spendlove was now present at the Meeting and presented his Report. Notification had been received that Application KET/2006/0498 for a replacement dwelling at Glebe Farm, Desborough Road had been withdrawn. The following Refusals had been received:-

KET/2006/0476 69 Harrington Road – Extensions.  
KET/2006/0579 Glendon Hill Farm – Amendment to domestic curtilage.

The following Approvals had been received:-

KET/2006/0216 North Kettering Business Area – Vehicle Maintenance Area.  
KET/2006/0425 The Old Bakery, 19 Market Hill – Conversion to shop (Class A1)  
and restaurant.  
KET/2006/0428 The Old Bakery, 19 Market Hill – Four shop units (Class A1).  
KET/2006/0488 8 Scott Avenue – Rear extension.  
  
KET/2006/0507 9 Nansen Close - Rear extension.  
KET/2006/0533 6 Balfour Drive - Pitched roof.  
KET/2006/0549 Slade Valley House, Orton Road – Agricultural building to Class  
B2 and ancillary office space (retrospective).  
KET/2006/0659 The Bungalow, Rushton Road – Rear extension.

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

KET/2006/0594 Land at 2 John Smith Avenue – New dwelling (Amended Plans).  
No objection, provided the access is now considered to be safe for  
pedestrians and other drivers, especially as it has been re-located  
both onto a busy residential estate road and opposite the junction with Lancaster  
Road.  
KET/2006/0659 The Bungalow, Rushton Road – Rear Extension.  
No objection.  
KET/2006/0675 The Thai Garden, 3 Market Hill – Basement to approved extensions.  
No objection.  
KET/2006/0711 North Kettering Business Area – Amendments to KET/2006/0216  
for a Vehicle Maintenance Area.  
No objection.  
KET/2006/0713 33 Playford Close – Garage.  
No objection.  
KET/2006/0722 42 Kettering Road – Removal of prefab garage and erection of  
detached stone garage.  
No objection.

KET/2006/0750 Land to rear of 5 Fox Street – Change of Use from barn to dwelling.  
No objection, provided the conversion/restoration is carried out sympathetically.

KET/2006/0755 46 Kettering Road – 7 town houses and 6 flats.  
Rothwell Town Council objects to this proposal. Not only is this over-development but it is also insensitive and inappropriate for this area because we do not accept that this is a brown field site, unlike the former Grocock's factory on the corner of Gordon Street. We strongly object to any of the mature trees being removed and are dismayed to see that some felling is already taking place which should be stopped immediately. We object to the proposed pedestrian access directly onto Kettering Road because the footpath here is so narrow that this would be dangerous. We repeat the comments made on the previous Application KET/2006/0208 which was withdrawn, that the Town Council would not want to see any more than the five units permitted by the Approval of Application KET/2005/1079.

KET/2006/0782 36 Cecil Street – Bungalow.  
We object because this would be over-development of this plot and there is no room on the site to manoeuvre a vehicle, which could be dangerous especially as the access would be next to the public footpath between Cecil Street and the Avenue. We also object to the loss of the trees at the top of The Avenue.

KET/2006/789 10 Rushton Road – Rear Extension.  
No objection.

#### 483 ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITY

##### Rothwell Gala Committee

Copies of the Report of the Meeting held on 31st August 2006 had been circulated prior to this Meeting. It was MOVED by Councillor Mrs Weston, SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Brown and RESOLVED that the Report be approved and adopted.

##### Rothwell Youth Group

Copies of the Report of the Meeting held on 4th September 2006 had been circulated prior to this Meeting. It was MOVED by Councillor Cross, SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Weston and RESOLVED that the Report be approved and adopted.

It was confirmed that the Rothwell Ladies Junior Football Team is now allowed to play on the Well Lane Recreation Ground football pitch. Councillor Mrs Mullett will find out how long they will be allowed to do this. The Senior Team is using the Rothwell Town Football Club pitch.

### Public Toilets

The Clerk had received a reply from the Borough Cleansing & Transport Manger that he was not aware of any problems with the facilities around the time of the Rothwell Fete. The toilets are cleansed daily, seven days a week. He will monitor the situation to ensure they are kept in an acceptable condition.

### Seats, Squires Hill

It was confirmed that the memorial bench to Jeremy Freestone has been moved to the Greening Road Park, and a replacement has been put in Squires Hill.

We have also received a letter from Rowell Lions that they would like to provide a seat to be put in Squires Hill, or another suitable location. They asked where they could get a suitable seat from or if it would be easier to do this through the Borough Council.

It was AGREED that the Town Council would like the new seat at the top of Desborough Road, near the cricket field because this would be convenient when the new Health Centre comes. We would suggest that they contact the Borough Council direct about purchasing the seat.

### Operation Kleen Sweep

We had received a letter from the Borough Council, explaining the ways they are to operate this scheme. Copies of the forms they had enclosed had been circulated prior to this Meeting.

### Rothwell Community Centre

Councillor Pote had received five letters in connection with the grant of £10,000 the Kettering County Councillors are to receive for work in their Wards. Four of these letters referred to the very poor condition of the Community Centre and the writers asked if some of the grant could be used for this building. It was felt this was too big a scheme for this money, especially as there are structural repairs which need to be carried out as well as refurbishment. It was AGREED to send copies of these letters to the Borough Council and ask when it was likely the necessary repairs and improvements would be carried out to the Community Centre.

### Greening Road Park

Councillor Cross reported that the play equipment here has a lot of graffiti on and the wooden fence is in a very poor state. It was AGREED to write to the Borough Council on this issue.

### Church Walk Footpath

It was reported that neither of the lights on the bottom Church Walk footpath have been replaced. Now that the evenings are getting dark it is even more important that this work is done. It was AGREED to write to the Borough Council again.

### Subsidised Bus Services

A letter had just been received from the County Council about the shuttle bus service 18 from Kettering to Rothwell, Desborough and Market Harborough. They asked for our comments as to how this could be amended and their usefulness. It was AGREED to respond by asking if the first two buses to Market Harborough in the mornings could start from Rothwell as currently they only go from Desborough at 07.19 and 08.24 am. This would be useful for anyone who works in Market Harborough.

### Travellers' Site

These travellers are back on the site off Harrington Road. It was AGREED to ask the County Travellers Unit if they could ask them to move on again because they are leaving a lot of mess and this is a health hazard.

## 484 MATTERS OF BUSINESS

### Gambling Act 2005

The Clerk had obtained a copy of County Licensing Policy but this was not clear as to whether this Act would affect small lotteries. She had therefore contacted the Borough Council and they believe that lotteries will be affected by 2007 but they will send out the relevant information in due course.

### Licensing Application

Notification had been received that Magnolia the Florists had applied for a Premises Licence for 27 High Street, Rothwell. It was understood that this was merely so they could sell champagne (or perhaps wine) with their flowers for special occasions. It was AGREED that the Town Council had no objection provided there was a condition to limit the sale of alcohol for this purpose only.

### Sustainable Transport School Workshops

A letter had been received from the County Council that they want to promote safe and healthy alternatives to travelling to and from school in cars. There is a show which aims to tackle this and raise awareness amongst pupils and parents. They asked if the Town Council could help by providing the funding for a show in our area. This request was noted.

### Fair Trade

Councillor Matthew reported that we are getting towards having Fair Trade status for the town. They have had several stalls and the significant step is that they now have a commitment from Tesco to permanently stock five lines. They really need another catering establishment to join

up. There is likely to be a new restaurant in The Old Bakery and perhaps they will do this: it is difficult for the existing establishments because they will already have arrangements with their suppliers and they could lose discounts if they alter these. The Committee has only been going for a year and therefore they are making good progress.

### 485 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk submitted a written statement as attached. It was **MOVED** by Councillor Mrs Weston, **SECONDED** by Councillor Mrs Brown 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
NRG Group *	Photocopier Maintenance	£38.89
Cllr A C Pote *	Reimbursement for cost of fans	£33.98
Mrs C E Mackay	Clerk's Salary	£436.10
Inland Revenue	Tax and N I (3 months)	£434.85
Colemans	Stationery	£33.06
Cash	Petty Cash	£30.00

\* Payments made on 10th August 2006

### 486 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.

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