

## ROTHWELL TOWN COUNCIL

A Meeting of Rothwell Town Council was held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday, 10th April 2007 in the Market House, Market Hill, Rothwell.

PRESENT: Councillor A C Pote                      Chairman  
Councillor C W Cross  
Councillor D W Jones  
Councillor M W Spendlove  
Councillor Mrs G Weston  
Councillor P G Weston

### 570 PRAYERS

Before the business of the Council commenced, the Chairman said a short Prayer.

### 571 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Councillors Mrs Brown, Matthew, Mrs Mullett, Mrs Talbot, Whitlam and Whyte.

### 572 COMMUNITY POLICING

#### General Report

PCSO Sam Gell was present at the Meeting and went through the crime figures for March 2007, as follows:-

- 1 Theft of motor vehicle
- 2 Theft from motor vehicle
- 38 Other Crimes.

There were no burglary or robbery offences during the last month. The 38 offences under other crimes could include domestic incidents, hate crime and criminal damage. The Town Council felt it was good to see that our crime figures are dropping and this would be due to the extra foot patrols. However, crimes committed on the A14 are included in our figures. PCSO Gell said that Telford Way is also included. Councillor Mrs Weston had mentioned this at the last A6 Towns Forum Meeting and the Borough Council would contact the Police with the new Ward boundaries. The Town Council had also written to the Borough and the Electoral Services Manager had sent a reply that the Police have been furnished with copies of the new boundaries, and liaison has taken place at a senior level, with copies of maps being provided for the Police. It was therefore hoped that Telford Way offences would no longer be included in the Rothwell figures.

#### Police Questions from the Public

Rushton Road: Mr Weston had reported the white van which was parked on the junction at the top of Rock Hill previously, but this is still being left there. PCSO Gell will look at this again.

#### Speed Watch

The Town Council had decided to consider this scheme at the May Meeting, after the election. A copy of the Report was handed to PCSO Gell to pass to PC O'Hara.

573 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

- (1) Listed Buildings: Mr West asked if he could have details of the Listed Buildings in Rothwell. It was AGREED to send this, and also to circulate a copy of the list to the Members of the Town Council.
- (2) Drains: Mr West reported that all the ones he reported have now been cleaned out, and a lot of other ones. However, there are some which are still full of debris including the one on the corner of the Blue Bell and Rushton Road. It was thought that the machine had been round the town although sometimes they cannot clean all of them because of parked cars.
- (3) Seats, Squires Hill: these have been renovated and put back, but they are covered in bird droppings. Mr West asked if they could be put back by the Manor House car park wall. It was AGREED to ask if this could be done, or if either the street cleaner or the person who cleans the toilets could also do these seats.
- (4) Gutters: Mr West thought some of these were dirty including Red Lion Square and the corner of the High Street and Bridge Street. Again sometimes these cannot be cleaned properly because of parked cars.

574 MINUTES

It was MOVED by Councillor Mrs Weston, SECONDED by Councillor Jones and RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th March 200 be confirmed and signed.

575 MATTERS ARISING THEREON

Councillor Cross referred to the item on page 694, where he reported there was a lot of rubbish on the footpath between Harrington Road and Trinity Road and Mr Sawford said he would look at this. However the rubbish is still there. It was AGREED to pursue this and ask for the rubbish to be taken away.

Councillor Mrs Weston felt that preventing people dropping litter in the first place would be better than having to continually clean this away. There are crisp packets and bottles all over the streets, and in the parks where they are very evident in the autumn when the vegetation dies down. Apparently the Borough only cleans the A14 once a year, but this does need to be done more often. It was assumed that the central area could not be cleaned for safety reasons. It was AGREED to ask for publicity to prevent so much litter being dropped, and if the A14 could be cleaned more regularly perhaps by people on Community Service. Councillor Jones said there is a lot of broken grass on the grass and round the ballgame facility in Well Lane Recreation Ground. There are a lot of bottles in both Manor Park and Greening Road Park. There is also rubbish in Manor Park at bottom left-hand corner near the path to Well Lane Recreation Ground, including a burnt out scooter. It was AGREED to report this.

There is also a problem with the Bovis site where people have been sleeping out, and the former Groococks factory. PCSO Gell was still at the Meeting and reported that she had asked for the factory to be secured and will look at this area.

576 HIGHWAYSCongestion on the A14

Copies of the Report of the Meeting held on 2nd April 2007 had been circulated prior to this Meeting. It was AGREED that the Report be approved and adopted and to thank those who attended and Philip Hollobone MP for helping to arrange this Meeting.

Gritting of Roads

We had asked if all the bus routes, including those to the schools, could be added to the network for precautionary gritting. A reply had been received from the County Streetworks Manager that he will be carrying out an assessment in the summer to see if some minor adjustments can be made. This will be dependent on the available capacity of the gritter and the extra time it would take. There is no more finance to increase the gritted network receiving precautionary treatment and therefore major amendments cannot be considered unless some roads are deleted. The service is planned on a priority basis in line with the County's commitment to road safety to reflect traffic, volume, speed and likelihood of accidents. The first priority network covers 36% of the roads in the County, which is near the top of the 24%-38% range recommended by the Audit Commission. The next priority is treated in conditions of prolonged adverse weather, and the remainder is treated if all higher priority roads do not require treatment and the adverse weather is expected to continue.

Underwood Road

The Clerk had received a reply that this street is programmed for resurfacing in 2007/08, and we will be informed prior to commencement of the works. The Members were pleased to receive this information and we will try and ensure it is not taken out of the schedule for any reason.

It was reported that there is a large pothole in Wales Street, near the Greening Road junction and this is also in a bad state of repair. The section of Kettering Road/High Street from Meeting Lane to Wales Street also has a lot of potholes in. It was AGREED to ask if these areas could be inspected to see if they could also be resurfaced.

In addition, both Daisy Bank Avenue and Columbus Crescent are becoming poor, and we will monitor these areas.

577 PLANNINGReport of the Planning Referee

Councillor Spendlove reported that we had received a copy of the Inspector's decision on the appeal against the Refusal in respect of 33A Wales Street. The appeal had been turned down. The following Refusals had been received:-

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| KET/2006/1017 | Potters Cottage, 25 Littlewood Street – Three dwellings.                    |
| KET/2007/0120 | Land to rear of 19 High Street – Detached Garage (amendments to KE/04/149). |

The following Approvals had been received:-

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| KET/2006/0755 | 47 Kettering Road – Seven town houses and six flats.          |
| KET/2006/1146 | The Old Fire Station, School Lane – Change of Use to Class 2. |
| KET/2007/0060 | 1-3 Bell Hill – New shop front.                               |
| KET/2007/0061 | 16 Norton Street – Extensions.                                |
| KET/2007/0078 | 18 Coronation Avenue – Garage.                                |

Amended plans had been received for KET/2007/0086 for six dwellings at the former M & M Autos site in Desborough Road. These did show one extra parking space, as requested by us so we will not make any further observations.

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

KET/2007/0044	2 Marlow Close – Extension. No objection.
KET/2007/0127	Land adjoining 17 Castle Hill – Detached dwelling and garage. No objection, provided there is adequate off-road parking for both the existing and the new dwellings.
KET/2007/0180	2 Norton Street – Extension. No objection.
KET/2007/0187	Kettering North Business Area – Outline for offices, restaurant, retail and hotel. No objection.
KET/2007/0220	75 Greening Road – Extensions. Objection as The proposed extensions would be too large for this plot, as they would extend too far from the rear building line and over to the side boundary.
KET/2007/0247	4 Lancaster Road – Extension. No objection.

The Planning Referee wanted to bring the following Application before the Town Council, and our observations were agreed as stated:-

KET/2007/0169 Groococks Factory, Gordon Street – 37 apartments and 5 town houses.

Rothwell Town Council has no objection to this proposal, subject to the following:-

- (1) We understand the recommendation on parking has changed and there should now be two spaces per unit, which is needed on this site as Gordon Street is already so congested with parked cars.
- (2) It was agreed that as part of the s.106 Agreement there was to be a path with a hard surface through Manor Park to Squires Hill. Access for this should be through the park gate nearest Kettering Road because the ground is more level there.
- (3) The street scene in Gordon Street is poor and perhaps the road and footpaths could be cleaned more regularly to enhance the new development.

It was also AGREED to write to the Borough Council and ask about the proposed footpath through Manor Park to Squires Hill to be provided as part of this development, and for a plan to show what is proposed.

#### Car Wash, Desborough Road

Both the Chairman and the Clerk had asked the Borough Council to look at this, as residents had complained that the car wash operators were actually living at these premises. The Clerk had received a reply from the Monitoring & Enforcement Officer that he had inspected the premises, without an appointment, and can confirm there was no evidence of any residential occupation of the buildings. The site operator did confirm that there had been a caravan on the site for a short period, but this has now been permanently removed. However, his investigations did determine that the use as a car wash requires Planning Permission, and the normal procedure is for the Borough to request an application. If this is done, we will be able to submit any objections we may have. If an application is refused, or none is received within 28 days, the Borough will then decide whether to take enforcement action in respect of the breach of planning control.

The Chairman reported that Anglian Water has also inspected, and the use as a car wash is illegal because all the water is going into the ordinary drain. As there is a Planning Application in for residential development, it is likely this matter will be resolved in any event.

#### Urban Extension Area

The Clerk had received copy of the letter sent to the Infant and Junior Schools by Smith Stuart Reynolds in connection with the direct consultation they are having with them on the proposals for further development.

#### Rifle Band Club

It was reported that the builders at the former Rifle Band Club have gone over the footpath, so the school children are walking into the road to the Junior School, but the Borough Council is looking into this.

### 578 ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITY

#### Red Lion Square/Market Hill

Copies of the Report of the Meeting held on 28th March 2007 had been circulated prior to this Meeting. It was AGREED that the Report be approved and adopted.

Letters had been received from Mr Robin Matthews to both the Town Council and the Town Centre Partnership inviting two members from each body to the Meeting in the Market House on 22nd May 2007. We will appoint the two representatives from the Town Council at the next Meeting, but in the meantime we will ask Mr Bagnell and Mr Patel if they would like to come along on behalf of the Partnership. We assume that Mr Denton will attend in any event from the Rowell Fair Society.

#### Location of Recycling Bins

At the Meeting on 28th March, the location of the recycling bins was discussed, as there was an item in the original Vision to move these. The Clerk had received an E-mail from Mr Matthews that he has spoken to John Bugby from the Borough Council about permanently moving these to the Brachers Allotments entrance. They could be moved there before this year's Rowell Fair, as normally happens, and then left there. The Borough would support this and may even pay for any necessary hard standing work, as it has done a similar thing in Barton Seagrave. Mr Bugby will need to discuss this with the County which he is happy to do.

Members of the Town Council felt there would be problem with this proposed location, as it is more hidden than the current site in Market Hill. Several other areas had been considered, but none was thought to be as suitable as the one by Brachers Allotments, although we would not want items dumped there or in Brachers Wood.

It was AGREED to ask the Borough Council to move the recycling bins to the access by Brachers Allotments but that they should consult with the Allotment Association as well as the County Council, and there should be adequate publicity in good time. We would also want regular patrols to begin with to remove any boxes or bags still left in Market Hill while people were getting used to the new location for the bins.

15 Wales Street

Mr Chris Bentley, the Borough Property Manager had telephoned the Clerk that he was chasing Listers about the ground survey. There has been extraction of ironstone in the south-east corner of this site with a pit of about four metres so they are looking at this. They are keeping the neighbours informed of developments.

Bus Link Kettering to Corby

We had received a response by E-mail from Mr Garry Raven, the Managing Director of Midland Mainline as follows:-

- The X1 is specifically designed to provide a facility to and from the railway station for people living in Corby. To do so satisfactorily it really needs to be direct, as indeed it is. To divert this route would add considerable additional running time to each journey, would make the through journey between Corby and Kettering less attractive and damage the economic viability of the whole arrangement. That said the obvious attractiveness of the X1 might indicate that Rothwell, and indeed Desborough, would also benefit from a direct link to and from the station.
- There is a 20 minute frequency of low floor, fully accessible buses on stagecoach route 19, which also provides facilities in the evenings and on Sundays. These buses do not serve the railway station because the vast majority of passengers need to access the town centre. The nearest pick up/set down point to the railway station on route 19 is Kettering Library. However as things stand at present it would not be practical to extend the 19 to and from the station because of the road pattern and the absence of a turning circle at the station.
- Kettering Borough Council have embarked upon a consultation on a significant increase of public transport priority in the town centre. This could include measures that offer buses to and from the station on a more direct and practical route than is currently available. If such works were to be carried out this would allow a re-assessment of the current design in order to send buses through to the station on route 19.
- The other issue is the turning of full size buses at the station so that they line up next to the station building (as the X1 does but would involve considerable works).

We will wait and see if anything develops from this. Councillor Cross understood that service 18 was to include Rushton as well, although he was doubtful as to how this would work within an hourly service.

Post Offices

Copies of the letter and information from Postwatch had been circulated prior to this Meeting, for information.

County Councillor's Grant

Councillor Pote confirmed that the Borough Council has now obtained the litter bins as part of his grant, and they are waiting for the seats. He would like the Town Council's opinion on the proposed sites and the following were approved:-

- Bins:
- one outside 65 Kettering Road, near the bus stop there
  - one at the bottom of Cook Close, near the Post Office boxes
  - one at the bottom of Coopers Lane near the bus stop and seat there
  - one at the top of High Hill Avenue

Seats: two by the play area at Blythe Close  
 one in Harrington Road just before the bypass junction  
 one in Shotwell Mill Lane by the entrance to the allotments.

## 579 MATTERS OF BUSINESS

### Special Parking Areas

The County Council had sent a letter about the amendments to Traffic Regulation Orders to permit decriminalised parking enforcement in parts of the County. However, this does not include the administrative area of Kettering Borough Council which has made a decision not to be included in this application. Councillor Pote thought the County was to sign a contract with National Car Parks, but the Borough was not keen on this as they would prefer to employ their own Traffic Wardens who will also deal with dog mess and litter.

### Date of the Next Meeting

The election will be held on Thursday, 3rd May and the next Town Council Meeting is due on Tuesday, 8th May with the day before being a Bank Holiday. This might create problems in getting the Minutes out. It was therefore AGREED that the next full Town Council Meeting would be held on Tuesday, 15th May. The next Meeting on Red Lion Square has been arranged for the following Tuesday, 22nd May and this will go ahead. The Clerk was asked to arrange the Annual Parish Assembly on either 23rd or 30th May in the Trinity Centre which has full access for the disabled.

## 580 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk submitted a written statement as attached. It was MOVED by Councillor Mrs Weston, SECONDED by Councillor Weston 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	£444.93
British Telecom	Phone Bill	£79.91
Steelco Ltd	Re-covering Chairs	£2318.51
Symantec Ltd	Subscription Renewal	£39.93
Cash	Petty Cash	£20.00

## 581 CHAIRMAN

The Chairman thanked all the Members of the Town Council for supporting him over the past year. He has enjoyed this, especially because everyone has worked together as a team.

The Meeting closed at 8.34 pm.

Chairman

Date