

## ROTHWELL TOWN COUNCIL

A Meeting of Rothwell Town Council was held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday, 13th February 2007 in the Market House, Market Hill, Rothwell.

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

### 546 PRAYERS

Before the formal business of the Council commenced, the Revd Canon George Burgon said Prayers, and mentioned those residents who had recently died and their families, the work of the Heritage Centre and all the members of the Armed Services.

### 547 APOLOGIES

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

### 548 COMMUNITY POLICING

#### General Report

PC O'Hara and PCSO Kelman were both present at the Meeting. PC O'Hara went through the figures for crimes for the period April to December 2006, with a comparison for the same period in 2005. There were 359 crimes in Rothwell and there is a clear-up rate of 32% to 33%, compared with the national rate of approximately 15%. Overall, crime is down by over 7% for this period, as opposed to the national figure of 5%. Unfortunately, Trinity Ward has inherited the Telford Way Industrial Site and he cannot get this removed from the figures for Rothwell. There are a lot of crimes of burglary other and theft from vehicles for that area, and this distorts the figures. He cannot get the figures for Telford Way unless he does this manually which does take a lot of time. The Chairman will try and speak to Supt Dean Smith about this. It was AGREED to write to the Borough Council and ask them to inform the Police that this area is no longer in Trinity Ward and let them know where the crimes figures for Telford Way should be included.

PCSO Kelman has handed out about 12 notices to people who were parking inconsiderately. The Clerk had received a letter from Northamptonshire Acre about the Community Speed Watch Urban Pilot, that they have run a scheme for the past three years, with 36 parishes each year across the County taking part. This involves volunteers from within their own community taking action to raise awareness of speeding in their neighbourhood. The volunteers are trained by the Police to operate hand-held laser speed measuring devices and monitor the speed of traffic. They are currently looking to include urban parishes and will pilot the project in two selected areas in the County to determine whether this can accommodate larger residential areas with higher volumes of traffic. If this is a success, there is a possibility of incorporating other urban parishes. The Clerk had asked for more information on this, and understood that the PCSOs could also be involved.

Councillor Mrs Brown had sent an E-mail asking the Police to look at the Greening Road area, as the residents are suffering juvenile nuisance with pupils from Montsaye throwing stones when they leave school. PC O'Hara thought this was due to one incident when a youth threw a stone at a post and it bounced into a car window. He does not have any other reports of this type of behaviour, apart from general noise, so he thought the incident was resolved.

Councillor Mrs Brown had also referred to the scout hut behind the Salvation Army Citadel, where there was a break-in and criminal damage, and youths might be gaining access through the Fire Station yard. PC O'Hara will liaise with the Crime Prevention Officer on this.

PC O'Hara has stopped some boy racers in Glendon Road and cautioned them. Again, there were no reports of incidents there. The Chairman said there were Officers at the top of Columbus Crescent with the hand-held speed guns. PC O'Hara asked people to be aware of vehicle crime because there are one or two every week, with expensive equipment being taken from vehicles. There are some juvenile issues of a minor nature, which they are address with the PCSOs and the ASBO Unit.

There was some graffiti on the door of the Nunnery Cottage with some initials, and he has passed this to Martin Jones who has put the information on the board, asking for information.

#### Police Questions from the Public

(a) Blocked Drains: a resident reported that a drain in New Street has been blocked for many months. She had telephoned the Borough Council and they took note of this but nothing has been done. There have been several telephone calls from residents. It was explained that we were due to have all the drains cleaned out during December but this was not done. It was AGREED to chase this.

(b) Glendon Road: Mr West said there are still boy racers here and PC O'Hara will continue to monitor the area. The Chairman said the Police were there twice the previous week with the speed gun.

(c) Rock Hill: there is a white van which parks illegally on the corner of Rock Hill, partly on the footpath. The PCSOs will monitor this and put a note on the van. If this does not stop, there will then be a ticket issued.

Councillor Spendlove joined the Meeting at 7.20 pm.

#### 549 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

(1) Blocked Drains: Mr West reported several blocked drains. It has now been decided to chase this.

(2) Rothwell House Hotel: it was confirmed that the work at the front of these premises is being dealt with by the Borough Planning Department. Mr West liked the wall and fence there, but said that The Blue Bell Inn is also Listed, but they have seats outside. It was confirmed that the Blue Bell is not Listed but the Rothwell House Hotel is at grade II.

(3) Plastics Factory: Mr West said this building is in a bad state, but it is hoped that they might be able to re-locate in due course.

(4) Old A6 Parapet: we have not found another place for this, but in any event it is not as nice as we had originally thought as it is only concrete.

(5) Nosehill Footpath: there is a lot of dog mess on this path and this was in the newspaper. Councillor Mrs Weston had inspected but there was not very much dog mess although there was a lot of rubbish and broken bottles. This needs to be cleaned and perhaps this could be a project for people on Community Service. It was also reported that there is a lot of dog mess on the footpath in School Lane.

(6) Recycling Bins: Mr West said that the can bank and one of the bottle banks were full for some time, although they have now been emptied. People had left rubbish around these but this has now been taken away. The Chairman said it is up to residents not to leave bags and boxes of items round the recycling bins. The Clerk said the Borough had done several collections of these recently.

#### 550 MINUTES

It was MOVED by Councillor Cross, SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Weston and RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th January 2007 be confirmed and signed.

#### 551 HIGHWAYS

##### Street Cleansing

The Clerk reported that Paul Sawford, the Borough Cleansing Manager, was unable to attend this Meeting to discuss sweeping up leaves, but hoped to come to the March Meeting.

He had confirmed that he would have the areas cleaned that we asked him to look at. It was confirmed that the section of Rushton Road near Madams Gardens was cleaned after the last Meeting but this is bad again. Hospital Hill has been swept and the rubbish removed from around the recycling bins. Also, the old Lamport Road was cleaned but bags have been left there again. There is also some rubbish in Rushton Road and opposite the Garage in Glendon Road. It was hoped the Press would advertise the fact that people should not dump rubbish in this way.

##### A14 Roundabouts

A response had been received from the Borough Council that they have been aware of the roundabout situation for some time, and the Grounds Service Officer and the grass cutters looked at these. As from about mid-March the Borough will be maintaining the roundabouts and the verges up to the 30 mph signs. However, the question of sponsorship would be between the Town and County Councils.

The Chairman will follow this up at the County Council.

##### Squires Hill

The Borough Grounds Service Officer had replied that the two large puddles in Squires Hill could be rectified by drains and he would get this done shortly. It was confirmed that this work has already been carried out.

##### Hedge, Glendon Road

We had reminded the Borough Council that this needed to be trimmed, and the Borough Grounds Service Officer had responded on 26th January 2007 that he would ask for this to be started straight away, as it was causing concern. It was confirmed that some work has now been done.

### Desborough Road

We had received a reply from John Trimble the Traffic Project Engineer in connection with the pedestrian crossing near the site of the new Medical Centre, and the mini-roundabout at the top of Greening Road. He confirmed that the proposed crossing type still has not formally been agreed, but he was hopeful that it will be a toucan. As regards the mini-roundabout, the County is unable to ask the developer to fund any highway works here as such issues were discussed and agreed by colleagues some time ago, and he was lucky to get the developer's agents to agree to a signalised crossing as an extra.

He felt that the Urban Extension Area is more of a likely vehicle to get improvements made to this junction. There is probably going to be a new roundabout to the north of the proposed Medical Centre to allow the link road to join the B576. The substantial development changes in this area will have an impact on traffic flows and routes, and all the major junctions in Rothwell and Desborough will have to be considered for potential changes, including the Greening Road mini-roundabout. His colleagues are willing to come and talk to the Town Council about potential highway changes once there are some firm proposals.

He was not personally aware of the traffic calming in Glendon Road, although he believed there is some funding from the North Kettering Business Park to undertake highway work here and Andrew Leighton had discussed this with us.

Councillor Cross thought this might mean that the mini-roundabout at Greening Road could be removed in due course, if there is to be one further up the road.

### Highways Representatives Scheme

Copies of the December edition of Rep's Review had been circulated prior to this Meeting, for information.

### High Street Footway Repairs

The Clerk reported that she had received a further E-mail from Paul Tysoe, the County Asset Management Engineer. Atkins informed him that the repairs were carried out, but unfortunately their sub-contractor did not gain enough slabs from the areas that were taken up to replace all the damaged ones. He felt that some must have had hairline cracks that broke when removed, and suspected that more were damaged in the intervening period, so they had to use some new slabs as well.

Some of the areas are holding up well, but the worst section is near the Fish & Chip shop where vehicles are over-riding the footway, partly within the zigzags for the pedestrian crossing. He sent a photograph of the area. He felt we needed to re-think our approach to this as unless we can resolve the over-riding vehicle problem, the damage is going to continue. He would like to discuss possible ways forward with colleagues from the County and Atkins and would be interested in the views of the Town Council.

It might be that pedestrian barriers or some kind of bollards would help the situation but he needs more advice and funding could well be a stumbling block. Perhaps we could approach our County Councillor with a view to funding from some of the discretionary £10,000 allowance that Councillors in Kettering received to spend on local issues. He asked for our views.

It was AGREED ask for a Meeting with him to discuss this in more detail.

Manholes and Gullies

It was reported that there is a manhole for the gas supply on the footpath between Evison Road and Kettering Road, which is raised and loose and it seems possible this is not the right size. It was AGREED to report this.

Street Doctor was contacted about the gully into the drain between Nos. 12 and 14 Crispin Street. This is the type of gully which goes under the kerb but the kerb was broken and paint was put on for attention. Atkins visited the area and blocked the gully with tarmac and then moulded this with the kerb. It was AGREED to report this.

Gritting in Icy Weather

Councillor Cross said the bus goes round the town, but not all these streets are gritted. It was AGREED to ask if the bus routes could be gritted, including those for the school buses.

552 PLANNINGPlanning Decisions

The Chairman reported that he had attended a Borough Meeting about when Planning Applications can be refused. They have asked for this course to be run again after May so that Town Councillors can attend.

Report of the Planning Referee

We had received notification of Appeals in connection with the following Applications:-

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| KET/2006/0303 | 15 Vickers Close – Extension.                           |
| KET/2006/0476 | 69 Harrington Road – Conversion and Extensions.         |
| KET/2006/0924 | Land at Jubilee Street – approvals of reserved matters. |

The following Refusals had been received:-

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| KET/2006/0799 | Glebe Farm – Replacement Dwelling.                      |
| KET/2006/0981 | Land adjoining 49 Evison Road – Two-storey town house.  |
| KET/2006/1042 | Corner of Stanley Street/Norton Street – Dwelling.      |
| KET/2006/1088 | Bruno's Cottage, Glendon – Refurbishment and Extension. |

The following Approval had been received:-

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|---------------|--|
| KET/2006/0818 | Plot 1 North Kettering Business Park – Water Storage Tank. |
|---------------|--|

The following Applications had been received and our observations were confirmed as stated:-

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|---------------|---|
| KET/2007/0052 | North Kettering Business Park , Rockingham Road – Offices and Leisure.<br>No objection.   |
| KET/2007/0061 | 16 Norton Street – Side, rear and front Extensions.<br>Object, because we feel the two-storey front extension would be intrusive as it is in front of the building line of the other houses here. |

- KET/2007/1140 Land to the South of the A14 – Outline Application for an Employment Park for B1, B2 and B8 commercial premises and a hotel.  
Support: Rothwell Town Council fully supports this particular area being developed as an employment park due to the lack of local jobs. This is a low-lying area so it will not be visually intrusive and access is directly onto the A14. We might wish to make more detailed observations on the full Application in due course.
- KET/2007/1146 The Old Fire Station, School Lane – Change of Use to Class A2.  
No objection.

### Red Lion Square/Market Hill Vision

Copies of the Report of the Meeting held on 7th February 2007 had been circulated prior to this Meeting. The Chairman has spoken to Cath Harvey, the Borough Head of Development Services, about when we might receive a response to the items which we have requested to be done in the town centre. She expects we will receive a reply within the next two weeks.

Councillor Mrs Weston felt this was worthwhile as there are some lessons to be learnt. There was a lot of discussion and it seems the catalyst was the MTI. We understand that it was only the Red Lion Square which was to be considered and they seem to have gone to the Borough about this. We feel they should have talked to the Town Council before they went out to the public with this Vision. Perhaps we could usefully discuss this with the Borough Officers to look at a process we could go through for consultation in future to avoid this problem.

It was **MOVED** by the Chairman and **AGREED** to await a response from the Borough Council on the items of work we have indicated we would like to be carried out. This item will be put on the Agenda for the next Meeting.

### Proposals for the A14

It was reported that there are several proposals and rumours about what is to happen with the A14, including a suggestion that there could be a link road from junction 3 through our proposed industrial site, going behind the Cemetery towards Thorpe Malsor. The other scheme is from junction 7 to the east of Kettering. It was felt that Rothwell could be quite badly affected by some of the proposals.

It was **AGREED** to write to Philip Hollobone MP, with a copy to Councillor Bob Seery, to ask him to arrange for someone from the Highways Agency to come to Rothwell for a Meeting with the Town Council to discuss the future of the A14, and we would also invite someone from the County Council to attend.

### Core Spatial Strategy

We had now received a copy of the draft Strategy. This has been submitted to the Secretary of State who will appoint an independent Inspector to examine the document and say whether it needs to be changed in any way. Representations on the Strategy need to reach the North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit by Monday, 26th March 2007.

Councillor Mrs Weston looked at this, and the percentage of affordable housing which should be included is now 30%. She also took the document to look at this and see if we need to make any representations, although it is a strategy without any detail of what is proposed for Rothwell.

553 ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITYTown Centre Partnership

Copies of the Report of the Meeting held on 16th January 2007 had been circulated prior to this Meeting. It was MOVED by Councillor Spendlove, SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Weston and RESOLVED that the Report be approved and adopted.

Kettering General Hospital

Copies of the Report of the Meeting held on 23rd January 2007 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.

Councillor Mrs Weston had asked what was the potential for a merger with Northampton General Hospital, and a few days later there was a report in the press that there will be a review of the strategic health provision for Northamptonshire with a potential merging of the management structures.

15 Wales Street

The Clerk had received a reply from the Borough Property Services Manager that their Architect is finalising the plans which include elevation drawings, and they hope to be in a position shortly to present the plans to the Town Council that will form part of the Planning Application. Ground investigations have recently been undertaken and they await the results of that survey. This will determine what remedial works need to be done, if any, before building can commence on site.

Rothwell Swimming Club

Copies of the letter of invitation to the party to celebrate the re-opening of Rothwell Amateur Swimming Club had been circulated, and Councillors will respond to this individually.

Rothwell Youth Group

The Chairman confirmed that the portion of his County Councillor's grant has gone in for the Youth Group.

Councillor Mrs Weston reported that other organisations were represented at the recent Meeting, with about 20 people attending. Cindy Wrighting attended from Youth Works and she will start the work to find out what the young people need. They have put in a bid for some of the County grants. It was suggested that perhaps some of the rooms in the Market House could be used as a community meeting place and she will write and ask if this might be possible. This would have to be under supervision. There are other rooms, such as the United Reformed Church Sunday School room.

Some of the groups thought this might be a route whereby they would get funding as they do not want this to be seen as money which rewards bad behaviour. Perhaps some could be used as grants to help children join organisations such as the Swimming Club or to buy their uniforms for those who want to join the Scouts or Guides. Councillor Mrs Weston will send copies of the Minutes for our information.

554 MATTERS OF BUSINESSElectoral Review

We had received a letter from the Electoral Commission, that they have decided to accept the recommendations of the Boundary Committee for England. The Clerk had obtained a copy of the relevant plan, and this showed the whole of the town as "Rothwell Ward" so it was not known how they would organise the elections for the Town Council, where there will still be two Wards.

The Post Office Network

We had received a document from Northamptonshire ACRE on the consultation on proposals for the future of the Post Office network. The closing date for responses is 8th March 2007.

It was AGREED to write to ACRE with the comment that Rothwell has a thriving Post Office which is essential, not only for the general public but also for the self-employed and small businesses in our town.

Central Networks

The Clerk had received a letter from Central Networks that power cuts may be a result of circumstances that are beyond their control so people should be prepared. They sent a pack which can be demonstrated as an example of useful items which people should keep in their property should they unfortunately experience a power cut.

Code of Conduct

A letter had just been received from the Department for Communities and Local Government with the consultation paper on the draft of a proposed new model Code of Conduct for local authority members. The Government is also proposing to combine the current four individual Codes into one. The Clerk had prepared copies of the section on the detailed proposed amendments for the information of Councillors. Any comments we have on this should be sent in by Friday, 9th March 2007.

Quality Town & Parish Councils

We had received a letter from Defra that the proposed review of the Quality Town and Parish Council Scheme has been deferred pending the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill, which is expected to confirm the White Paper commitment to extend the power of well-being to all Parish and Town Councils that satisfy criteria based on the Quality Parish Scheme.

555 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk submitted a written statement as attached. It was MOVED by Councillor Cross, SECONDED by Councillor Spendlove 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
I H Buchanan	Internal Auditor's fees	£125.00
Cash	Petty Cash	£30.00

Town & Parish Council Grants

The Clerk had received a reply dated 10th January 2007 from Paul Sutton, the Borough Acting Head of Finance that he was unable to attend either of the Meetings we suggested, but he will be attending the A6 Towns Forum on 14th February, and could answer any specific questions Councillors may have then.

We had subsequently received a letter dated 31st January 2007 that the Borough Council's Executive Committee decided on 17th January that they will from 1st April 2007 distribute Town and Parish Council grants using a simple banding system with the tax base as a basis. The amounts Rothwell would receive for the next three years were set out, together with the dates these amounts will be credited to our Bank Account, and copies of this had been circulated prior to this Meeting.

The Chairman thought this might change for 2009/10, but we had said we would only agree to a precept if the Kettering Wards were also parished so that everyone paid the same. Some of the Kettering Wards might want to be parished so that they could spend some of the finance the way they wanted to.

Council Chamber Chairs

The Clerk confirmed that we had now ordered the re-upholstering of the chairs from Steelco, and the sample of the leather chosen was available. This has high durability and therefore should last for many years.

Auditor

We had received a letter from the Audit Commission, confirming that BDO Stoy Hayward were to be appointed auditor to the Town Council for the financial year 2006/07.

The Meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

Chairman

Date