

ROTHWELL TOWN COUNCIL

A Meeting of Rothwell Town Council was held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday, 9th January 2007 in the Market House, Market Hill, Rothwell.

PRESENT: Councillor P G Weston In the Chair
 Councillor Mrs C M Brown (7.30 pm)
 Councillor C W Cross
 Councillor D W Jones
 Councillor Mrs C M Mullett
 Councillor M W Spendlove
 Councillor Mrs M E Talbot
 Councillor Mrs G Weston
 Councillor A Whitlam
 Councillor D A Whyte (9.00 pm)

535 PRAYERS

Before the business of the Council commenced, the Revd Canon George Burgon said Prayers, including for those who need peace and justice, people working to help the environment, and those residents who are elderly or sick.

536 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from the Chairman and Councillor Matthew. Councillors Mrs Brown and Whyte would be obliged to join the Meeting late.

537 COMMUNITY POLICING

Chief Inspector Aistrop was present at the Meeting and had the latest crime figures and comparison with last year for the period April to December. The Town Council has not yet received our copy but this will be sent shortly. CI Aistrop referred to the rise in burglary dwelling this year which is still causing concern over the whole of the area. However, there is a decrease of 50% in burglary other. Although criminal damage offences have increased, these are only by five which is less than the rest of the area and he felt the presence of the PCSOs has helped to keep these down in Rothwell. Members of the Town Council agreed that these Officers will have helped to keep these offences down. Drug offences have gone down and are not a large problem in Rothwell, and robbery and sexual offences are also very low. Theft and handling have gone up, but this is because the Police have been active in detecting these. Deception and fraud have gone down a lot and it was felt this is because the garage on the A14 was closed and although it is now open again, they have improved their security to prevent these crimes.

Overall there is a reduction of 7½% in Rothwell which is on a par with the rest of the area. CI Aistrop felt the introduction of the Community Safety Team in Rothwell as a pilot scheme, as well as the PCSOs, has helped greatly. The Community Safety Teams will be rolled out and Rothwell will become part of a larger team with additional resources.

Members of the Town Council were pleased there had been a reduction in crime, and felt this should be actively publicised in view of the recent bad press the Force had received. The Police felt the recent adverse comments were out of date and did not give an accurate picture.

It was reported on BBC Look East recently that PCSOs can issue fines up to £75. CI Aistrop said there is a drive from the Home Office to standardise what PCSOs can do. They can issue fixed penalty tickets here but not for traffic or parking offences because the Chief Constable felt this would mean they were only doing this work, and he wanted them to concentrate on anti-social behaviour. Parking is also being take over by the Local Authorities soon.

As to whether the County Force is under-manned, the Chief Constable said they were 200 Officers short for what they would like to deliver. Although they do not have many extra Officers, they do have other staff as well as the PCSOs and this has eased the situation. They are trying to increase the budget because Police Officers are being asked to do more, including in connection with the war on terrorism, internet crime and mobile phone thefts.

Councillor Spendlove referred to the problems at the Red Lion since it re-opened. CI Aistrop was not personally aware of this but would mention it to our local Officers.

538 MINUTES

It was MOVED by Councillor Mrs Weston, SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Talbot and RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th December 2006 be confirmed and signed.

539 HIGHWAYS

York Stone Slabs, Market Hill

A response had been received from the Head of Asset Management at Atkins that at present he was unable to give a firm date for carrying out permanent repairs to the footway with York stone paving to those areas currently repaired in tarmac. At the moment, resources are fully committed to carrying out more urgent repairs on other parts of the network.

Councillor Weston asked if any Members had received reports of people tripping in this area, or whether the previous work has made this safer. We will monitor this. In addition, the Clerk was asked to revive the Highways Data so that we can write again on this matter at the end of this financial year.

Footway Repairs, High Street

The County Asset Management Engineer had replied that we are correct in that Atkins had been asked to do this work, and his understanding was that it had been completed. He was disappointed to hear that the broken footway slabs have not yet been replaced. He has sent Atkins a copy of our letter and will ask them to investigate. He will contact us again when he has more information.

A14 Roundabouts

The County Streetworks Manager confirmed that they have asked for the three new roundabouts on the Rothwell/Desborough bypass to be cut, including the one at the A14 junction 3. He has asked Atkins to cut the other three roundabouts, one at the A14 junction 3 and the two at junction 4. We should note that the two roundabouts at the B669 (the old A6) at junction 4 should have been cut by Kettering Borough Council, as these are now within the 30 mph limit of Rothwell. The County is investigating the procedures for letting the new roundabout sponsorship contract. It appears that the tender will have to go through the European Procurement procedure which takes at least six months. If this is confirmed, the existing agreement with Marketing Force will

have to be extended to cover this period. It was confirmed that the grass has been cut on the roundabouts fairly recently. It was AGREED to write to the Borough Council and ask if they are responsible for the roundabouts at junction 4. If so, could they let us know if they will arrange to have these landscaped and if necessary, the Market Towns Initiative might be able to assist with finding sponsors for this.

Underwood Road

We had received a letter from Atkins that this street has been put forward for a scheme in 2007/08, subject to funds being available. They will ask the Maintenance Engineer to arrange to have the potholes filled and monitor the road. Members will also monitor this and take some digital photographs to show the depth of the bad potholes. We will also send a reminder at the beginning of the new financial year.

Councillor Mrs Brown joined the Meeting at 7.30 pm.

Overgrown Bushes, Glendon Road

It was reported that the bushes from Coronation Avenue to the end of the road have grown right over the footpath. It was AGREED to chase this with the Borough Council to try and get these cut back.

Street Cleansing

The following areas were reported as needing to be cleaned:-

- Rushton Road from the side of the Blue Bell Inn to The Avenue
- the can bank needs to be emptied and bags and boxes are left by the bins
- rubbish has been left by travellers on the old Lamport Road.

It was AGREED to report this, and if these areas are not cleaned quickly the Clerk was asked to telephone the Borough Council.

540 PLANNING

Report of the Planning Referee

The following Applications had been received, and our observations were agreed as stated, as recommended by the Planning Referee:-

KET/2006/0818 Zone C North Kettering business Park - Water storage tank
No objection.

KET/2006/1017 Potters Cottage, 25 Littlewood Street – Three dwellings to rear.
Rothwell Town Council objects to this application as three units would be over-development on this site. Any proposal should include a condition that vehicular access should only be permitted from Scott Avenue and the existing right of way from Rushton Road extinguished because there are already problems with this access and the gate and these would be exacerbated by additional vehicles. In addition, vehicular access should be retained for 25 Littlewood Street from Scott Avenue and a parking space provided for the existing dwelling to avoid more vehicles having to be parked in Littlewood Street.

KET/2006/1088 Bruno's Cottage, Glendon – Refurbishment of existing cottage and extension to form five-bedroom dwelling.
No objection.

- KET/2006/1098 Land adjoining 31 Manor Road – Dwelling.
No objection.
- KET/2006/1111 17 Trinity Road – Conservatory.
No objection.

Red Lion Square/Market Hill Vision

Copies of the Notes from the Chairman about his Meeting with Cath Harvey, the Borough Head of Development Services were available at this Meeting. Mrs Harvey noted that the Town Council would like the following items to be carried out:-

1. The one-way system in Market Hill Square
2. Landscaping of the garden in front of the Library
3. Small bus shelter in front of the Library
4. Re-alignment of the footway at the top of Market Hill so that delivery lorries do not completely block the roadway
5. Seating further up Market Hill from the Methodist Church
6. Move the recycling bins to the access by Brachers Allotments
7. All the trees in the town centre need attention, so we do not feel we want any more trees until the existing ones have been trimmed appropriately
8. Four disabled parking spaces in Market Hill
9. The event area to be placed in Manor Park rather than Market Hill.

Councillor Mrs Weston thought we should look at how we have got where we are now. Burton Latimer seems to have money put forward for their town centre. She has looked back at the notes and we responded to the document but heard nothing further until we were informed the money had been withdrawn. She thought it was £50,000 per year for three years from capital funding, and this finance was nothing to do with the Urban Extension Area money. We now understand from Councillor Pote's notes that Rothwell and Desborough are not eligible for the Urban Extension funding but he has asked for the reasons. She felt this had been a very strange method of consultation. Perhaps we should go through the process and see if we hear anything back from Mrs Harvey.

There was a letter dated 25th May from Paul Tomas that in terms of funding, the Borough had money in its capital budget this year to help with the delivery of the re-paving scheme and has earmarked money for the following two years. This fits in with the idea of £50,000 per year for three years. It was felt that Mrs Harvey's attitude to the Meeting on 8th January was bad, in that she would only meet Councillor Pote and no-one else from the Town Council or the Market Towns Initiative.

It was MOVED by Councillor Mrs Weston, SECONDED by Councillor Spendlove and RESOLVED that a small Group consisting of the Chairman and Councillors Cross, Spendlove, Mrs Talbot and Mrs Weston should meet to discuss this. We will also find out if the other Members of the Working Party have been informed that the finance has been withdrawn.

Urban Extension Area

Copies of the Scoping Report produced on behalf of the developer had been circulated prior to this Meeting. Various aspects were discussed and it was AGREED to send the following comments to the Borough Council:-

1. Paragraph 1.1 mentions the relocation of the Football Club within the north-east portion of the site area, and we would like more details of this.

2. We believe the second sentence in Paragraph 2.1 should state that "The eastern parcel is bounded by the B576 to the west....", and not the western parcel.
3. The beginning of Paragraph 2.2 refers to 20% affordable housing and we would like to know if this takes into account the fact that the legislation in relation to this percentage is likely to change and increase the amount of affordable housing in any development.
4. Paragraph 2.2 at the bottom of page 2 refers to a local centre containing a number of retail units and small offices, but we had understood that there was only to be a convenience store included with the Urban Extension Area so as not to detract from the existing town centre.
5. Paragraph 5.2 on page 5 refers to the land south of the A14 at Rothwell for mixed use development including 19 hectares of B1, B2 and B8 development. Please confirm that this is definitely included in the proposals for Rothwell.

Community Planning Network News

Copies of this leaflet had been circulated, for information.

Rothwell House Hotel

Copies of the Enforcement Notices had been circulated prior to this Meeting. The Members of the Town Council will monitor this situation, and it will be interesting to see if there is an appeal lodged about this.

541 ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITY

Air Pollution

A letter had been received from the Borough Environmental Services Manager explaining the processes for monitoring the air quality. He does review the situation, and is satisfied that the current locations are satisfactory for the Council to comply with legal requirements for monitoring of air pollution, and therefore regrets that at present no additional monitoring locations are proposed. If we wanted to pursue having additional locations, he would be happy to assist but the cost would be in the region of £100 each.

Councillor Mrs Brown suggested that we continue to ask these questions at the A6 Towns Forum.

Greening Road Recreation Ground

The Clerk had received an E-mail from Pia Bellamy at the Borough Council that the additional light will be incorporated into future plans. She also said we need to review the bollards at some point and decide whether they should be removed, renewed where required or reviews to decide where they are needed. It was AGREED we will leave this until the play area is refurbished.

Sale of Fireworks

Copies of the letter from Philip Hollobone MP had been circulated prior to this Meeting, for information.

Rothwell Youth Group

Copies of the Report of the Meeting held on 20th December 2006 had been circulated prior to this Meeting.

Councillor Mrs Brown has received the Ward Initiative Grant cheques and the Building Society Account is in the process of being opened. They will send the pass book and forms for the other signatories but in the meantime £1,000 has been deposited. The first Meeting of the Group as a body independent of the Town Council is on 31st January in the Market House so this will be the last time the Minutes are generally circulated. Councillor Cross volunteered to act as Honorary Auditor and it was AGREED that this offer would be gratefully accepted and was appreciated.

Sam Gell, one of our PCSOs has indicated she would like to attend a Meeting, and the more people who are involved, the better. This will include some young people.

It was MOVED by Councillor Spendlove, SECONDED by Councillor Whitlam and RESOLVED that whilst the Youth Group is becoming established the Town Council will assist with facilities such as photocopying and postage, if necessary.

Community Centre

The Clerk had received an E-mail from Ms Bellamy, the Borough Infrastructure and Asset Development Manager, that she would like an informal discussion with the Town Council about Rothwell Community Centre, some time in February. It was AGREED that we suggest this could take place at 7.30 pm on Wednesday, 21st February 2007 in the Market House.

Squires Hill

Councillor Mrs Weston reported that when we looked at the location for the new hanging basket columns in Squires Hill, it was noticed that there was a very large puddle in front of the Howard Rose seat, and another one at the top entrance to Manor Park. It was AGREED to write to the Borough Council about this.

Sweeping up Leaves

It was reported that the leaves still need to be swept up in Hospital Hill. Mr Sawford was not able to attend this Meeting, but has indicated he will come to the February one.

15 Wales Street

We had not heard anything further about the development of this area. It was AGREED to chase this.

Re-Letting of Vacant Council Houses

We had received a letter from the Borough Head of Housing, that 13 Glendon Road was empty for an extended period of time. However, this was not because of the maintenance work that was necessary but because the property was refused by seven different applicants. In five cases, the reason given for refusal was that the property was not located in an area where the applicants wished to live. The other two applicants did not give a reason for refusal.

The letter also set out the extensive work that the Borough carries out when a property is vacant, and copies had been circulated to Members for their information.

Roadside Seats

We had received a response from the Borough Council that they have put our request to have the seat being donated by Rowell Lions near the Cricket Field to them and also advised the Lions on what type of seat would be most suitable.

Councillor Jones said that the seat on the corner of High Hill Avenue and Underwood Road is no longer there, and it was explained that the Town Council had said this should stay, despite a request by the neighbouring residents that it should be moved. However, this was then wrecked and was no longer useable. As there had not been any complaints and the Borough did not have any spare ones at that time, we did not pursue having it replaced.

On this subject, Councillor Pote is purchasing some seats and litter bins from his County Councillor's grant money, and would like suggestions from Councillors where these should be put. We believe he is intending to put two seats and one litter bin in the Columbus Crescent Open Space. We understand that the seats will be the green metal type as in Manor Park.

It was AGREED to suggest that one seat could be put in High Hill Avenue to replace that one, and that a litter bin could be put in between the bus shelter and seat in Desborough Road by Coopers Lane. We will also check if there is a litter bin in High Hill Avenue or if there is a need for one there. Members will consider other locations and inform either the Clerk or Councillor Pote. In addition, there is the seat in Shotwell Mill Lane which we have reported needs to be repaired.

542 MATTERS OF BUSINESS

Pfizer Distribution Arrangements

A letter had been received from Philip Hollobone MP, together with copies he had received on the same issue from Pfizer, AAH Pharmaceuticals Ltd, and the BAPW. Copies of all these had been circulated prior to this Meeting. It was AGREED to accept these for information.

Forthcoming Elections

The Borough Electoral Services Manager, Ian White, had confirmed that the Borough will be providing publicity in respect of the new arrangements for ward boundaries next year, which will be tailored to local circumstances, and he anticipated this should happen in March 2007, before the poll cards are sent out. There are also a number of changes taking place with regard to electoral law, some of which have been adopted and some of which are currently passing through Parliament. It is also intended to notify electors what these changes are and how it will affect them at the same time as the notification regarding the ward boundaries.

Strong & Prosperous Communities

Copies of the letter from the County Chief Executive, and the information sheet from the Conference held on 28th November 2006 had been circulated prior to this Meeting. They intend to hold a further conference on Thursday, 24th May 2007 starting at 4.00 pm and invitations will be sent out at a later date.

There are currently discussions taking place at the County and District Councils about the way forward for Local Government, with either a Unitary Authority or an enhanced two-tier system and some of the possible alternatives were discussed. However, we have not got any real paperwork to explain the proposals.

Councillor Whitlam said the deadline is not the end of January, and there is the option to defer a response. There is another Borough Council Meeting the following week and he will have more information by then.

County Satisfaction Survey

We had received a letter and survey form in connection with the County Capital Grant Fund. As we have not received this, it was AGREED to take no action here.

Information on Events

Copies of the letters from the Borough Council on the Budget Consultation Meeting on 25th January 2007, and the Holocaust Memorial Commemoration on 21st January had been circulated for information.

The Clerk had also received details about the Rockingham Forest Trust event at the Arts & Heritage Centre on 14th February for local communities. There will be two sessions, one for local buildings and other structures of interest, and the second on churches in the area. Places must be booked for these sessions.

543 FINANCIAL REPORTGeneral Statement

The Clerk submitted a written statement as attached. It was MOVED by Councillor Mrs Weston, SECONDED by Councillor Whitlam 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
Gala Committee	Christmas Lights Grant	£2862.00
Cllr A C Pote	Chairman's half-yearly Allowance	£300.00
British Telecom	Phone Bill	£86.08
Zurich Insurance Co	Insurance Premium	£965.51
Kettering B C	Repairs to roadside seat	£111.63
Kettering B C	Lottery Licence Renewal	£17.50
NRG Group	Photocopier Maintenance	£33.69

Councillor Whyte joined the meeting at 9.00 pm

Council Chamber Chairs

The Clerk now received the second quote from Val Tierney for re-covering the chairs but had not yet got one for doing this in real leather from Steelco, although they were cheaper for faux leather. We also had some leather samples from Val Tierney.

It was MOVED by Councillor Whyte, SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Weston and RESOLVED to wait for the second quote and sample for real leather from Steelco and to accept the cheapest quote if the quality was the same. The Clerk will let as many Councillors as possible look at these.

544 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.