

## ROTHWELL TOWN COUNCIL

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

PRESENT:                      Councillor N A Matthew                      Chairman  
    Councillor C W Cross  
    Councillor A E Howe  
    Councillor D W Jones  
    Councillor A J Mills  
    Councillor A C Pote  
    Councillor K D Sumpter  
    Councillor Mrs M E Talbot  
    Councillor A Whitlam

### 35 PRAYERS

Before the business of the Council commenced, the Revd Canon George Burgon said Prayers, and mentioned the forthcoming Carnival, the young people about to leave school, new people moving to the town, and those residents who have recently died.

### 36 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Councillors Mrs Brown, Spendlove and Unger.

### 37 COMMUNITY POLICING

#### General Report

P C O'Hara was at the Meeting, together with our new PCSO, Jason Parris. They did not yet have the crime figures for June, but answered queries as follows:-

Vicious Dogs: the recent attack by two rottweilers on a dog in Manor Park was mentioned in the Evening Telegraph. PC 'Hara confirmed the Police do still deal with dog incidents because there are laws in connection with keeping dogs under control. Usually there is firstly a warning and then there would be a summons. Councillor Jones thought people drove in from other areas to walk their dogs in Manor Park and they are not on leads or under control. Councillor Sumpter had seen these rottweilers in the Mounts during early evening on several occasions.

Rowell Fair: at the last Meeting it was mentioned that Rowell Fair Monday would be a Bank Holiday, but in fact this is the following week.

Thefts: it was reported that someone is taking runner bean sticks away from an address in the Moorfield Road area. Whoever is doing this might consider it a joke, but they do have to get into the back garden and the Police were given the address.

Parking: a white van is still being parked on the corner of Rock Hill and Rushton Road and obstructing visibility. PCSO Sam Gell has spoken to the driver but this is back again, in the evenings and at weekends.

#### SPEED WATCH

Natalie Westland is no longer dealing with this, but it is now Carolyn Tait from ACRE. The Clerk had provisionally arranged another Meeting for either 24th or 25th July, but ACRE is discussing the proposal to extend this scheme from the villages to urban areas on 19th July, when they will look at the criteria and they wondered if we wanted to wait until after then.

As not many Members would be available on 24th or 25th July, it was AGREED to postpone this Meeting, but to ask to be kept informed.

PC O'Hara said the Police and the PCSOs have had training with the laser camera and they will be using this. It was confirmed that we feel Glendon Road is a priority, and it was mentioned that some of the side streets, such as Littlewood Street, Crispin Street, Daisybank Avenue and Underwood Road also suffer from speeding vehicles, as well as the bypass and Harrington Road. The Police do still need to have some distance for visibility when using the laser cameras, but PC O'Hara felt that could use this in Glendon Road. In the smaller streets with a lot of parked vehicles, it might not be possible. He confirmed that there have been regular checks in Glendon Road already.

#### Police Questions from the Public

(a) Traffic Calming, Glendon Road: we have had a Site Meeting with representatives from the County Council, have agreed in principle a number of measures and are now awaiting the design. We are keen to get the right traffic calming, for example there is not sufficient space to put a mini-roundabout in safely. The County are driven by statistics and the number of accidents so we are looking at a build-out between the two Columbus Crescent junctions because this is where the accidents have occurred. There would also be a warning sign to indicate the junction. There have not been so many accidents coming out of the town. They are also looking at having some measures at Bell Hill, where there have also been several accidents. PC O'Hara confirmed this road has been targeted with the speed camera but there has to be clear vision, which is also why there cannot be build-outs near the blind spots.

(b) Parking: there are four cars parked on the footpath in Kettering Road, one only 30" away from the wall so there is not sufficient space left for a mobility scooter and these have to go into the road. There is also a car which has been parked in Market Hill Square for some time, but the Police have already looked at this and the owner has been contacted by the DVLC. This is not strictly speaking the public highway, but the Lord of the Manor also has rights. PC O'Hara will look at the cars in Kettering Road. It was reported that there is another car in Gordon Street parked 19" from the wall, and PC O'Hara will also look at this. The resident will monitor the situation of parked cars not leaving enough room.

#### 38 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

(1) Tommy Nichols Seat: Mr West said this bench in Harrington Road is missing again. It was AGREED to ask whether the Borough Council has removed this for repair.

(2) 13 Glendon Road: Mr West said this flat was renovated when it became empty a few months ago, but it has now had another new kitchen and bathroom. Councillor Pote confirmed it is an outside contractor carrying out this work, so if he was asked to replace all the kitchens and bathroom, he would do this. It was AGREED to find out the situation.

(3) Library Opening Hours: Mr West asked what the savings have been over the last five months, compared with the previous twelve months as the staff are still doing the same hours. Councillor Pote will look into this.

(4) Setts: Mr West has looked at these along the gutters in Bridge Street, Market Hill and Bell Hill and various areas need to be re-set or replaced. The Clerk has now reported those outside Age Concern twice, and also included the ones outside 28 Bridge Street. There are more loose cobbles near Danny's Kebabs, and other areas have missing or loose cobbles. We will report these.

39 MINUTES

It was MOVED by Councillor Mrs Talbot, SECONDED by Councillor Pote and RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th June 2007 be confirmed and signed.

40 HIGHWAYSHigh Street/Glendon Road

Copies of the Report of the Meeting held on 26th June 2007 had been circulated prior to this Meeting. It was AGREED that the Report be approved and adopted.

The Chairman felt this had been a very productive Meeting with Mr Tysoe and Mr Leighton about the paving slabs in the High Street, and traffic calming in Glendon Road, and there may be some funding available for this work. It is likely we will have to lose some of the paving slabs and go with tarmac because to have all slabs in the High Street would be very expensive. Councillor Mills suggested we could have temporary repairs until there is more finance because this is the Conservation Area and he felt it was important to retain the slabs. Councillor Jones said the other historic towns in the County, such as Brackley and Oundle, have better maintenance, and in Gorleston they are putting the rolled gravel which does complement the stonework. We had been told that the County would only rarely use rolled gravel because of people slipping on that surface but we do not accept this. Other Members agreed that they would like to retain the slabs. However, we do already have patches of tarmac on both sides of the High Street and at present there is a broken surface which is dangerous. It was suggested we could have a better foundation which might help, because there will be lorries over-riding the footpath here to make deliveries to the shops.

Since the Meeting the Clerk had received an E-mail from Mr Leighton confirming that there is currently a whole village approach in the County, where four villages will receive £25,000 worth of highway improvements. There has been a lot of interest in this scheme and there will be more applications than there is money available, but as agreed he will put forward a scheme and this could either be funded by the whole village approach, or if they are unsuccessful in that, through the forthcoming monies available as part of the s.106 agreement from the ProLogis Development.

It was felt that we needed highway improvements everywhere in Rothwell, including in Kettering Road where the roadway could be narrowed to provide some herringbone parking, similar to that in Olney. The old A6 has been de-trunked for some time now and we need work to make this more attractive and part of the town.

It was MOVED by Councillor Jones, SECONDED by Councillor Pote and RESOLVED to formally adopt a policy that the old A6 through Rothwell should be enhanced to make it difficult for vehicles to be driven through too quickly and to ask to be informed of any funding which becomes available to enable this work to be carried out.

It was FURTHER RESOLVED to write to Mr Tysoe and Mr Leighton (with a copy to Councillor Bob Seery) that we have adopted this policy, that we would like to have a strong bid put in for the Whole Village Approach to have all the slabs in the High Street replaced as tarmac is not in keeping with the Conservation Area (although we would consider having smaller slabs or rolled gravel) and for a scheme in Kettering Road to slow vehicles down and make this more attractive.

As to traffic calming in Glendon Road, the Clerk had looked back at the correspondence and in a letter dated 9th June 2006, Mr Leighton confirmed that the County Council had been given £30,000 from the developers of Kettering North Business Park to be spent on highways improvements in Rothwell, which seemed to suggest that the money had actually been received. When writing to Mr Leighton with a copy of the Report, she had asked him to check whether the money had actually been received at that time.

An E-mail had been received from Mr Leighton that he understood what we had agreed was to construct a build-out and priority system (like the one in Harrington Road) approximately 110 metres east of the junction with Stanley Street to slow traffic down on its approach to Rothwell. Approximately 40 metres east of the western junction with Columbus Crescent a vehicle actuated sign would be provided which would show a warning of a junction to the left, with a SLOW road marking at this point. At the start of the 30 mph zone into Rothwell, there would be gateway features and planters along with 30 mph roundel road markings.

It was AGREED to confirm that this was what had been decided at the Site Meeting, and also to ask whether we could also have some planters at the Harrington Road entrance to the town, if there is any spare finance from the work in Glendon Road.

#### Travellers' Encampment

Copies of a letter from the Traveller Unit about the camps in Harrington Road were available at this Meeting. This explained in some detail the statutory position regarding unauthorised traveller encampments across the County, and the Unit's policy of tolerating travellers' presence on County land for a period of time, and minimising the level of nuisance on such sites. Some of the travellers in Harrington Road have welfare issues, and therefore the Unit Manger intended to allow them to remain on this land. However, any stay on Council owned land would be time limited and dependent on the reasonable behaviour and co-operation of all parties involved.

The Chairman explained that at the recent Highways Meeting we did also discuss the matter in some detail with Mr Tysoe, and explained there are three encampments which have been there for a considerable amount of time. If they do move on, they come straight back again. We asked Mr Tysoe to confirm that this is not an official travellers' site and explained that Rothwell residents are not against the traveller lifestyle but we seem to be having more than our fair share of illegal camps.

The letter from the Unit said that one of the areas is owned by the Highways Agency but we feel the County Council now owns this. Councillor Pote has been in touch with the Traveller Unit on several occasions and was told the travellers have welfare issues so they will not move until these are sorted out for the families, who are not causing any trouble. However, a local farmer had told him that they will require access to the field by the balancing pond with a combine harvester shortly.

Councillor Whitlam left the Meeting at 8.05 pm.

We will check how long there have been encampments in Harrington Road, but it was believed to be about eighteen months to two years, which is not a reasonable time for us. We are concerned about the rubbish being dumped there which the Borough Council has to clear up regularly. There are various authorised traveller sites within the Borough and we will check how many there are. It was AGREED to reply to the Traveller Unit and voice our concerns, and the Chairman will approve this letter.

Temporary Road Closures

We have received notice that Castle Hill and Oxford Street will need to be closed to through traffic at some time shortly, so that the various building works can take place.

High Street

This was flooded when the resurfacing work has carried out because they put tarmac over the drains and manhole covers. It was explained that they now do this because they need to put a flexible material around the ironwork because of the shrinkage. The drains have now been uncovered again.

Rushton Road

It was reported that the bushes and hedges are now growing over both sides of the road and obscuring visibility in Rushton Road, from Shotwell Mill Lane to Hospital Farm. It was AGREED to report this.

41 PLANNINGReport of the Planning Referee

In the absence of the Planning Referee, the Clerk presented this Report. The following Refusals had been received:-

- KET/2007/0086      Former M & M Autos Site, Desborough Road – Six dwellings.  
 KET/2007/0361      8 Trinity Court – Extension, and balcony.

The following Approvals had been received:-

- KET/2007/0296      23 High Street – Variation of condition 3 of KET/2006/0788.  
 KET/2007/0335      Woodfield Farm, Glendon Road – Outbuildings.  
 KET/2007/0351      76 Glendon Road – Dropped kerb for driveway.  
 KET/2007/0354      Rothwell Lodge Farm – Dwelling with extended driveway.  
 KET/2007/0379      Various – Removal of part hedgerows for new water pipe.  
 KET/2007/0417      28 Scott Avenue – Extension.

The following Applications had been considered at a special Meeting of the Town Council, and the observations were agreed as stated:-

KET/2006/1140      Land to the South of the A14 - Outline for an Employment Park.  
 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. However, we are disappointed that the footbridge has now been omitted and would ask for this to be reinstated as this provided a safe access for pedestrians to the site.

KET/2007/0461      Rothwell North – Outline for urban extension, 11 hectares of employment land (Classes B1 and B2), a local centre, open space and green infrastructure, an extension to Montsaye College playing fields and reconfiguration of the Junior School playing fields.

(1) We refer to the Utilities Statement in the Environmental Report and note the comment by Anglian Water that the foul water and drainage systems are not adequate to take any further development in Rothwell. We need details of how and when this defect will be rectified and an assurance that no construction work will commence until there is sufficient capacity.

(2) We would like to see the report from the County Highways Department, especially on the junction for the entrances to the developments on both sides of Desborough Road. We had been assured this junction would take through traffic from Desborough directly to the bypass and deter drivers from travelling through Rothwell, but the plan does not yet provide for this. The B576 should be routed through the new development to the A6, and the B669 extended from Fox Street up Desborough Road to this new junction.

(3) This would be a satellite development which has no integration with the existing town, and this must be rectified. The Town Council will therefore be making further comments on this and other issues in due course.

County Council Rothwell Infant School, School Lane – Children's Centre.

Rothwell Town Council objects to this proposal because there are insufficient arrangements for the extra vehicles in School Lane and Leys Avenue.

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

KET/2007/0451	6 Jubilee Street- First Floor Extension. No objection.
KET/2007/0479	26 Underwood Road – Extension. No objection.
KET/2007/0529	Rams's Supermarket, 1-5 High Street – 3 Compressors. No objection, provided the new units are no noisier than the existing ones, to protect the amenities of nearby residents.
KET/2007/0542	2 Churchill Close – Pitched roof on garage. No objection.
KET/2007/0543	47 Harrington Road – Extension and pitched roof. No objection.
KET/2007/0565	17 Trinity Road – Garage Conversion. No objection.
KET/2007/569	8 Balfour Drive – Extensions. No objection.

### Planning Applications

Copies of the Report of the Meeting held on 30th June 2007 had been circulated prior to this Meeting, and the observations agreed to be made on the three Applications considered have been minuted above. The Clerk omitted to record that when the Application on the Children's Centre at the Infant School was discussed, Councillor Cross declared a personal interest as a Governor of this School. The other Members agreed he should remain at the Meeting but he did not vote on those comments.

Subject to this, it was **MOVED** by Councillor Cross, **SECONDED** by Councillor Mrs Talbot and **RESOLVED** that the Report be approved and adopted.

## 42 ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITY

### Location of Recycling Bins

We had had a telephone call from Mr Bugby, the Borough Waste Policy & Amenities Manager, in response to the letter sent after the last Meeting, that the contractor has indicated that he could empty the banks on the access to Brachers Allotments, and he is now checking the insurance. The Clerk mentioned that the allotment holders are worried that a lot of mess will be left there, so that if the banks are moved, the Town Council feels it is essential both this access and the existing site in Market Hill should be regularly monitored and any items left cleared away.

It was MOVED by Councillor Jones, SECONDED by Councillor Pote and RESOLVED to suspend Standing Orders to allow a resident to speak. It was confirmed that since the recycling bins have been back, the area around them has been very clean and tidy. Councillor Cross was worried that on occasions the vehicles parked on the Brachers Allotments access will stop the lorries getting in to empty the bins. We are hopeful that we will at least have the banks moved for a trial period.

### Town Centre Partnership

Copies of the Report of the Town Centre Partnership Meeting held on 25th June 2007 had been circulated prior to this Meeting. It was MOVED by Councillor Jones, SECONDED by Councillor Cross and RESOLVED that the Report be approved and adopted.

The Clerk reported that she had written to the Borough Economic & Community Development Officer to ask if trimming the town centre trees would be a suitable project as this was maintenance rather than a capital scheme, because she had not been able to discuss this with Claire Bonnie before she had gone on holiday. In the meantime, the Borough Council would look at the trees in Squires Hill to see if these could have a light trim, and Rob Payne of the County Council will ask Atkins to inspect the trees in Market Hill and Castle Hill, and the one in Hospital Hill to see what work needs to be done to these.

As to having some Christmas lights on the trees in the Red Lion Square area of Market Hill, the Borough Council suggests these should be pea lights, rather than the festoons because these trees are smaller. The Members would be happy with this.

Councillor Pote asked if the Members were happy with the planting columns in Squires Hill, and everyone was pleased with these.

### Columbus Crescent Information Signs

The Clerk had received an E-mail from the Borough Asset Development Manager with the proof of the original sign at Columbus Crescent. She suggested we could amend the condition about ball games to "Do NOT play golf or any other games using a hard ball in this area" and also to remove the advice that football and rounders could be played in the football area near the Community Centre. These amendments were AGREED.

As to the sign by the Blythe Close play area, this is the standard one for all enclosed equipped play areas and this had already been approved by the Town Council.

We had also received copy of an E-mail to the Borough Council complaining about the original sign at Columbus Crescent which stopped children playing there.

Bus Services

A letter had been received from the Clerk to Desborough Town Council that they had considered our response, but this has been a little overtaken by the news of the railway station to be provided at Corby. However, Councillor Michael Tebbutt has offered to liaise with Rothwell representatives as to the best way forward and his contact details were provided. It was AGREED that Councillor Mrs Talbot would discuss this with Councillor Tebbutt.

Councillor Cross felt that if we get a new train to Corby, we might need the bus service more to get to either Kettering or Corby to catch a train.

Operation Kleen Sweep

Copies of the letter from David Lane, the Borough Senior Community Services Officer about this year's scheme had been circulated prior to this Meeting. Councillor Pote said that no-one has yet contacted the schools and it is a little late to do this now. He and the Chairman are cleaning up Columbus Crescent and Well Lane Parks at 10.30 am on Thursday, if any Councillors are available to assist, or they could do some cleaning in the other Parks when they could use the grabs and plastic bags.

Pocket Park

We had received details from the County Pocket Parks Officer and the Corby Voluntary & Community Services Department about volunteers who could assist with the Pocket Park. This is now very overgrown but there is a lot of wildlife there.

County Councillor's Grant

Councillor Pote is considering two projects as follows:-

1. improving the lighting in Squires Hill, and he is talking to the Borough about this
2. bus shelters in Market Hill, which he is discussing with Atkins and understands the cost is likely to be £3,500 to £5,000 each but we should only need small ones.

Councillor Jones supported the bus shelters. There are a lot of services under the pavement in the area in front of the Library so we are not certain if it will be possible to put a bus shelter there. Councillor Cross reported that the bus sign by the shelter near the Cricket Field in Desborough Road is down but still in the area, and we will report this.

43 MATTERS OF BUSINESSCode of Conduct

The Town Council needs to formally adopt the revised Code of Conduct, and if we inform the Borough Council before 31st July 2007 that this has been done, they will notify the Standards Board for England on our behalf, and also include Rothwell in the required advertisement in the local newspaper.

It was MOVED by Councillor Howe, SECONDED by Councillor Talbot and RESOLVED that Rothwell Town Council adopts the revised Code of Conduct.

Town Mayor

Councillor Pote said the main reason he suggested we change the title of Chairman to Town Mayor is because although the status is the same, the pecking order in parades is really set by the

fact that a Mayor takes precedence over a Chairman. Some Members felt Rothwell had a tradition of having a Chairman of the Town Council, and a Chairman can represent the town as well as a Town Mayor. At the last Meeting Councillor Spendlove had suggested that the person wearing the chain for the time being could decide, but this is not practicable.

It was MOVED by Councillor Howe, SECONDED by Councillor Jones and RESOLVED that a decision on this is made when there are at least ten Members of the Town Council present.

#### A6 Towns Forum

The Clerk had received an E-mail from the Borough Committee Administrator that A6 Towns Forum did not appoint representatives to the Standards Committee, Kettering Town Forum and the Rural Forum at their last Meeting so perhaps we could give some consideration to this. The nomination to the Standards Committee is remunerated at £591 per annum.

The Chairman would be interested in sitting on the Standards Board, and Councillor Sumpter would also be interested in representing Rothwell.

#### August Meeting

We are to decide whether or not to hold a Meeting during August. It was MOVED by Councillor Mrs Talbot, SECONDED by Councillor Howe and RESOLVED that we do have an August Meeting.

### 44 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk submitted a written statement as attached. It was MOVED by Councillor Pote, SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Talbot and RESOLVED that the statement 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	£445.51
CIlr N A Matthew	Chairman's half-yearly allowance	£300.00
British Telecom	Phone Bill	£93.42
M Pittam	Refund for hanging basket	£30.00

The Meeting closed at 9.27 pm.

Chairman

Date