

ROTHWELL TOWN COUNCIL

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

PRESENT: Councillor A C Pote Chairman
 Councillor Mrs C M Brown
 Councillor C W Cross
 Councillor N A Matthew
 Councillor Mrs C M Mullett
 Councillor M W Spendlove (7.55 pm)
 Councillor Mrs M E Talbot
 Councillor Mrs G Weston
 Councillor D A Whyte (9.00 pm)

556 PRAYERS

Before the business of the Meeting commenced, the Revd Canon George Burgon said Prayers and asked for peace and prosperity in the troubled areas of the world, and mentioned those residents who had recently died and their families.

557 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Councillors Jones, Weston and Whitlam, and from Councillors Spendlove and Whyte who would be late joining the Meeting.

558 STREET CLEANSING

Godfrey Shaw, the Borough Head of Environmental Care Services, and Paul Sawford, the Cleansing Manager were present at the Meeting and explained the following items and proposed improvements to the system of street cleansing:-

- a year ago they got the green machine which now operates throughout the town and there is a litter picker over every week. All their operators have mobile phones so they can be sent out to deal with any problem.
- They now only have about 2% of streets of an unacceptable standard, down from 7.6% and they hope to maintain this. Kettering is the fourth cleanest Borough in the country and again this year they will be in the top few.
- Flytipping is now dealt with much more quickly and abandoned cars are removed within about 2.4 days after a report has been received, even though they have to report this to the Police.
- The A14 is now litter-picked annually and this has been done recently.
- In Rothwell we have six new litter bins in the town centre.
- We had Kleen Sweep in October and they hope to have a bigger and better one in 2007 when they will be in the area for five days. They have asked people not to park in a particular street so they can clean it properly on a specified day. They hope to do this with other streets, particularly the older ones.
- We now have the Customer Service Centre in Rothwell, a text service and people can report matters through the Website. As to communication, they feel that people were now confident that if they contact the Borough matters will be dealt with.
- They have a mobile power washer and this will take chewing gum off the pavements and remove graffiti. They want to target graffiti on both public and private property, and then the chewing gum. They also want to apply for a Government Initiative on chewing gum.

- There was Operation Spring Bloom last autumn where they gave bulbs to groups to plant out and they will also work with Tresham College and people on probation on planting schemes.
- There have been savings of £155,000 so they have been able to invest in more people.
- As to sweeping up leaves, next year they will set up two groups with a "vacuum cleaner" type of machine to take these up as soon as they fall and before they get wet and slippery. The green machine does sweep them up but it fills up too quickly and gets blocked.
- They are having more litter bins and street furniture and are looking at bins made of recycled material.
- They need people to highlight bad areas.
- As from 1st April there will be nothing going to landfill. The materials recycling facility at Telford Way has a sorting hall although there will probably be a few problems to begin with.
- The Environmental Health Department now has five Street Wardens who deal with dog fouling as well as litter and they will talk to the schools as well. There were 313 fixed penalty tickets for littering in the Borough.
- The Parks are covered by Grounds Maintenance staff who do not have enough people to do regular cleaning of these areas but they are to share resources.
- It was reported there is a lot of rubbish on the footpath between Harrington Road and Trinity Road, underneath the conifers and Mr Sawford will look at this.
- There is grass on the edge of footpaths and weeds in the gullies which never gets removed, but weed killing is dealt with by the County and they cannot put a residual weed killer down. Mr Sawford will speak to them and he has reservations about doing the weed killing from moving vehicles.
- The drains are also the responsibility of the County but they are to get a gully pump in for Kleen Sweep.
- In Peterborough they recycle the tetra pack containers but in Kettering we do not have the facilities. Peterborough is a large city and has a much bigger recycling facility than we do.
- It was confirmed that 47% of materials are now diverted from landfill sites and they want to put this to over 50%.
- It was reported there was broken glass in Norton Street but this was swept up the day after it was reported.
- The regulation about not putting kitchen scraps in the grey bin is a Government one and the reason for this is that the compost is put on farm land so they cannot put down anything linked to animal products as this could spread disease. This is why the advice from Defra is that anything coming from the kitchen should not be put in the grey bin. They have had a problem with asbestos-like material but the new material recycling facility at Kettering will now be able to deal with this. There is other difficult waste such as sharps and the Waste Laws are very strict now.
- They are in discussions with the County Council about better access to the facility at Cunliffe Drive.
- As to whether people could have larger recycling bins, eventually they will look to have just one bin but the material recycling facility cannot deal with this yet. In the meantime, people can bag up the excess and this will be taken away. There are also the bins with wheels.
- It was reported that there is some rubbish on the old Lamport Road, and travellers at the end of Harrington Road with a large pile of black sacks.
- Loddington Road, between the Cemetery and Three Chimneys is due for a litter pick shortly.
- There is the "Adopt a Road" scheme, where if people will pick up the litter the Borough will collect the bags of rubbish.

The Chairman thanked Mr Shaw and Mr Sawford for attending the Meeting.

PCSO Peter Firth was present at the Meeting. We have received invitations to the launch of the Rothwell, Desborough and Rural West Safer Community team. The Chairman said we had a launch here about a year ago but he understands that we will now have a wider scheme with fewer people serving Rothwell. This query can be raised at the launch.

As to the latest crime figures, there were 444 reported crimes this year, compared with 472 for the same period last year. There was a large drop in burglary other as there were fewer shed break-ins. The drop in deception and fraud is probably due to the garage on the A14 being improved. There is now a problem with people stealing number plates and putting these on their own cars to commit a crime and then dumping them. There were six crimes of theft from motor vehicles but property has been found in Well Lane and a person arrested. These were wheel trims and other items from cars and we will let residents know about this. PCSO Firth did not have information on how many parking warnings were issued this month.

It was reported that vehicles are parking outside the Woolpack Inn and obstructing the pavement so people have to walk into the road. This is mostly at lunch time but sometimes in the evening. Residents are parking in the road in Kipton Field and this obstructs visibility.

Councillor Spendlove joined the Meeting at 7.55 pm.

It was reported that there have been youths of about 15 to 17 years old with airguns in Harrington Road on private land and this information will be passed to PC O'Hara. Residents can telephone 08453 700700 to report such matters immediately they are seen.

560 MINUTES

It was MOVED by Councillor Mrs Weston, SECONDED by Councillor Cross and RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th February 2007 be confirmed and signed.

561 HIGHWAYS

Congestion on the A14

The Clerk reported that Philip Hollobone MP had asked the various parties for a Meeting with the Town Council to discuss congestion on the A14 in the Rothwell area, and a provisional date had been arranged for 10.00 am on Monday, 2nd April in the Market House. The Clerk will confirm this in writing before then.

It was reported that there are a number of routes being looked at for improvement of the A14, and some plans were available showing highways schemes being promoted by Bee Bee Developments which are being looked at by the Highways Agency, but the County does not seem interested in an off-road route. There is one plan which shows a route coming off junction 3 of the A14 and across the area we want for an industrial site. The County thinks the Borough is allowing the developers to lead on this without giving much thought to what happens to the A14. We will circulate copies of the three plans with notice of the Meeting.

Gully Cleansing

After the last Meeting, the Clerk had ascertained that we had not had all the gullies cleaned out in December because this had been done less than a year previously. However, some of the drains have been damaged, probably by builders or residents putting bits of material such as concrete down them, and also when the roads are re-surfaced tarmac can get into the drains if they are not covered properly. This is why some drains continually need to be cleaned out. She

had therefore written to Atkins to ask if there is a programme for gully renewal, and if not whether this could be put in place for Rothwell in the near future especially with the Urban Extension Area.

We had received a reply from John Robinson, Atkins' Information Manager, and copies of this were available at this Meeting. This explained the normal methods for cleansing, and removal of blockages which can usually be dealt with by using the high pressure drain cleaning apparatus. However a minority of problems are due to damage and as such are noted for repair. Urban expansion does have its effect on the drainage system, but this is the responsibility of Anglian Water which will recommend or insist on upgrades to systems by developers if the figures indicate the need. However, the Highway Authority does have its own dedicated lengths of highway drain. If a development is to be adopted and the drainage of the new section of highway is such that the volume of surface water will compromise the capacity of the existing system, then the Authority will demand an upgrade before connection can be made. There are no plans to promote a programme of gully renewals in the County. Individual gullies will be replaced, repaired or re-sited if needed and occasionally reconstruction schemes will be needed to install new and more efficient gullies as part of the overall works.

Members felt that the excess water in the town seems to indicate that a number of drains are not working properly. There are others which are blocked such as at the bottom of The Avenue.

High Street Footway Repairs and Other Highways Issues

At the last Meeting it was decided to ask for a Meeting with the County Council on the footway repairs in the High Street. The Clerk had written to ask for representatives to come to a Meeting in Rothwell on all the following issues:-

1. Footway Repairs, High Street
2. York Stone Slabs, Market Hill
3. Traffic Calming, Glendon Road
4. Mini-roundabout, Greening Road/Desborough Road
5. Gully and Drain Renewal.

This Meeting had not yet been arranged, but the Clerk had received an E-mail from the County Asset Management Engineer about the High Street, asking for our comments about vehicles over-riding the slabbed pavement. Mr Tysoe said he did understand that the Town Council feels the recent repair work was not undertaken satisfactorily but there is much evidence of damage to both new and old type slabs. The issue of 'temporary' blacktop repairs to slabbed footways is one of several issues they are wrestling with at the moment – trying to maintain service levels whilst facing ever increasing budgetary pressures, and not just in Rothwell.

It was AGREED to respond that there has been a lot of work at 23 High Street and to a lesser extent with the garage for The White House. Once the new building has been completed between No.23 and the Chip Shop, perhaps the developers can be asked to put a good surface on for their access. However, there are still a lot more of the new slabs which are loose and broken than the older ones.

Councillor Cross felt it would be better if the mini-roundabout was removed rather than left in the position it is.

Underwood Road

We had last received a letter dated 12th December 2006 that this road has been put forward for a scheme in 2007/08, subject to funds being available. It was AGREED to write to Atkins again that we do hope this will still be in the schedule for re-surfacing and that this can be done early in the new financial year.

Rep's Review

Copies of the February edition of the Rep's Review were available at this Meeting, for information, together with copy of an information sheet on re-surfacing concrete roads.

Bus Shelter, Market Hill

Councillor Mrs Talbot referred to the requests we have received for a bus shelter outside the Library, and said the railway link bus goes to Corby, and she felt we could ask Midland Mainline for this to come round by Rothwell as this visits the Hospital. This might give us some leverage to get the bus shelter we want. However, this bus is really an extension of the railway system to cater for Corby residents and this would make the journey much longer. Councillor Cross said this stop is very busy and the bus has to stop in the road because of parked cars. There are the new green buses on route 18 which are purpose-built and also kneel for easier access for prams and wheelchairs.

It was AGREED to write to Midland Mainline to ask if their bus could come round Rothwell, and to send a copy of our letter to Desborough Town Council for information.

The Chairman and Clerk had attended the launch of the new buses on service 18, and had asked the drivers about the mini-roundabout at Greening Road as they now have to use this. They confirmed that in order to get out into Desborough Road they have to inch forward to see if another vehicle is coming. The Clerk was to write and thank James Freeman, the Managing Director of Stagecoach East, for the launch and it was AGREED to also suggest they might like a link to our Website, or to just put their timetables on this.

562 PLANNING

Report of the Planning Referee

We had received notice of the Appeal in connection of the provision of an enclosed patio and associated works at the Rothwell House Hotel. As there had not been any Planning Application, we had not commented on this yet. It was AGREED to write and express our concern that no Application was submitted, and that this work is totally out of character with the Hotel, which is a Listed Building and in the Rothwell Conservation Area. We will also ask for a copy of the decision in due course.

Councillor Matthew felt that the enforcement notice was draconian in that they are asking for the level of the paved area be put back to the previous height and for York stone slabs to be put there, although this was originally grassed.

The following Approvals had been received:-

KET/2006/0325 Land at Oxford Street – 15 flats.

KET/2006/1030 Kettering North Business Area – Building and infrastructure.

KET/2006/1111 17 Trinity Road – Conservatory.

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

- KET/2007/0060 1-3 Bell Hill – New shop front.
No objection.
- KET/2007/0078 18 Coronation Avenue – Garage
No objection.
- KET/2007/0086 Former M & M Autos Site, Desborough Road - Six houses.
No objection, as this will tidy up this site, but 3-storey buildings will be too high here and there needs to be one extra parking space. See letter regarding the drains.
- KET/2007/0093 Market House, Market Hill – Listed Building Consent for repairs to internal rainwater system and removal of dry rot infested wood block floor.
No objection.

The Chairman declared a personal interest in the last-mentioned Application, as Chairman of the Rothwell Preservation Trust. Mrs Mackay is Secretary to the Trust and therefore the response form was signed by Councillor Spendlove as Planning Referee.

- KET/2007/0120 Land to rear of 19 High Street – Detached garage, amendments to KE/04/0149.
No objection.
- KET/2007/0142 2 Butlin Close – Conservatory.
No objection.
- KET/2007/0166 6 Norton Street – Extensions and alterations.
No objection.
- KET/2007/0148, 0191, 0192, 0193, 0194 – Kettering North Business Park Various Applications.
No objection.

The Planning Referee had brought the following Application for consideration by the Town Council, and the observations were agreed as stated:-

- KET/2007/0136 Land south of Harrington Road – Residential development.
No objection, but 200 houses would be over-development for this site and there should be no more than 30 houses per hectare, with 30% affordable housing as now recommended in the Core Spatial Strategy. We would also be concerned about the traffic flow along Harrington Road. There is very little benefit for Rothwell apart from the bridge over the A14 which we welcome. We would like to know what educational contribution is being made and to be consulted on the draft s.106 agreement in due course, including details of the play areas to ensure these are appropriate.

Red Lion Square/Market Hill Vision

Copies of the letter from the Borough Head of Development Services, had been circulated prior to this Meeting. She suggested that we could meet Robin Matthews of the MTI with a view to setting up a working group to achieve the aims of the original MTI project and the issues which the Town Council would like to address could be the initial focus of this group. It is not possible for the Borough to commit any further funding at this time but she looked forward to hearing how they could otherwise contribute. It was AGREED to arrange a Meeting with Mr Matthews.

Councillor Mrs Brown had brought copies of a joint letter from residents and business owners in Market Hill. They had been enthusiastically involved in the discussion phases of this

improvement scheme, and had been impressed by the creative ideas put forward by Rothwell residents at these meetings and looked forward to the implementation of the first phase of the plan, which they hoped would begin quickly to keep pace with Rothwell's growing population and the need for regeneration. They felt it was remarkable that the Town Council should support those residents whose vision extended no further than smooth paving stones and the maintenance of the status quo. They also asked about the maintenance and promotion of the Market House, the sadly dilapidated jewel in Rothwell's crown. They hoped that the Town Council would reconsider its views urgently; they would be happy to meet to discuss their concerns further and would be keen to be involved in any positive improvement plans in the future.

It was AGREED to respond and explain the Town Council's views, as put forward in the joint observations with the Town Centre Partnership. As to the Market House, this is owned by the Preservation Trust and the Clerk explained that the Trust had been advised by English Heritage some years ago, and more recently by two building firms, that the deposits on the stonework are not causing any damage, but to even give these stones a gentle wash by trickling water on them and using a soft brush would damage them and should not be done under any circumstances. The grilles are essential to prevent damage to the leaded windows. Because not everything was wanted the Borough said we would not have anything and withdrew the finance there had been, but in fact funds were not available for all the items in the original Vision. It was FURTHER AGREED to invite Mr and Mrs Panter to join the Town Centre Partnership, as we do want more business people on this Committee.

Core Spatial Strategy

Councillor Mrs Weston had taken this document to look through, and confirmed that there were no comments we should make at this stage although there is the recommendation that there should be 30% affordable housing with any development.

Councillor Mrs Brown said the Planning Application for Site 8 to the south of the A14 is to go before Planning Committee B on 27th March, and she understood the Officers were to recommend refusal because this would be outside planning policy. It was AGREED to write to all the Members of the Borough Planning Committee B to explain why the Town Council supports this Application.

563 ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITY

Community Centre & Other Facilities

Copies of the Report of the Meeting held on 20th February 2007 had been circulated prior to this Meeting. It was AGREED that the Report be approved and adopted.

The Clerk had subsequently received an E-mail from Ms Bellamy, with the working draft of her document 'Focus on Rothwell' and these had also been circulated. As she had wanted any comments quickly, the Clerk had replied that the proposed industrial site to the south of the A14 should be included, together with other venues in the town which had been omitted. These comments were approved.

Councillor Whyte joined the Meeting at 9.00 pm.

Fire Service Review

It was reported that in the Evening Telegraph of 17th February, there was an article about the Fire Service in which it said that Kettering Fire Station may be set for a move, and if this was to the west of the town, then it could mean that Desborough and Rothwell Stations were no longer viable. It was AGREED to write and ask if there could be full public consultation before any decisions are made.

Councillor Pote will also look at this as our County Councillor.

Wind Farms

Councillor Spendlove said developers are looking at the Rothwell area to set up new wind farms. Some Members felt these are a good idea, but others asked whether they were really effective.

Town Centre Partnership

Copies of the Report of the Meeting held on 6th March 2007 were available at this Meeting. It was AGREED that the Report be approved and adopted.

We had now received a quote from Phoenix Printers that the 250 brochures would cost £205 and this was AGREED.

Seats, Squires Hill

The Clerk had ascertained that these missing seats had been taken into the Borough Council depot for refurbishment, and it was hoped they would be returned shortly.

564 MATTERS OF BUSINESS

Amendments to Code of Conduct

Copies of the proposed amendments had been available at the February Meeting, and Members did not have any queries on these.

Local Elections 3rd May 2007

Copies of the letters from the Borough Council relating to the timetable for the forthcoming local elections, and the review of polling places within the Borough had been circulated prior to this Meeting, for information. Copies of a letter regarding the Code of Conduct relating to elections were available at this Meeting.

Local Byelaws

We had received a set of the Byelaws relating to the regulation of premises used for acupuncture, tattooing and similar services.

Licensing Application

We had received notification of an application to vary the Licence for The Woolpack Inn. It was AGREED that we did not want this open any longer than the other premises, so we will ask for it to close at 1.00 am, and no live or recorded music outside after 11.00 pm which is the same as the other premises. This is particularly important now that there are the new houses behind the Ladywell Bakery, as two of the units are just beyond the boundary wall of The Woolpack.

565 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	£436.10
I H Buchanan	Internal Auditor's fees	£125.00
Cash	Petty Cash	£30.00

We had arranged to have an entry in Yellow Pages for the Town Council, which would include our E-mail address and Website. We have not yet received the invoice but this will cost £76.38 including VAT.

567 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.