

## ROTHWELL TOWN COUNCIL

A Meeting of Rothwell Town Council was held at 7.25 pm after the Annual Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, 15th May 2007 in the Market House, Market Hill, Rothwell.

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

### 1 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Councillor Jones and P C O'Hara, and from Councillor Unger who would be obliged to join the Meeting late.

### 2 COMMUNITY POLICING

#### General Report

No Police Officer was able to attend the Meeting. Copies of the Report of the Meeting held on 4th April 2007 relating to the Community Speed Watch Urban Pilot Scheme had been circulated. It had been decided to defer a decision on this until this Meeting so that the new Members of the Town Council could take part. The Chairman explained that we were looking at this scheme whereby members of the public could be trained to use a hand-held speed gun.

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Cross, **SECONDED** by Councillor Mrs Talbot and **RESOLVED** that this item be put on the Agenda for the next Meeting to give Members more time to consider the issue.

#### Police Questions from the Public

A member of the public reported that a Police Officer had mentioned that Desborough had bought a third Policeman but Rothwell had refused this. It was not known if they were intending to raise a precept to enable them to do this. Councillor Pote thought we could have our own PCSOs and this would cost about £15,000 a year. The PCSO team has now been spread throughout a wider area. To date the Town Council has not supported additional Council Tax for Rothwell residents because we felt it would be unfair unless Kettering also did this. It was **AGREED** to find out what is happening in Desborough.

### 3 15 WALES STREET

Copies of the notes from a Meeting of the Chairman and Clerk with Mr Chris Bentley, the Borough Property Manager, and Mr Stuart Hendry, Architect, in connection with the proposals for development at 15 Wales Street and the adjoining land had been circulated prior to this Meeting. Mr Bentley was currently on holiday, but Mr Hendry was at the Meeting to discuss this matter with the Town Council.

Mr Hendry had brought copies of the drawings for Members to look at, including one coloured set. This is a joint scheme between the Borough and the owner of 15 Wales Street to try and get the matter resolved. This would be a terrace development around the corner and would include the refurbishment of 15 Wales Street as a single dwelling with its own garden. There would be gates to the land at the rear to provide security. They will go out on a form of tender to bid for the purchase of the site but they will have to build what the Borough has approved. The Planning Application has yet to be submitted but they want to keep the Town Council informed in case we had any comments. The Chairman pointed out that any comments from the Members this evening would be independent from the formal response which the Town Council will make on the Planning Application itself and this was accepted by Mr Hendry.

There will be seven dwellings including No.15. Some Members would prefer to see two parking spaces per unit especially as there would not be any space to park on the street. Mr Hendry said they could probably have a couple of extra spaces. They will be marketing the properties as having secure parking, but it was pointed out that there is secure parking at the Sovereign Heritage site at the bottom of Market Hill, but those residents still park on the street. This area is really a cross roads but any double yellow lines would be responsibility of the County Council. They have had preliminary discussions with the Highways Department and they feel that wrapping the buildings round the corner will provide a visual obstruction of the new houses and this will act as a deterrent to people speeding here. People may have difficulty coming out although Members welcomed the plan to improve this area.

Nearby residents were present at the Meeting and they pointed out how many fires there had been at 15 Wales Street so they were keen on this development taking place. The Town Council also welcome this improvement but do want it to be done in the best way possible. Mr Hendry pointed out that the splay is very wide and is larger than what is normally required.

Mr Hendry will take these points on board and if they can increase the number of parking spaces they will do this. He anticipated that the Planning Application will be submitted fairly soon.

#### 4 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr West had hoped that all the Members of the Town Council would be present as this is the first Meeting since the Election. It was explained that Councillor Jones had arranged a holiday when it was proposed to have the Meeting the previous week, and Councillor Unger's child had been taken ill.

#### 5 MINUTES

It was MOVED by Councillor Pote, SECONDED by Councillor Cross and RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th April 2007 be confirmed and signed.

#### 6 NEW COUNCIL CHAMBER CHAIRS

These have been re-covered and are looking splendid but some of the arm rests are still loose and we will need to have these fixed.

#### 7 HIGHWAYS

##### Overdue Highways Work

Copies of the E-mail from Mr Paul Tysoe of the County Highways Department had been circulated prior to this Meeting referring to the following items:-

- (1) York Stone Slabs, Market Hill: he stated that the reinstatement to the York paving should have been completed, and this has been done.
- (2) Traffic Calming, Glendon Road: he understand that we should have received a response by now, but we have not received the sketch plans of the proposals.
- (3) Mini-Roundabout, Greening Road/Desborough Road: we have not heard anything further on this, but we will wait until the mini-roundabout has been provided in connection with the new Health Centre to see if this is alters the situation.
- (4) Gully and Drain Renewal: Mr Charlie Foster of Atkins has been in touch with us, and all the drains do seem to have been cleaned out and this work has been done more effectively than in the past
- (5) Footway Repairs, High Street: he appreciates we will feel the newer slabs are of a poor quality and that the work to lay them was not done properly. However, Atkins maintain they are happy with this and the new slabs comply with current British Standards for this product type. He still feels therefore that the main problem is vehicles over-riding the pavement and pre-cast concrete paving slabs will not withstand this sort of loading. He suggested careful siting of additional pedestrian barriers or bollards may help although these can become a maintenance liability. An alternative would be to replace the slabs with bituminous material as they did last year in certain locations agreed with the Town Council. If slabs were required to be retained, these could be re-laid on a reinforced foundation of concrete. Both these options would effectively mean undertaking a footway scheme and would be relatively expensive to carry out. They are undertaking footway works in Desborough Road – as with the High Street these are works that the Highways Agency had planned but they transferred the funding to the County to do this. In view of the development work still being undertaken in the High Street, they suggest we wait until the work in Desborough Road is complete to see if there are any surplus funds that could be spent on the High Street and we could then look again at potential options to see what the best way forward would be. In the meantime, Atkins will keep the High Street footway in a safe condition by attending to any broken or rocking slabs which become safety defects.

As to the slabs in the High Street, some Members wondered if this was the best solution for this area. It was AGREED to arrange a Site Meeting to discuss this further.

We have not heard anything regarding traffic calming in Glendon Road, although we had made it clear we felt this was an urgent issue because of the fatalities there. It was thought we were now looking at a mini-roundabout at Rock Hill and vehicle actuated signs. The Clerk subsequently checked the correspondence and the Town Council had still wanted to consider a build-out at Columbus Crescent as well as the mini-roundabout. Councillor Mrs Brown was keen to have a fixed speed camera in Glendon Road on the town side of Ragsdale Street. The County Council has had the money from the North Kettering Business Park for some time to enable them to provide this traffic calming. It was AGREED to ask Mr Tysoe if we could also discuss this issue with him and his colleagues at the Site Meeting to look at the High Street slabs.

Councillor Unger joined the Meeting at 7.55 pm and handed the Clerk his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

### Wales Street

We had received a reply from Atkins that at the present time this street does not rank high on the Schemes list, but it will be monitored and assessed as appropriate. Any potholes will be filled as necessary.

### B576 High Street/Kettering Road

Atkins had written to confirm that this area has been programmed to be resurfaced in this financial year 2007/08. We have received a further copy of the Rep's Review, copies of which were available at this Meeting, and this enclosed a list of the schemes to be carried out which included the following for Rothwell:-

Footway Resurfacing – Desborough Road/Kettering Road (this work is currently being carried out) and Underwood Road.

Carriageway Resurfacing – Underwood Road, Manor Road, Trinity Road, Moorfield Road and Desborough Road.

The Town Council would still like Daisy Bank Avenue and Columbus Crescent to have some attention and we will monitor these areas.

### Highway/Footpath Closures

The Clerk had received Notice that a section of Lapin Lane, Thorpe Underwood was to be closed for carriageway patching, and that Footpath UH2 behind Gordon Street was to be closed in the interests of public safety while the development at Groococks Factory takes place. The latter Order came into effect on 5th April 2007 and will last for six months.

### Congestion on the A14

We had circulated copies of the Report of the Meeting held on 2nd April 2007, and Mr Mike Sumner, the Regional Manager for the Highways Agency had written regarding the statement that the Highways Agency representatives said they would not object to the current employment proposal to the south of Rothwell. He confirmed that they will not be objecting to development on the grounds that it would be on the possible line of an improvement option for the A14, but the Agency is reserving its position with respect to the site on other grounds, including capacity issues at the adjacent junctions and on the A14 itself. However, the Agency is currently working with the developers to identify sustainable transport solutions that can be implemented in support of the application. He also pointed out that the situation at Cohen's Yard was quite different from that south of Rothwell, in as much as Cohen's Yard had been developed previously, whereas the site at Rothwell is green field and not allocated for employment use in the Local Plan.

It was confirmed that we have not heard when the Planning Application for Site 8 is to be determined as this was deferred from the original date.

### Footpaths

It was reported that residents have complained that the footpath in Evison Road is in a poor condition, and Councillor Mrs Talbot will look at this. Those in Bridge Street are also bad and we will mention this at the Meeting on Red Lion Square/Market Hill.

## 8 PLANNING

### Report of the Planning Referee

We had received notification of an Appeal against the Refusal for three dwellings at the rear of 25 Littlewood Street. The Appeal against Refusal of the Application for an extension at 15 Vickers Close was refused.

The following Approvals had been received:-

KET/2006/1098	Land adjoining 31 Manor Road – Dwelling.
KET/2007/0142	2 Butlin Close – Conservatory.
KET/2007/0166	6 Norton Street – Extensions and alterations.
KET/2007/0180	2 Norton Street – Extension.
KET/2007/0247	4 Lancaster Road – Extension.

Amended plans had been received in respect of Application KET/2007/0127 for a dwelling and garage on land adjoining 17 Castle Hill and this showed the garage for the existing house would be on land owned with the new house. We had therefore objected to the amended plans because these remove the off-road parking for No.17 Castle Hill and this street is a very busy through-road to the Infant and Junior Schools. We feel at least two parking spaces must be provided on land which is being retained with the existing house at 17 Castle Hill.

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

KET/2007/0287	18 Gordon Street – Conversion of old bakery building to residents and small extension. No objection, but as this is the last bakehouse in Rothwell, perhaps the oven doors could be retained, either as a feature in the house or donated to the Rothwell Heritage Centre.
KET/2007/0290	Glendon Hill Farm, Glendon Road – Amendment to domestic curtilage, accesses and boundaries. No objection.
KET/2007/0296	23 High Street – Variation of Condition 3 of KET/2007/0788. No objection.
KET/2007/0301	6 Magellan Close – Extensions. No objection.
KET/2007/315	Land to the west of Rothwell Town Football Club, Cecil Street – Renewal of KE/02/0156 for replacement of training area and floodlighting. No objection.
KET/2007/0335	Woodfield Farm, Glendon Road – Timber framed outbuildings. No objection.
KET/2007/0351	76 Glendon Road – Dropped kerbs for drive. No objection.
KET/2007/0361	8 Trinity Court – Extension. No objection.
KET/2007/0379 pipe	Empingham to Hannington Pipeline – Removal of hedgerows to allow laying in the construction of a new water main. No objection.

Councillor Spendlove declared a Personal Interest in the following Application, and as the Deputy Planning Referee was away, Councillor Whitlam dealt with it as follows:-

KET/2007/0354	Rothwell Lodge Farm – Dwelling with extended driveway. No objection.
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### Groococks Factory Development

We had asked the Borough Council for details of the proposed footpath through Manor Park, to be provided as part of this residential development, and Ms Bellamy had sent us copy sketch plan and the working in the s.106 agreement, copies of which had been circulated prior to this Meeting. The precise line of the footpath has yet to be agreed, but this is on the western side of the Park which we wanted as the ground is more level there.

## 9 ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITY

### Location of Recycling Bins

Copies of the Report of the Site Meeting held on 1st May 2007 had been circulated prior to this Meeting. Councillor Pote did not think there would be any problems with the re-location of the recycling bins to the access by Brachers Allotments. We have not yet heard as to whether this can be done so that the bins are not returned after Rowell Fair. The Clerk has not received any response from the allotment holders as to whether they have any concerns. There will almost certainly be some items still left in Market Hill Square if the bins are moved, probably for about three months so we will ask the Borough Council to monitor this.

### Red Lion Square/Market Hill

A Meeting is to be held with the Market Towns Initiative and other bodies at 7.30 pm on 22nd May 2007 in the Trinity Centre, and the Town Council and Town Centre Partnership are asked to send two representatives each. We had already asked the other Members of the Partnership if they wished to go, but no-one was able to. It was AGREED that Councillors Pote and Spendlove will represent the Town Council, and Councillors Cross and Matthew the Partnership.

### Bus Services

As to our suggestion that the Midland Mainline bus link should also call at Rothwell, we have now received a letter from Desborough Town Council that they suggest we jointly consider the option of two buses (the current one serving Corby and a second serving Rothwell and Desborough to the railway station) or seek an extension of the No.19 service to the station. They asked for our views. It was AGREED to circulate copy correspondence on this issue and to put it on the Agenda for the next Meeting.

### Sure Start

The County Council is proposing to provide an additional 26 Sure Start Children's Centres, including one at Rothwell Infant School. Councillor Pote had been asked about this because residents in Leys Avenue were very concerned about the entrance to the new Centre. This will be to the left of the car park which comes out into Leys Avenue. People going to the Nursery School already park in this street and use it to turn round. There are also a lot of children and parents walking here. This Centre will serve both Rothwell and Desborough so there will be a lot of extra children and the residents feel that the access should be at the rear. Councillor Pote has mentioned this to the County Council and there was to have been a Meeting on 9th May, which he and Councillor Cross as a Governor were to have attended, but this has been cancelled for further consultation. Councillor Pote has arranged for Councillor Kirkbride to look into this.

Councillor Cross had heard about this proposal in October 2006 and there were discussions about where on the site of the Infant School this Centre should be. The County Council decided where they wanted it in January 2007 and then told the residents. The Nursery was recently burnt down but they put this back on its original site because the Council felt this was safe.

Councillor Cross understood that it is now up to the Borough Planning Department to consider when the Application is submitted. There have been much worse proposals in the town, such as the development at the Rifle Band Club with many more cars coming out near the Junior School. The main advantage would be that some of the children will go from the Centre on to the Nursery Unit on the same site. The County already owns this land as well. We do not know how many children are likely to use this, the hours it will be open or the number of staff. If we had a relief road to the north and across to Rushton Road, there could be an alternative access.

#### Listed Buildings

Copies of the Listed Buildings in the town had been circulated prior to this Meeting, for information.

#### Trinny and Susannah

Councillor Mrs Brown felt there was a very good atmosphere during the filming in Rothwell for the Trinny and Susannah programme. It was thought about 900 women took part and they seemed to enjoy themselves.

#### Tesco Lorries

Councillor Unger has been asked about these delivery lorries because Tesco are now doing this during peak times. They had previously said they would avoid 7.30 to 9.00 am and if a lorry came during that time they were turned away. However, we do not know if there is still the same Manager there. Councillor Mrs Talbot said the Co-op Chemists and Lloydspharmacy have deliveries but no-one complains about those. It was thought there are not as many deliveries of these in a day. The Town Council would like to have the double yellow lines extended near Lloydspharmacy.

It was AGREED to write to the Manager and ask if they are still avoiding the peak times, and as they will have to use the vans during Rowell Fair, perhaps they could consider retaining this system of delivery.

#### Dog Mess in the Town Centre

Councillor Unger thought that the amount of dog mess in the area was worse than ever, particularly around School Lane first thing in the morning. Councillor Pote said we should contact Mr Ben Wilesmith at the Borough Council, who has already been asked to monitor the Charles Street area. It was AGREED to write to the Borough Council.

## 10 MATTERS OF BUSINESS

#### NHS Foundation Trust

The Clerk had received a letter from the Northamptonshire Healthcare Trust asking for the Town Council's support in recruiting members to the Foundation Trust to ensure that the residents have their say in shaping the future. Copies of the application forms were available.

#### Parish Council Conference

We had received a letter about the next Conference to be held at Wootton Hall from 4.30 to 8.30 pm on 24th May 2007. Councillor Pote might be able to go, but will not know for a couple of days, and no-one else was available.

They had asked for items for the Agenda and it was AGREED to write, with copies for the Chief Constable and Chief Superintendent Dean Smith, and ask for a discussion on policing in Rothwell, as we are dismayed that it seems we are losing our dedicated Police Constable and PCSOs but we would like to retain these. We will also ask if some meetings could be held in the north of the County.

### Pocket Park

We had received a letter from the County Pocket Parks Officer with forms from Volunteer Action Northamptonshire (VAN) which helps young people find the right placement for volunteering, and support for each individual. The Pocket Park is now fairly wild and rubbish does get dropped there, so we will inspect this.

### Re-opening of Railway Lines

The Clerk had received a letter and information from the Bedfordshire Railway & Transport Association in connection with re-opening railway lines. It was AGREED to take no action here.

### Forthcoming Meetings

The Chairman has been invited to the Annual General Meeting of the Rothwell Citizens Welfare Committee, which is to be held at 8.00 pm on Wednesday, 23rd May. This is the date of our Annual Parish Assembly which had been arranged for 7.30 pm. It was AGREED to alter the time to 7.00 pm which should give the Chairman time attend the Citizens Welfare Committee.

## 11 FINANCIAL REPORT

### General Statement

The Clerk submitted a written statement as attached. It was MOVED by Councillor Pote, SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Brown and RESOLVED that the statement be approved and the following amounts paid:-

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Service or Goods</u>	<u>Amount</u>
NRG Group Ltd (Paid 23.4.07)	Photocopier Maintenance	£30.64
Yell Ltd (Paid 23.4.07)	Yellow Pages Entry	£76.38
Mrs C E Mackay	Clerk's Salary	£446.30
Colemans	Stationery	£22.74
Cash	Petty Cash	£30.00

### New Signatories

It was MOVED by Councillor Mrs Talbot, SECONDED by Councillor Spendlove and RESOLVED that the Councillors Matthew and Mills be appointed new signatories on the Rothwell Town Council and Rothwell Town Council In Bloom Accounts. It was MOVED by Councillor Spendlove, SECONDED by Councillor Howe and RESOLVED that Councillor Matthew be appointed a new signatory on the Rothwell Town Centre Partnership Account.

## 12 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 requested to withdraw.