

## ROTHWELL TOWN COUNCIL

A Meeting of Rothwell Town Council was held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday, 13th April 2010 in the Market House, Market Hill, Rothwell.

PRESENT:                      Councillor A J Mills                      Chairman  
    Councillor C W Cross  
    Councillor I F Jelley  
    Councillor D W Jones  
    Councillor N A Matthew  
    Councillor A C Pote  
    Councillor Mrs L A Russell  
    Councillor K D Sumpter

### 396 PRAYERS

Before the business of the Council commenced, the Revd Canon John Westwood said Prayers and mentioned the work of the Town Council, and the forthcoming Election.

### 397 APOLOGIES

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

### 398 COMMUNITY POLICING

#### General Report

PC O'Hara was present at the Meeting and went through the crime figures for March which showed a total of 42 reported crimes as follows:-

- Burglary dwelling - 4
- Burglary other - 2
- Criminal damage - 15
- Deception/fraud - 5
- Drug offences - 2
- Sexual offences - 1
- Theft from motor vehicles - 2
- Theft/handling - 7
- Violence offences - 4

He reported that some of these offences, particularly theft/handling, include ones committed in the Telford Way Industrial Estate, so for Rothwell itself these would be lower.

Councillor Pote said most of the problems in Rothwell are criminal damage, and he asked what progress was being made to deal with people carrying out these crimes. PC O'Hara said they do catch the perpetrators who tend to be juveniles, and they have made progress with the assistance of the PCSOs. They will often discuss this with the parents. If they become offenders the Police try to deter them before they reach Court, often with the help of Youth Workers. However, there are not a lot of Police Officers in this area at the present time for various reasons, but they do what they can and treat this offence very seriously. Part of the action is trying to deal with under-age drinking.

Councillor Cross reported that parking has increased a lot in Harrington Road by the Moorfield Road junction, and it appears that these are workmen who stop there and are picked up in a van.

It is believed that Balfour Beattie might be involved. PC O'Hara said there has been an accident there recently and the Police are looking into this. It was also mentioned that the theft of milk is happening again in the Moorfield Road area and this seems to be when the holidays are here. PC O'Hara will also look at this. As to parked vehicles, they should be about 5m away from a junction and the Police can give out tickets if a vehicle is parked too close to a junction. It was mentioned that we used to have the advice leaflets as well which the PCSOs could put on a badly parked vehicle. It was confirmed that the PCSOs still cannot issue parking tickets. The Chairman asked if the Borough Councillors could put pressure on for the Traffic Warden to visit Rothwell more often.

Councillor Mrs Russell said this issue of bad parking is raised constantly but nothing seems to be done: she had previously mentioned the parking at the Harrington Road/Charles Street junction. PC O'Hara said there are also parking issues in Desborough and tickets are issued in both towns, but the Police cannot just target Harrington Road. Councillor Mrs Russell would like to see evidence of the number of tickets and PC O'Hara will raise this with Sgt Preece. Councillor Jones said there was certainly a case when a resident had a ticket for parking in the bus bay in front of the greengrocers. There is only one Traffic Warden at present, but Councillor Pote hoped this would be increased to five if the Government will allow the general Wardens to issue parking tickets. Councillor Cross said Harrington Road is the main route to the A14 and then to the motorways so it is a busy road. Councillor Pote said if we raised a precept, we could also pay for our own Traffic Warden.

It was AGREED to write to Mr Chris Stopford at the Borough Council to ask for the Traffic Warden to visit Rothwell more frequently.

It had been raised at the last Meeting about using the speed gun in Harrington Road and Glendon Road, and PC O'Hara said Sgt Preece was going for enforcement in Glendon Road.

#### Police Questions from the Public

A resident asked if the Police could also look at the corner by the Co-op Store and the Blue Bell Inn. PC O'Hara said they would not be allowed to use the speed gun there because of the road conditions.

It was reported that there are 30 foot dead elms in Glendon Road on the left-hand side about 100 yards before you leave Rothwell on the wide verge, and it was felt these were dangerous. It was AGREED to report these to Street Doctor.

#### 399 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

(1) Weekend Event: Mr Gordon Davis, the Landlord of the Blue Bell Inn, explained that he holds weekly bike meetings on Wednesday nights, and he wanted to have a weekend event to encourage the bikers to come in on Saturday and Sunday. He asked if the Town Council would have any objections to him advertising this, and if they could assist with camping facilities. It was suggested that perhaps the field which was used for the Fair could be available, and gave the contact for this. Councillor Pote also suggested that they get in touch with Ms Pia Bellamy at the Borough Council. Rothwell Town Football Club was also suggested as they would welcome events and have the necessary facilities. The Fair Society might also be able to assist with advice.

(2) Nosehill Footpath, Gordon Street to Well Lane: a resident asked what is happening with this path. There was a Meeting between the Borough and Bovis but the fence is still down and

there is a lot of broken glass as well as the barbed wire. It was thought nothing has been done because Bovis are not building there at the present time. The Town Council recently carried out a litter pick and cleared 25 bags of rubbish from this area, together with items such as old bicycles. There was a lot of dog mess there, left in plastic bags, so it is not just younger people who are doing this but there must be a lot of older ones as well. Councillor Jones did not think there needed to be a fence there anymore. The resident will let the Clerk have the contact for Bovis.

It was AGREED to ask for Bovis or the Borough Council to remove the whole of the fence along this footpath, and contact the County Rights of Way Department if necessary.

#### 400 MINUTES

It was MOVED by Councillor Cross, SECONDED by Councillor Matthew and RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th March 2010 be confirmed and signed.

#### 401 ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITY

##### Bus Stops, Medical Centre

Copies of the Report of the Site Meeting held at the Medical Centre this morning were available at this Meeting. It has now definitely been agreed to have a three month trial period with bus stops on both sides of the road. Mr West has been informed of this decision. They are to take away some of the railings but Councillor Pote thought only one panel would be necessary. We are to get warning signs to make people aware that buses will now stop here. We have asked the Borough Council to retain any monies they still have under the s.106 Agreement after the stops are put in, because if the trial period is successful we would probably want at least one bus shelter there.

We must give credit to Mr West because when the Town Council originally started campaigning for bus stops outside the Medical Centre, we were repeatedly told that the Town Council was only being difficult because we had opposed that site from the beginning as being too far out of the town centre. When Mr West raised the petition, this proved that it was not just the Town Council but this was something which the residents not only wanted but very much needed, and the Town Council was then able to resume its campaign for bus stops with the proof that we had the backing of the townspeople.

This road is still very busy and the Chairman thought that to change the priorities in the High Street might make this more difficult for Desborough residents to come through Rowell. The Chairman had discussed this with Mr Gore and he said we need to have a consultation period with residents to obtain their opinion. We had a plan for a scheme some time ago but this also showed different treatment of the road and footpaths.

It was AGREED to try and progress this matter by sending Mr Nick Gore copy of the plan we have to see if this could be altered to just show the change of priority at the High Street junctions with Bridge Street and Harrington Road. We will also ask him what form the consultation should take and what questions should be asked. It might be possible for the County Council to organise the consultation in the way which is necessary.

##### Proposed Community Project

This is a recurring item on the Agenda to see if progress can be made on the proposal by Major Richard Cook of the Salvation Army.

### Stockburn Memorial Trust

Copies of the letter from the Stockburn Memorial Trust Fund about their grants had been circulated prior to this Meeting, and a copy also sent to Major Cook in case this was useful for him.

### Town Centre Partnership

Copies of the Report of the Meeting held on 29th March 2010 had been circulated prior to this Meeting. It was AGREED that the Report be approved and adopted.

Mr Kevin Jones of Tykes Developments has been invited to join this Committee. Some Members felt that on occasions he might have a conflict of interests and this must be taken into account. It would be nice to have more business people on this Committee.

Councillor Pote mentioned the three-tier planters which he and Councillor Mrs Brown could purchase as part of their Ward Grant, and said they will have money available after the Election. He had let Councillor Jones have the planters catalogue. The Borough Council will plant these up, and deliver them to the location we want. This had not been decided and there could be objections from the adjoining property owners or occupiers.

The Junior School wanted to put something back into the town and Councillor Sumpter had suggested to Councillor Mrs Brown that they could do some planting in the garden in front of the Library. Councillor Pote thought the trough in this garden needed some holes put in because it gets waterlogged. Councillor Sumpter will arrange for this to be done.

### County Councillor's Empowerment Grant

Councillor Pote reported that he will be getting £10,000 again this year from the County, but £3,000 of this is for young people's activities and £7,000 for community projects.

### Action for Market Towns

Copies of the E-mail had been circulated prior to this Meeting, to give details of the next Seminar in Malton, North Yorkshire.

### Pocket Park

We had received the usual letter from Ms Rose Little, the County Pocket Parks Co-ordinator, together with several copies of the Pocketeer. In addition, the Clerk had received an E-mail from Rose Little that she had been contacted by Mr John Houghton of Tesco who has 12 volunteers who like to help in Pocket Parks. If we wanted to take advantage of this, we should contact Mr Houghton directly.

We did have an offer last year from people to do some work, but turned this down. However, it was felt that perhaps we now need work done to replace some of the walkways.

It was AGREED to ask Rose Little if she would come out and carry out a survey and advise what work needs to be done. There is a lot of wildlife in our Pocket Park so we do not want to do too much as this could damage the environment for the animals and birds.

Waste Recycling

Copies of the Bulletin on the Waste Recycling Centres had been circulated prior to this Meeting for information.

Tree Wardens

There had been a change of date for the Tree Warden Conference, and the Clerk had circulated details to Councillors Jones and Roebuck, together with information on how the salting of the roads can affect roadside trees.

Bus Services

Councillor Cross said there is a rumour that our bus services are to be cut, and he asked if anyone had any information about this. There was an article in the Evening Telegraph that some services might be cut, and they did mention Service 18 but it was felt it was likely it would only be the journeys to Market Harborough which might be cut down.

The Chairman reported that the resident of Connolly Drive has been in touch with him about the bus altering its route to take in that street, rather than Slade Valley Avenue. We did have the petition and did ask everyone in both areas. As there was a campaign to get the route moved, we did have about twice the number of people asking for a change, but the consensus was that if it was altered it is likely there would be another campaign to get this changed back. Stagecoach would not do a loop so that both streets would be covered, and would not in fact alter the route so it seems there is nothing further the Town Council can do.

Access into Scott Avenue

Councillor Jones said a resident had informed him that someone in Rushton Road had clamped the gate from the access by the water tower into Scott Avenue. The allotment holders here sometimes need access to take equipment in and can no longer do this, and access could also be needed for the emergency services and the Water Board and Electricity Board. There used to be a digital lock but this was broken.

It was AGREED to contact Anglian Water to see if they are aware of this, with a copy to the Borough Planning Department, to ask both bodies for their comments

Allotments

Councillor Jones had been asked who is the Allotment Representative on the Town Council. He felt there should be one because there are no longer any allotment plots available in the town. Shotwell Mill Lane particularly needs more security because their crops are being stolen. These are now owned by the Borough Council and residents should get in touch with them.

It was AGREED to write to the Borough Council and ask for greater security for the Shotwell Mill Lane Allotments.

Litter Pick

The Chairman said this was a great success and one member of the public did join in. It was felt that we will try and do this every year just after the clocks change. Councillor Pote said there is still a lot of rubbish in the Pocket Park so he wondered if he could have some yellow sacks to collect this. Councillor Mrs Brown had arranged for these sacks to be sent out to Rothwell.

## 402 HIGHWAYS

### Bollards, Bridge Street and Churchill Close

Copies of the Report of the Site Meeting held on 18th March 2010 had been circulated prior to this Meeting. The purpose of the Meeting was to consider whether a bollard should be put in front of the Arts and Heritage Centre in Bridge Street to stop vehicles mounting the pavement in this area, and to inspect the two bollards which have been put in at Churchill Close to see if these were appropriate.

As to the bollards in Churchill Close, it was felt there was sufficient room here, even with cars parked on the access road. It was AGREED that the Town Council is happy for the bollards to remain in Churchill Close.

Councillor Jones felt we were getting too many bollards in the town, and we have to be careful not to overdo this. He was therefore not sure we should have two bollards in Bridge Street. Councillor Pote also would not want bollards in Bridge street, and Councillor Matthew agreed the pavement is rather narrow here but perhaps there is some other treatment which would deter motorists from mounting the kerb. It was AGREED to ask whether there is an alternative road edge treatment to persuade motorists not to mount the kerb in the area of Bridge Street.

### Road Surface, Bridge Street/Market Hill

The edge of the roadway in both these streets is crumbling away, and the cobbles in the gutter are coming loose which is dangerous as a vehicle can propel these into the air. The various potholes created have been filled in but the whole of the road edge is wearing away.

It was AGREED to contact Mr Nick Gore and ask if this area could be considered for a scheme to permanently repair the road surface and to replace all the missing cobbles.

### Rights of Way

Part of Footpath UH6 near Harrington is to be closed so that work can be carried out to the overhead power lines. The length of the Order is for six months from 22nd March 2010. We had already been notified that this would be necessary.

As to Footpath UH1 from Well Lane Recreation Ground to the A14 near McDonalds, the County Council is to carry out work to the bridges here. They have already replaced the two sleeper bridges over ditches, and they intend to install a new metal bridge over the Slade Brook during the summer.

### Grit Bins

A letter had been received from Mr Martin Hammond, the Borough Deputy Chief Executive, that they are to support the County Council in their efforts to deal with snow and ice next winter, by identifying potential locations for more grit bins. Mr Hammond would therefore like to know where the Town Council feels there should be more grit bins. There will be a scoring system and he explained the system for allocating points. Copies of this letter were available at this Meeting.

It was AGREED that this be put on the Agenda for the next Meeting so that Members could have time consider where there is a need for grit bins.

403 PLANNINGReport of the Planning Referee

Councillor Jones presented the Report. The following Refusal had been received:-

KET/2010/0025 Midlands Co-operative, 6 Bell Hill - Signs and window graphics.

The following Approvals had been received:-

KET/2010/0013 27 Leys Avenue - Extension.

KET/2010/0026 5 Ladywell Mews - Gate.

KET/2010/0060 57 Connolly Drive - Extension.

KET/2010/0072 62 Greening Road - Extension.

The following Applications had been received and the Town Council's observations submitted as stated:-

KET/2010/0127 ) Market Harborough B S, 27 Bridge Street - Signs.

KET/2010/0129 ) No objection.

KET/2010/0145 2 Cabot Close - Extensions.  
No objection.

KET/2010/0176 Crispin Street Garage - Three flats.  
No objection.

Joint Core Strategy Review

Copies of the E-mail from the North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit had been circulated prior to this Meeting, with information of the JPR Website.

Training Session

The Clerk had received details of another training event being put on by Northants CALC and Planning Aid on 27th April, this time on s.106 Agreements. Councillor Jones would like to attend and the Clerk will ask Councillor Spendlove if he wants to go as well. If so she will book places for them if possible.

404 MATTERS OF BUSINESSPossible Capital Projects

There was nothing to report on this item.

Standards Committee

Copies of a letter from Ms Sue Lyons, the Borough Head of Democratic and Legal Services, had been circulated prior to this Meeting for information.

Ms Lyons had provided updates on a number of Standards matters that have recently been introduced by legislation and adopted by the Standards Committee. This largely related to dispensations, and she also sent a copy of The Standards for England Bulletin.

Northants Touring Arts

Copies of an E-mail had been forwarded to us by Mr Tim Bellamy, for information, about the Northants Touring Arts, whose aim is to develop the arts in rural locations across the County. This was noted.

A6 Towns Forum

Copies of the E-mail giving the dates for the next four Meetings of the A6 Towns Forum had been circulated prior to this Meeting. The dates are 23rd June, 8th September, 10th November 2010 and 9th February 2011.

May Meetings

It was AGREED that the Annual Town Council Meeting would be held before the ordinary May Meeting on 11th May 2010, and the Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday, 18th May, provided both these dates were convenient for the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Mrs Brown.

Licensing Application

We had received notification of an Application for late night refreshment only for McDonalds Drive Through on the A14. This would mean that they could sell refreshment 24 hours a day. It was AGREED to take no action on this application.

Miscellaneous

The Local Councils Conference is to be held on 16th June 2010 at Towcester Racecourse. No-one was available to attend.

Northamptonshire Acre had sent details of the Best Village Competition 2010. As Rothwell is not a village it was decided not to take any action.

405 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk submitted as written statement as attached. It was MOVED by Councillor Cross, SECONDED by Councillor Pote 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>
Neil Matthew (Paid 12.3.2010)	Reimbursement for new computer	£400.00
Mrs C E Mackay	Clerk's Salary	£477.70
Colemans	Stationery	£50.94
Cash	Petty Cash	£40.00

As to the Risk Assessment approved at the previous Meeting, the Clerk had spoken to Anne Ireson At the Borough Council, and she confirmed that if the Clerk was suddenly taken ill, the Borough would provide secretarial services so the Town Council could continue to function.

The Meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

Chairman

Date