

ROTHWELL TOWN COUNCIL

A Meeting of Rothwell Town Council was held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday, 10th August 2010 in the Market House, Market Hill, Rothwell.

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Councillor Mrs C M Brown	<u>Chairman</u>
	Councillor D W Jones	
	Councillor N A Matthew	
	Councillor A J Mills	
	Councillor A C Pote	
	Councillor R D Roebuck	
	Councillor K D Sumpter	
	Councillor Mrs M E Talbot	

437 PRAYERS

Before the business of the Council commenced, the Revd Canon John Westwood said Prayers, including for the town and the organisations here.

438 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Councillors Cross, Jelley, Mrs Russell and Spendlove.

439 COMMUNITY POLICING

General Report

PCSOs Sam Gell and Paul Miller were present at the Meeting and confirmed there were 42 crimes during July as follows, but several of these probably relate to certain addresses where they have cleared up several matters:-

- Burglary other - 4
- Criminal damage - 16
- Deception/fraud - 5
- Sexual offences - 2
- Theft from motor vehicles - 2
- Theft/handling - 5
- Theft of motor vehicles - 2
- Violence offences - 6.

Councillor Jones understood that on Saturday morning there was a vehicle parked length ways at the entrance to the old Health Centre so the dropped kerbs were blocked and mobility scooters could not get past. A resident did challenge this parking to the group, which comprised a man, a woman and children, but was subjected to a lot of verbal abuse. Councillor Jones passed details of the vehicle registration number to the PCSOs. We will also let them have details of the resident who received the verbal abuse.

Councillor Mills said there are still vehicles parked in the disabled parking spaces on Saturday mornings, so that the people who need these cannot park there. If people telephone the non-emergency number (03000 111222) the PCSOs will come down if they can and speak to the drivers. The Police and PCSOs have recently visited and warned people about bad parking and some tickets were given out.

It was reported that at the Harrington Road/Moorfield Road junction there are a lot of cars and vans parked there and these are obstructing visibility which makes this junction dangerous. The PCSOs were aware that there was an accident here some weeks ago and they will monitor this area again: there is an offence of parking too close to a junction.

The Chairman reported that there is a problem with youths congregating at the top of Slade Valley Avenue in cars and obviously drinking. There are wheel marks in the field there. It was also mentioned that people park at the bottom of Slade Valley Avenue and take their dogs for a walk. These vehicles block the junction and cause problems. Vehicles are also speeding in Connolly Drive. PCSO Gell said they have been out with the speed gun and they will look at this street. The Chairman had some registration numbers and will let the Police have these: she confirmed they are usually there at about 8.30 pm.

Police Questions from the Public

Mr West reported that the previous morning there were three cars parked in the disabled bays with only one showing the relevant form. He felt the Police should give out more tickets.

440 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

(1) Trees, Moorfield Green: some residents said they have got problems with their sewers and they have had Dyno-Rod out to put cameras down. The problem is being caused by the trees on this area with the roots damaging the pipes. There are six houses with the sewers going through the Green, and it will cost each house about £300 to rectify the problem with the sewers. They reported this to Street Doctor a few weeks ago. This has been going on for some time, and it was confirmed the Town Council has reported that the trees needed to be trimmed back on more than one occasion, as this has been brought up by Councillor Cross, the last time the previous month. The residents said the report from Dyno-Rod confirmed these trees are breaking up the sewers and they also block access for people. The branches of one tree are in the telephone wires. This is a private sewer because it goes under the green rather than in the road.

It was AGREED to write to Mr Nick Gore, the Highways Liaison Officer, about this problem and that there is a health problem with the broken sewers.

(2) Bus Bays outside the Medical Centre: Mr West said he raised the petition and there are now the bus stop signs in place. He thanked the Members of the Town Council and the Clerk for their work on this matter, especially Councillors Mrs Talbot and Mills. He would now like to see a seat opposite the Medical Centre so that people can sit down while they wait for a bus. He also asked the Members of the Town Council to fight to keep the bus stops and it was confirmed they would do this.

(3) Anaerobic Digester: the Chairman confirmed that this is not yet in operation, but residents said there is a nasty smell in the area. It was thought this might be the manure up on the fields at the farm. The Clerk has details of the Environment Officer responsible for the regulation of the new digestion plant, and had also received copy of the report submitted to the Rural Forum as to why the villages in the area were not consulted on the Planning Application. The Chairman will try and find out when this will start working, and it was confirmed we have written to the County Planning Officer again about the possibility of a s.106 Agreement to bring some benefits to Rothwell from this development.

(4) Precept: Mr West would like it put on record that he would object most strongly to a precept as we would have to pay extra for things we are already paying for. Councillor Pote said that, although he has mentioned this, he was not necessarily in favour of a precept but if the Borough Council withdraws our grant, we might have to do this.

(5) Footpath UH2 at the bottom of Manor Park: it was confirmed that the wall here is owned by the Borough Council. A resident said this is in a bad condition and Councillor Jones agreed the wall needs to be re-done. The Chairman said there is a Ward Walkabout this week, and they will look at this then.

As to the part of the path going up to Well Lane Recreation Ground, there is still the wooden frame from the kissing gate. Bovis Homes owns the land this part of the footpath is on and they want to retain this to stop motorcycles going there. Bovis have taken away the barbed wire and the scrub at the edge of this path. The Clerk had received an E-mail from the County Rights of Way Access Officer, that she has been contacted by the Architects who are drawing up plans for the widening of the footpath from the end of Gordon Street to the Community Centre. She asked if the Town Council is responsible for the lighting and if this needs replacing. The Clerk had replied that the Borough Council is responsible for this, and suggested they contact Pia Bellamy or Jim McNally. She also pointed out that these lights are often out and are subject to vandalism so new and very robust lights would be a good idea. This was AGREED.

(6) Leys Avenue: a resident complained that vehicles park at the entrance to Leys Avenue, and he wondered if there could be double yellow lines on this corner from Ninevah House to the Infant School car park entrance. It was AGREED to ask Mr Nick Gore if zigzags could be put here because it is the vehicular entrance to the School and some of the children also walk in and out this way.

(7) Former Health Centre: a resident asked what is to happen with this building, and it was confirmed that this is now owned by NHS Northamptonshire and because it is surplus to their requirements they are putting s up for sale.

441 MINUTES

It was MOVED by Councillor Matthew, SECONDED by Councillor Pote and RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th July 2010 by confirmed and signed.

442 ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITY

Proposed Community Project

This is a standing item on the Agenda and there was nothing to report at this Meeting.

Pocket Park

The Clerk confirmed that an application has been made to the Community Wildlife Fund, which has been acknowledged and we should have an answer by 10th September as to whether this has been successful.

As to clearing the scrub, BTCV do not do this but sometimes have a controlled fire to get rid of the excess. The Borough Council does not allow even a controlled fire on their land but Mr Ham Young, the Borough Grounds Services Officer has said they will collect this. I have asked if they need the scrub taken to the top of Well Lane Recreation Ground, or if they can collect this from the bottom of the Park but have not yet had a response. When we have confirmation that the BTCV volunteers can put the waste where the Borough is happy to collect it, the Clerk will accept the estimate of £987 including VAT. This was AGREED.

Town Centre Partnership

Copies of the Report of the Meeting held on 20th July 2010 had been circulated prior to this Meeting. It was AGREED that the Report be approved and adopted.

Councillor Pote had heard from the County Council with an update about 1-3 Bell Hill, that Mr Kevin Jones is pursuing his proposal for re-development here, and has been asked to go back to the County with an offer for both land and access to the property. His proposal has been passed to the Libraries Department who do not see any problem with the scheme. The Town Council will keep an eye on this situation to see how it progresses.

Councillor Matthew wondered if the Town Council had any comment about the new information board at the top of Market Hill Square which the Partnership has had put up. Members felt this was very good.

Tree Warden Scheme

The Clerk had received further information about the Tree Warden Scheme, copies of which had been passed to Councillors Jones and Roebuck.

Councillor Jones reported that there are three chestnut trees on the east side of the Well Lane Recreation Ground some of which have been affected by *Cameraria ohridella*, and he had some information on this. The top one is very diseased but this should re-establish itself next year. The middle tree is a bit affected but the one at the bottom seems alright at present. There is conker cancer as well which is more serious so we will have to look out for this.

It was reported there is a dead tree on the right-hand side of the Recreation Ground at the bottom of the hill on the west side which could be dangerous. There is also a dead tree by the Blythe Close Play Area in Columbus Crescent.

It was AGREED to ask the Borough Council to remove both these trees.

There are also the five tall dead trees in Glendon Road, on the left-hand side as you drive out of Rothwell. These have been reported but nothing has been done yet. The Police brought this to our attention because if they come down, they would go across the road and this is dangerous.

It was AGREED to chase this.

As to the trees in Squires Hill, we had received a response from the Borough Arboricultural Development Officer that pollarding is a form of management where the crowns of the trees are removed every few years but this is not what we are asking to be done to these trees. To remove the crowns would be topping them but this is not good for the health of the trees and is not British Standard tree work which is what they work to at the Borough Council. All the lime trees they manage at the Borough are looked after in the same way, by cyclic crown lifting and crown reduction as and when necessary. When the trees were pruned, they were lifted and reduced to ensure the vista of the Church would be achieved. The Chairman will take this up at the Borough Council.

Footpath Bridge

Councillor Pote reported that the metal bridge to replace the wooden one at the bottom of the Recreation Ground has arrived and will be put in shortly.

Spring Gardens

Councillor Mills reported that a resident of Spring Gardens wants to have his garden slabbed at his own expense because he can no longer manage his garden. The Borough Housing Officer

came out and said they could not do this because of the drainage. It was not thought there was anything we could do about this.

Brachers Allotments

Councillor Sumpter had attended a Meeting at these allotments because of the equipment being stolen from there. Two PCSOs and the Crime Prevention Officer also attended. The Association is providing some fencing and it was suggested they could block access from Brachers Wood. They would like some locks put on the gates as well.

Play Equipment

Councillor Jones said a resident has said that the play areas are only suitable for children up to nine years old, and there is nothing for the older children. Some people are going to Loddington because the equipment there is better for children of about nine to thirteen. If there is the play area provided by Bovis, we could ask for something suitable for the older ones. It was AGREED to let Ms Pia Bellamy at the Borough Council know that this is what is most needed in the town.

Borough Ward Initiative Grants

Councillor Mrs Talbot said she has some funds if we need this for the Pocket Park. Councillor Pote and the Chairman are to provide a three-tier planter each and these will be installed by the end of October in front what used to be the Chinese takeaway. The Borough will plant and maintain these and they are removable by fork lift truck.

Manor Park

As to levelling this area, we are waiting for Councillor Spendlove to be able to bring the top soil over. It was reported that the path in Manor Park has had some pea gravel put on and is now satisfactory.

443 HIGHWAYS

Greening Road

Councillor Mrs Talbot had received some E-mails from a resident complaining about the amount of traffic using this street to access and exit the A14. They have in excess of 200 traffic movements per hour at peak community times, and large articulated and rigid vehicles in excess of the 5 tonne limit are daily present, although Montsaye School is here. The noise and vibration is totally unacceptable, and he felt the traffic volume would result in structural damage to both the road and properties. He thought the A6 bypass was to be used to access the A14.

The second E-mail specified a traffic count from 6.00 am on Monday to 6.00 pm on Tuesday as 3,000 vehicles without school traffic. He has looked at the sign at the bypass roundabout and this reads Kettering top with (A14) in brackets below and he thought this was misleading as it suggests you must travel to Kettering to find the A14. In his view the sign should read as follows: A14 E /A14 W 2 miles (Kettering and Midlands) as commuters would then know that the A14 was only two miles away from this A6 junction.

It was thought the problems are probably being caused by people from the west side of Desborough or in Rothwell itself. Councillor Mrs Talbot will ask the resident about the HGVs and whether he has any details of them. Councillor Matthew said we should be aware as we have asked to change the priorities in the High Street.

It was AGREED to forward copies of these E-mails to Mr Nick Gore and to let him know that we are trying to find out more about the HGVs.

Gully Cleansing

Copies of information received from the Borough Council on the County contract for gully cleansing and the schedule had been circulated prior to this Meeting.

A14 Roundabouts

Councillor Pote reported that there was to be an inspection of the roundabouts with Ms Sarah Parr from the Borough Council, as they have said they might plant these up. He also hopes that perhaps the bridge parapet from the old A6 might be able to be put there as a feature. This is being stored at Sandy Hill Farm and was moved when the A14 was built.

Highways Maintenance

It was reported that there is a deep pothole outside No.49 Well Lane. It was AGREED to report this. There is a scheme for Bridge Street and Market Hill now being carried out, and this is very welcome.

The Clerk had received confirmation that the overhanging vegetation on the service road at the bottom of Moorfield Road has been cut back.

Bus Stops outside Medical Centre

Councillor Mills said there is to be a photograph taken by the Evening Telegraph the following day at 2.00 pm outside the Medical Centre to advertise that we now have bus stop signs.

Rights of Way

The Rights of Way Officers are aware that Footpath UH15 from Jubilee Street to Kettering Road is still blocked off and they are trying to get in touch with the Bovis Site Manager. As to Footpath UH16 from Gordon Street up to Well Lane Recreation Ground, the Rights of Way Officer had informed the Clerk that the overhanging vegetation has been cut back, although they did not do this. Earlier in the Meeting a resident of Gordon Street had said she had cut this back, which was appreciated.

444 PLANNING

Report of the Planning Referee

Councillor Jones presented the Report in the absence of Councillor Spendlove. The following Approvals had been received:-

KET/2010/0285 Land at Rothwell Football Club - Replacement of training area and floodlighting.

KET/2010/0354 Crispin Street Garage - Three flats.

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

KET/2010/0289 21 Market Hill - Stud wall, extractor and vent, cover quarry tiles.
No objection.

- KET/2010/0394) 6 Market Hill - Change of use to allow outside tables and chairs.
 KET/2010/0400) No objection.

The following Application had been received and Councillor Jones declared a personal interest as a Member of Churches Together In Rothwell and did not take part in the discussion. The Town Council's observations were AGREED as stated:-

- KET/2010/0474) Trinity Centre, Market Hill - Extension, re-open and new windows,
 KET/2010/0475) replace window with door in front elevation.
 No objection.

Proposed Truck Stop

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Brown, had declared a prejudicial interest on this matter because she is part of the Borough Planning Committees and she also knows the Applicant. She did not therefore attend this Meeting which was chaired by the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Sumpter. The Report of the Special Planning Meeting to discuss this Application had been circulated prior to this Meeting and it was AGREED that the Report be approved and adopted and the Town Council's response has been submitted as follows:-

KET/2010/0469 Land off Orton Road - Secure 24 hour truck stop and amenities.
 Rothwell Town Council objects to this proposal for the following reasons:-

- (1) The volume of extra traffic which would be generated at junction 3 of the A14 would be unacceptable and unworkable with up to 92 lorries per hour leaving the site at peak times, not counting casual use for fuel and food. There are already a significant number of additional vehicles from the distribution centre at Desborough, and the statistics quoted for the traffic loadings at junction 3 appear to be out of date and taken before this distribution centre was fully operational. There is still the proposed expansion of employment land at Desborough which would increase the number of vehicles even more. This proposed truck stop might preclude the Borough Council's proposal for an employment site next to the A6 bypass as part of the Rothwell North development, because junction 3 would be full to capacity by then. We would be interested in seeing the comments from the Highways Agency about the additional traffic.
- (2) There could be serious adverse environmental pollution into the Slade Brook and its tributaries here, with the inevitable leakage of diesel and possibly other noxious substances being transported. In the event of an accident or a vehicle fire, the risk is even greater and would affect the Slade Brook through Kettering and probably even further. We would be interested in seeing the comments from the Environment Agency, who will undoubtedly be consulted.
- (3) Noise and light pollution would adversely affect residents living in the south-west of Rothwell and there would be a severe impact on Slade Valley House, including from refrigeration units on lorries, which the proposed bunding will not eliminate. There could also be increased acid pollution of the buildings in the town, including our Listed Buildings and those in the Conservation Area, due to the fact that the prevailing wind is from the south-west.
- (4) When the application for an industrial site here was refused, two of the reasons given by the Borough Council was that the area was susceptible to flooding and was outside the town boundary, so the area was not eligible for any development at that time.
- (5) Having a truck stop here could itself attract more vehicles onto the A14 and onto the local roads around Rothwell, including through the residential areas, which would increase the traffic levels here more than they would otherwise be.

(6) Whilst the Applicant suggests there would only be a maximum of 92 vehicle movements per hour, when the A14 was being planned the Town Council was given an estimated number of vehicles per day, but the actual number of vehicles turned out to be double the projected figure from the beginning and we anticipate the same could happen with a truck stop. This would cause such congestion on junction 3 of the A14 that vehicles would back up off the slip road onto the main carriageway. We fear this might happen anyway even if the number was no more than the estimated 4,798 return trips each week.

(7) Several other sites were considered for a truck stop in North Northamptonshire and we strongly believe that this site off Orton Road is not the most suitable option.

445 MATTERS OF BUSINESS

Proposed Capital Projects

This is a standing item on the Agenda, and there was nothing to report at this Meeting.

Rothwell Carnival

A letter had been received from Kay Hughes, the Carnival Secretary, thanking the Town Council for its participation and support with their recent 48th Annual Carnival event. This was very well supported and raised about £1,600 for local good causes in the community. She especially thanked Councillor Neil Matthew for organising and leading the marshals during the parade and would like the Carnival Committee's thanks to be passed to the many people who assisted with this on the day; Councillor Matthews was also grateful to those who helped him.

Fire & Rescue

An E-mail had been received from the Prevention Department in Northamptonshire Fire & Rescue Department that they want to reduce the number of dwelling fires, and wondered if Members of the Town Council would be able to volunteer to carry out Home Fire Safety Checks. Full training would be given. It was AGREED the Town Council could not take any action here.

446 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk submitted a written statement as attached. It was MOVED by Councillor Mrs Talbot, SECONDED by Councillor Matthew 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>
British Telecom (Paid 30.7.10)	Phone and Broadband	£211.18
Mrs C E Mackay	Clerk's Salary	£477.70
Ricoh UK Limited	Photocopier Maintenance	£42.32
Colemans	Stationery and Toner	£105.23
Cash	Petty Cash	£20.00

The Clerk explained that it is against the regulations of the Market Harborough Building Society (and has been for some time) for her to collect the cheques and petty cash and sign for them as she is not a signatory to the Town Council Accounts. In addition, at least one of the signatories should sign the cheque forms at the Building Society in the presence of the cashier. The Building Society Auditors have said our current system must be changed.

They suggested that the Clerk should be a signatory but they were not even allowed to give her the necessary forms in case the Town Council wished to do this, because these forms can only be given to a signatory. An alternative might be for one of the Members to actually collect the cheques and any cash after each Meeting, but this might not always be convenient. The Clerk is not certain whether we can retain the two Councillor signatures put on the cheque forms at the Meetings, and if the Clerk was added to the list of those allowed to sign, if it would be in order for her to just sign the receipt at the Building Society. Possibly a Member signatory could accompany the Clerk this month and we can find out exactly what alternatives there are.

The Clerk felt it was still best for two Members to sign the cheque forms and thought the Auditors would also recommend this. It was suggested by Councillor Mrs Talbot that the Clerk could ask Mr Colin Barnard, our Internal Auditor, for his advice on this. Subsequently Mr Barnard did confirm that it would be in order for the Clerk to be added as a signatory, but that it would be best practice for two Members to actually sign the cheque forms.

Subject to the advice of our Internal Auditor, it was **MOVED** by Councillor Mrs Talbot, **SECONDED** by Councillor Mills and **RESOLVED** that the Clerk be added as a signatory to the Town Council Accounts at the Market Harborough Building Society.

The Meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

Chairman

Date