

## ROTHWELL TOWN COUNCIL

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

PRESENT: Councillor K D Sumpter In the Chair  
Councillor C W Cross  
Councillor I F Jelley  
Councillor D W Jones  
Councillor N A Matthew  
Councillor A C Pote  
Councillor R D Roebuck  
Councillor Mrs L A Russell  
Councillor M W Spendlove (8.15 pm)

### 427 PRAYERS

Before the business of the Council commenced, the Revd Canon John Westwood said Prayers, and mentioned everyone involved in governing or decision making, for peace and commonsense in the world, and the recent Carnival.

### 428 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from the Chairman, Councillors Mills and Mrs Talbot, and from Councillor Spendlove who would be obliged to join the Meeting late.

### 429 COMMUNITY POLICING

#### General Report

PCSOs Jayne Breeze and Peter Firth were present at the Meeting, and confirmed that there were 26 reported crimes during June, as follows:-

- Burglary dwelling - 1
- Burglary other - 1
- Criminal damage - 5
- Deception/fraud - 2
- Other offences - 1
- Robbery - 1
- Theft from motor vehicles - 2
- Theft/handling - 3
- Violence offences - 10.

PCSO Breeze also went through the crimes so far this month. There is a problem with the allotments in Kettering Road, as several items have been stolen from there. She is therefore arranging a Meeting with the allotment holders.

Councillor Jones reported that he had had some milk stolen from his house in Rushton Road the previous day, although the milk was left in the porch and the empty bottles were taken away. It was reported that milk has also been stolen from Desborough Road and the Moorfield Road area recently.

Councillor Mills had asked the Clerk to report that again on a Saturday morning, the disabled parking spaces were occupied by people who did not have the disabled permits, and a lady who needed to stop there had been unable to do so. This disabled person had been forced to park near the Blue Bell where the ground is not really level. The Police team will monitor this.

In addition, Councillor Mills had been informed that young people are going into the grounds of Jesus Hospital and a fire extinguisher was stolen. The Warden has reported this to the police, but Councillor Mills felt it would be useful if someone could visit here. PCSO Breeze confirmed she had already visited the Warden, and the Police team will monitor this area as much as they can, and also park their Police cars there when possible.

Councillor Jones said the allotment holders in Shotwell Mill Lane have asked for better security there, as thefts have been taking place there as well. There are small grants available from the Borough Council for items such as security improvements in this sort of location. However, those allotment holders did not want to apply for this in case the Borough Council would then put their rents up. Councillor Pote confirmed that this would not happen.

#### Police Questions from the Public

Glendon Road: Mr West said that vehicles travel at about 70 mph here from Bell Hill going out of town. It was confirmed the Police do check the speed of vehicles travelling in both directions in this road. PCSO Breeze will report this to the rest of the team.

#### 430 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

(1) Bus Bays at the Medical Centre: Mr West reported that there are still no bus stop signs, although the posts are up. It was reported that Councillor Mills has spoken to Mr Ellerby at the County Council, who has promised to chase MGWSP to do this as soon as possible. It was confirmed that these stops are on a three-month trial, which Mr West did not think was long enough. He also thought there should be actual bus bays and a shelter. We had been informed it would be much too expensive to have bus bays, especially as some of the services would have to be moved. Councillor Sumpter confirmed that we have to wait until the trial is completed, and then we can try and get a shelter put up.

(2) Traffic Wardens: it was thought the Warden comes to Rothwell about every two weeks but when the extra two Wardens have completed their training this should increase. Mr West did not think this was acceptable because of the vehicles parked in the disabled spaces, the bus bays and some stop all day along Bridge Street. Councillor Pote will try and find out when the extra two Wardens will be in post. Unfortunately there has been a delay in appointing them, but the Police Officers do also issue tickets. Councillor Pote said if we had a precept, Rothwell could afford to pay for its own Traffic Warden.

(3) Seats, Squires Hill: these seats are very dirty with bird droppings, although they have been washed. The Borough Council is responsible for these seats. It was AGREED to contact them again and ask if they could be washed daily.

Councillor Matthew said it had been suggested that these trees could be pollarded and this would sort out the problem. These trees were lightly trimmed a few weeks ago but Councillor Jones did not think enough had been done. Mr West felt the only solution was to move the seats next to the Manor House garden wall, although it was thought they would still be under the canopy of the trees. Canon Westwood was still present at the Meeting and did not have any strong feelings either way about the trees.

It was AGREED to write to the Borough Council and ask if these trees could be pollarded, especially as the national policy is changing soon about town centre trees as opposed to those in the open countryside.

(4) Camera, Desborough Road: it was not known why there is a small camera at the bottom of this road, but this might be to count the number of vehicles as we had asked to change the priorities in the High Street.

#### 431 MINUTES

It was MOVED by Councillor Jelley, SECONDED by Councillor Cross and RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th June 2010 be confirmed and signed.

#### 432 ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITY

##### Proposed Community Project

Major Richard Cook of the Salvation Army was present and thought the former Health Centre building now needed to be pulled down and re-built. As to developing the community project there, this could be a difficult area for elderly people because there are a lot of places people could hide, and this could create problems for the young people as well. At present, they are looking at the Lloydspharmacy property and they are moving on with this.

##### Former Health Centre

A reply had now been received from Natasha Kerrigan, the Associate Director for Estates, Planning and Facilities at NHS Northamptonshire that their recent estate review has identified this property as surplus to local requirements. In accordance with NHS Estate Code the property will be advertised on the NHS surplus register, and if no public sector interest is shown within the period of 28 days, then it will be formally disposed of on the open market.

##### Town Centre Partnership

Copies of the Report of the Meeting held on 22nd June 2010 had been circulated prior to this Meeting, together with copies of the E-mails which Councillor Pote had received regarding the County property at the Library and the Fire Station. It was MOVED by Councillor Cross, SECONDED by Councillor Jelley and RESOLVED that copies of these E-mails could be passed to Mr Kevin Jones of Tykes Developments.

##### Pocket Park

Councillors Jones and Roebuck had attended a Site Meeting at the Pocket Park with two representatives from BTCV. They decided which pathways would be cleared, and there would be a 3 metre walk along the brook. It was also agreed that certain glades would be created so that the bluebells could get sufficient light to flower. The brambles in the wet area would be cut back. The representatives from BTCV were very knowledgeable and knew what needed to be done. We do not want the Pocket Park to be too open.

Since this Site Meeting, an estimate from BTCV for £840 + VAT had been received, and copies were available at this Meeting. This is quite expensive but we have put off doing any work for several years, and Councillor Jones felt the BTCV were the best people to do this work. Rose Little, the Pocket Parks Officer, had given us details of the Lottery Grants for this type of work, and the BTCV representatives had also mentioned the grants being made by Lush Cosmetics. Councillor Pote said there might be some funding from his Ward Grants as this is a community project. Some of the wood would be used for wildlife shelters.

It was MOVED by Councillor Jones, SECONDED by Councillor Matthew and RESOLVED to accept the estimate by BTCV subject to them also removing the debris from the site, and to examine the ways of paying for this work.

### Training Sessions

The Pocket Parks Officer had sent details of forthcoming training session, but it was not felt these were totally relevant to our circumstances.

### Waste Re-use Shops

We had received details of the County Re-use Centres, which confirmed that the one in this area is at 17 Cunliffe Drive, Kettering.

The Waste Recycling Centre is in Garrard Way, but it was pointed out that coming from Rothwell, there is a sign saying turn left but people really need to go straight on. It would therefore be helpful to specify that this is in Garrard Way which would mean people could find it more easily. The Vice-Chairman is going to the official opening and he will raise this then.

### Manor Park

The Clerk had reported to the Borough Council that one of the new trees in Manor Park has died, and we had received a reply that this tree will be removed and a new one planted during the winter.

In addition, the new path is beginning to crack and the wooden supports at the side are coming away. It was AGREED to report this to Ms Pia Bellamy at the Borough Council.

### Plusbus Scheme

The Chairman had given the Clerk copy of an E-mail from a resident who commutes to London for work and would use the bus service but the cost is more than driving and the bus times do not co-ordinate with train arrival and departure times. She has investigated the Plusbus scheme and found that towns such as Broughton are part of this, meaning that bus travel can be added to the cost of the train ticket for a nominal amount. The resident has contacted Plusbus but received an unsatisfactory response. In addition, the bus company do not offer a weekly season ticket from either Rothwell or Desborough to Kettering. She asked if the Town Council could pursue this issue.

Councillor Pote said he has been following this up and it is now in the hands of one of the Borough Officers who will speak to Stagecoach East and report back in due course. It was AGREED to leave this to Councillors Mrs Brown and Pote to pursue.

## 433 HIGHWAYS

### Additional Grit Bins

A reply had been received from Mr David Grindley at the County Council on our request for additional grit bins, as follows:-

(1) Stanley Street/Norton Street Junction: the only location would be on the footway and if a bin was installed the remaining width of footway would not be sufficient for a wheelchair or pushchair user, therefore our request is declined.

- (2) Ragsdale Street: following a previous request, this location has been accepted and a grit bin has been ordered to be installed at the junction with Crispin Street.
- (3) Rushton Road/Crispin Street Junction: Rushton Road is on the precautionary gritting network, therefore our request is declined.
- (4) Glendon Road: they cannot install a bin in Glendon Road due to it being on the precautionary gritting network, but they can install a bin at the entrance to Dempsey Drive, near the junction with Glendon Road.
- (5) Marlow Close: this street is unadopted and therefore our request is declined.

It was AGREED to reply on item 5, that perhaps a grit bin could be placed in Evison Road instead of Marlow Close, as this would assist all the residents in that area. The Town Council accepts the situation with the other locations, provided that the roads are gritted in accordance with the schedule, including the slip roads on and off the A14, as these did get very slippery last winter.

### Public Footpaths

Confirmation has been received that the Order has been made for the diversion of the section of footpath UH2 from Kettering Road has been made.

An E-mail had been received about footpath UH15 from Jubilee Street onto Kettering Road that since the new Bovis estate has been erected this footpath has been blocked off. There is also a large amount of rubbish on the footpath, much of which has come from the new houses backing onto it. The resident had contacted the Borough and County Councils and could not verify who now has ownership or responsibility for the path. He asked the Town Council to find out who is responsible and ask them to deal with the problem as it is an eyesore and could become an environmental problem.

Councillor Jones agreed that this has been blocked off and it should remain open. We did mention this some time ago, and it was AGREED to chase a response.

It was reported that footpath UH16 from Gordon Street up to footpath UH2 up to the Community Centre has overhanging bushes on both sides. It was AGREED to report this to Street Doctor.

It was reported that there is a deep hole in the concrete utility cover in High Hill Avenue, near the junction with Harrington Road, which is deep enough to be dangerous. It was AGREED to report this to Street Doctor.

### A14 improvements

Since the new Government, there has been a review of Department of Transport projects, some of which have been cancelled or suspended. Councillor Matthew assumed this could include the widening of the A14, but there is also some work planned for the Kettering area. Councillor Pote confirmed that the matrix system has been delayed.

It was AGREED to ask how this review affects the A14 in this area.

### Glendon Road

Councillor Jelley said there are overgrown hedges and trees in the section of Glendon Road, just past Dempsey Drive and these are now growing over the roadway. It was AGREED to report this.

Street Nameplate

A response had been received from the Borough Council that a new sign has been ordered, and it is anticipated this will be delivered and installed by the end of July.

434 PLANNING

Councillor Spendlove joined the Meeting at 8.15 pm, and his Report was deferred to give him time to look at the papers.

Section 106 Agreements

Copies of the Report from the A6 Towns Forum had been circulated prior to this Meeting, but the pages had been copied incorrectly. Replacements pages 1 and 2 were available at this Meeting. Councillor Jones had mentioned at the A6 Towns Forum that there was no s.106 Agreement on the biodigester on the A14. This will have an effect on Rothwell and increase the number of lorries by 22 per day. Mr Martin Hammond, the Borough Deputy Chief Executive did not agree with this. We have written to the County Planning Department but have not received a response. It was AGREED to chase this.

Report of the Planning Referee

Councillor Spendlove reported that we had received notification of Appeals against the Refusals for KET/2009/0474 in respect of residential development on land south of Harrington Road, and KET/2010/0127 for an externally illuminated projecting sign at the Market Harborough Building Society, 27 Bridge Street.

The following Approvals had been received:-

KET/2010/0099	6 Tebbutt Close - Extension.
KET/2010/0119	17 Littlewood Street - House.
KET/2010/0170	Charter Park - Pair semi-detached dwellings.
KET/2010/0260	The Old Bakery, 19 Market Hill - Variation in opening hours.
KET/2010/0266	12 Bridge Street - Change of Use of first floor to gymnasium.

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

KET/2010/0412	3 Bridge Street - Lime render upper section of right-hand gable wall. No objection: this will help to preserve this stone building in the Conservation Area.
KET/2010/0430	Woodland Hospital, Kettering Road - 28 extra parking spaces. No objection.
KET/2010/0431	87 Greening Road - Extension. Object: this extension would be too large for this plot and would adversely affect the existing amenities of the neighbouring properties.
KET/2010/0445	62A Harrington Road - Extension. No objection.

Councillor Jones reported the following Approval, on which Councillor Spendlove declared a pecuniary interest as the Applicant:-

KET/2010/0317 Sandy Hill Farm, Lamport Road - Two agricultural buildings.

#### 434 MATTERS OF BUSINESS

##### Possible Capital Projects

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

##### Market Harborough Village Voices Programme

They will let us know when they are to record the programme, which is likely to be at the end of July, with two broadcasts in September. This will be an evening event, probably from 7.30 pm to 10.00 pm and as they wish to provide refreshments, the Clerk had suggested they use the Trinity Centre.

##### Events

The Clerk had circulated details of the forthcoming Northants CALC Meeting, and also had information about the Action for Market Towns Convention. It was AGREED to take no action here.

##### County Councillor's Grants

Councillor Pote reported that he is to donate £3,000 to the Infant School for play equipment, and £2,000 to the Army Training Corps. At least £3,000 of his Grant has to be donated to organisations for young people. There is £5,000 left from the total County Grant and if necessary he will support the cost of the work in the Pocket Park. However, this would leave at least £4,000 for other items and he wondered if any Members had suggestions. Councillor Spendlove wondered if £500 could be spend on the cost of the work to level the area in Manor Park. Councillor Jones wondered if there could be a donation to improve security at the allotments at both Brachers Field and Shotwell Mill Lane. However it was mentioned that security fencing costs about £50 a metre.

##### A6 Towns Forum

Councillor Matthew said because he now works away from the area, he wanted to resign as a representative on the A6 Towns Forum, but he understood that Councillor Mrs Russell would be happy to act in his place.

It was MOVED by Councillor Spendlove, SECONDED by Councillor Pote that Councillor Mrs Russell be appointed one of the representatives on the A6 Towns Forum in place of Councillor Matthew.

##### August Meeting

Councillor Cross asked if we were to hold a Meeting during August this year. The Chairman had E-mailed that she felt we could perhaps omit this Meeting, but other Members present felt we should meet every month. Several Councillors present would be able to attend, and so there should be a quorum. It was AGREED to hold an August Meeting.

#### 436 FINANCIAL REPORT

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

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Services or Goods</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Mrs C E Mackay	Clerk's Salary	£477.70
Cllr Mrs C M Brown	Chairman's half-yearly allowance	£300.00
RBL Poppy Appeal	New cheque for wreath	£20.00
Cash	Petty Cash	£80.00

The Clerk explained that the Building Society had returned the sum of £20 because the cheque for the wreath for Remembrance Sunday had not been paid within six months. Councillor Sumpter will let the Clerk have the address to send this on. There was a larger sum than usual for petty cash, because we had provided the petrol money for the Partnership leaflets to be delivered to Tourist Information Centres and other places within Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire and Leicestershire. When the delivery had been completed, the Partnership would let the Town Council have a cheque for the total amount of cash provided.

#### Grant Funding

Councillor Pote said that he had a colleague at the County council, Ms Dympna Patel, who has some pots of money for community projects. He had taken her on a tour of the town and mentioned the refurbishment of the Trinity Centre. Ms Patel is to meet with Canon Westwood to see if there is anything which she can do to assist with this property.

The Meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

Chairman

Date