

ROTHWELL TOWN COUNCIL

A Meeting of Rothwell Town Council was held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday, 8th June 2010 in the Market House, Market Hill, Rothwell.

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Councillor Mrs C M Brown	<u>Chairman</u>
	Councillor C W Cross	
	Councillor I F Jelley	
	Councillor D W Jones	
	Councillor A J Mills (7.55 pm)	
	Councillor MW Spendlove	
	Councillor K D Sumpter	

414 PRAYERS

Before the business of the Council commenced, Major Richard cook said Prayers and blessed the Meeting and the deliberations of the Town Council.

415 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Councillors Matthew, Pote, Roebuck and Mrs Talbot, from Canon John Westwood, and Councillor Mills who would be late attending the Meeting.

416 COMMUNITY POLICING

General Report

PCSO Sam Gell was present at the Meeting and was pleased to confirm that Rowell Fair was very good this year, without too much trouble and only one fixed penalty notice. There were 36 reported crimes during May as follows:-

- Burglary dwelling - 3
- Burglary other - 1
- Criminal damage - 14
- Deception/fraud - 5
- Other offences - 1
- Theft from motor vehicle - 1
- Theft/handling - 4
- Theft of motor vehicle - 1
- Violence offences - 6.

These figures might seem quite high, but do include incidents in a home, and several numbers from one single incident. All the victims of crime relating to burglary or vehicle offences have been followed up with a re-assurance and/or a home security visit. If there is sufficient funding, the Police will also provide security locks. Prevention is best and a lot of people are reporting incidents even if they are minor, which they would not have done some time ago. As to the most common form of entry, burglary can be just a broken padlock. A lot of these offences occur during the day, perhaps with an open window. There are still distraction burglaries occurring, where elderly people are targeted. The Police are looking into the recent mugging but PCSO Gell did not think they had apprehended anyone yet.

Police Questions from the Public

A resident asked if they had found anyone who assaulted the girls recently, and PCSO Gell confirmed this is being dealt with by the Serious Crime Team so she did not have details and did not know if this might be related to the assault on a 12-year old girl in the Geddington area.

417 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Rowell Fair: a resident had also heard the Fair this year was trouble free but there was a drop in takings, as the rides were very expensive. The Clerk had received an E-mail from Robert Denton that he was pleased to report that the Fair went off very well without any incidents on the fairground. Excitement was caused by the gas leak at the Woolpack, and he understood there was a robbery on Friday night in School Lane, but the Police have not yet confirmed this. He has now replaced all the bollards and put new locks on where necessary.

The Chairman said the Police estimated there were about 4,500 people at the Proclamation, and Councillor Spendlove confirmed that the Police Officers were very co-operative all through the week, which helped a lot.

418 MINUTES

It was MOVED by Councillor Sumpter, SECONDED by Councillor Jelley and RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th May 2010 be confirmed and signed.

419 ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITYProposed Community Project

Major Richard Cook of the Salvation Army was present and explained that everything had gone quiet since the February Meeting because they could not get access to the Lloydspharmacy building. He then wrote to them direct and they telephoned and said they were not aware of his interest. He has now been able to inspect the building and felt this would suit the community needs and the Salvation Army because it is a very big building. He has sent all the details to the Divisional Headquarters.

There could be a drop-in centre at the front. They have approached Employment Plus and there would be six to eight vacancies for young people doing six months each, which should help them get into a job because they will have had work experience. They would need to look for funding for a Manager. This could also be useful for older people wanting work.

As to New Street, the Salvation Army would probably retain this for the time being and the Scouts might run this. They have already decided to sell the house next door. He is now looking to see where he can get some funding for this project. The Salvation Army Headquarters at Nottingham do seem supportive of the idea. They would look to lease the building rather than buy it as there are four years left on the current Lease.

It was suggested that he approach Mrs Val Hitchman, the Borough Head of Community Services, and also Mr Robin Matthews of the Market Towns Initiative.

Town Centre Partnership

Copies of the Report of the Meeting held on 24th May 2010 had been circulated prior to this Meeting. It was AGREED that the Report be confirmed and adopted.

Councillor Cross was pleased that we now have some business people interested in taking part. The Chairman explained that Mr Kevin Jones and his colleagues had been thinking about setting up a Chamber of Trade and it seemed sensible to join together we have the same purpose. It is intended to set up some Sub-Committees to look at various items to help promote the town. We do not have many empty shops but in some places they put a display in the windows so the vacant premises do not look so bad. The advertisement feature should be in the Evening Telegraph this Friday, 11th June.

It was not thought that anything could be done about the gates at No.12 High Street, where the words "No Parking" have been roughly painted. Councillor Jones suggested the Preservation Trust could perhaps write about this.

As to Rothwell In Bloom, we had sent the list of hanging baskets to the Borough, but they had not ordered our plants at the same time as the others. However, we now have confirmation that the plants should be arriving at the Borough today, and the baskets put up next week.

Pocket Park

Copies of the written survey by the County Pocket Parks Officer had been circulated prior to this Meeting. Councillor Jones felt this had been an excellent Meeting and Ms Rose Little is very clued up on what should be done with our Pocket Park. We do need access along the river bank and this should be quite wide. She also suggested clearing some of the glades to let light in. Some of the brambles on the wet land should be removed, but she did not recommend opening up the path in this area. Ms Little felt this area had good potential. She did point out that there was no sign or information board to show what this is. It was confirmed that there used to be a board but this was ruined by vandals.

As to who could carry out the work, there are volunteer groups or BTCV who are knowledgeable and who charge about £250 a day to carry out such work. This group would be supervised by a very experienced person.

The Clerk reported that she had received another E-mail from Ms Little about a Lottery Fund scheme which would seem suitable for this type of work. The programme has three rounds on 21st July, 22nd September and 24th November but she suggested we should be quick if we wanted to apply.

It was AGREED to ask Ms Little if she would meet the BTCV supervisor with representatives of the Town Council to ascertain how many days' work would be needed and therefore the cost of this work. When we have a quote we could then consider applying for a grant to help with the costs.

Tree Warden Day

Notes from the Tree Warden Day had been sent to Councillors Jones and Roebuck as they had attended this on behalf of the Town Council.

Councillor Mills joined the Meeting at 7.55 pm.

Councillor Jones explained some of the items covered and said this was an interesting and informative day. They now want farmers to plant trees along the hedgerows.

At present, there is no national policy about trees in town centres but this is coming in. Pollarding does not make any difference to the tree and can be done every ten years. The problem with just trimming a tree is that you have to do this again the following year so this would not be suitable in Market Hill. There are also the trees in Squires Hill which Councillor Jones felt should be pollarded. He is now to carry out a survey of the trees in the Recreation Ground.

Contaminated Land

Copies of the E-mail from the Borough Senior Development Officer about the possible contamination at the Crispin Street Garage had been circulated prior to this Meeting. This confirmed that an asbestos cement roof does not present a risk to health if it is in good condition. If it is in poor condition then a licensed waste contractor should be employed to remove and dispose of it appropriately during the demolition and construction phase. If Planning Permission is granted for development then a condition should be attached to ensure an investigation of the land is carried out and this would include the issue of the petrol tanks.

Manor Park Fish Pond

The Town Council has previously considered having this pond restored, but there would be an element of danger if this was done. It was suggested there could be a channel from the dip in Manor Park into the pond to clear the water which stands there after heavy rain.

Library Garden

The Chairman has asked for the Probation Service to deal with the weeds here again. We do not yet have a definite date for when the Junior School children will plant this area up but the Chairman and Councillor Sumpter will chase this.

Planters

The Chairman said some of the soil was taken out of the planter in front of the Conservative Club recently and she wondered if this should be moved next year for Rowell Fair. This planter is very heavy, especially with the amount of soil in it, so this would not be easy. We will monitor the situation next year.

Twinning Anniversary

The Chairman and her husband went to a twinning event and the Town Council has been presented with some wine and an indoor fountain, which needs to be set up.

420 HIGHWAYS

Access to Water Tower/Scott Avenue

A reply had been received from Anglian Water that their Networks Department has confirmed that they have a legal right of passage to access the tower. They do not visit the site on a regular basis, but access is still needed in case of any emergency, and they would therefore request that the gate is not locked.

It was AGREED to send a copy of this letter to Mr Peter Chaplin, the Borough Development Control Manager and ask for his advice in obtaining access through this gate to the water tower, the allotments and Scott Avenue.

Trees, Glendon Road

We had reported the dead elm trees in Glendon Road, but MGWSP wanted to know the precise location. These are on the left hand side about 100 yards before you leave town just after the wide verge. It was suggested they park in Slade Valley Avenue and walk up.

Parish Enhancement Gangs

Copies of the list of work which the MGWSP Parish Enhancement Gangs could carry out had been circulated prior to this Meeting. It was reported that the vegetation is very overgrown along the service roads at the Moorfield Road/Harrington Road junction. It was AGREED to ask if the Gangs could deal with this.

Facilities Sign

A letter had been received from Mr Martin Hammond, Borough Deputy Chief Executive, that he has now heard from Mr Ian Boyes, County Traffic Engineer, enclosing a sign diagram that he suggests is placed on the A6 southbound approach into Rothwell. He has not included reference to the weight limit as this is the route for HGVs from the A6 into Rothwell and advisory HGV 'Local Access Only' signs have been erected on the roundabout as you approach Harrington Road. Mr Hammond ask for us to let Mr Boyes have any comments the Town Council might have on the proposal so that he can arrange for these works to be undertaken from this year's signing works budget.

It was AGREED that the Town Council welcomes this proposal, and hopes that the sign will be put up as soon as possible to attract summer visitors to Rothwell.

Diversion of Footpath UH2

Notification had now been received from the County Council that the Order has been made to divert the section of Footpath UH2 from Kettering Road to the bottom of Manor Park.

Street Maintenance

Councillor Cross pointed out that there are several potholes in Daisy Bank Avenue. In addition, there is a bad rut in Wales Street near the High Hill Avenue junction. It was AGREED to report these matters to Street Doctor and to monitor the situation.

Outstanding Matters

The Clerk had followed up several issues with Mr Nick Gore, the County Highways Liaison Officer, and he had sent the following responses:-

- (1) Change of Priorities, High Street: this is causing him some problems, specifically in getting the scheme drawn up by MGWSP, which for consultation purposes needs to be more detailed than the one submitted previously as it needs measurements and costs. This formal scheme design costs money and he is having a problem finding this. Obviously the rest follows from this with regard to a 'written brief' and ultimate consultation with the town. However, he is still working on this.
- (2) Bridge Street/Market Hill Cobbles: he will look into this at the same time as the other site investigations and comment back at the same time.
- (3) Bus Stops outside Medical Centre: this is in the hands of Mr Ellerby, to whom he has sent a copy of our E-mail.

Councillor Mills offered to telephone Mr Ellerby direct on the subject of the bus bays and this was AGREED.

Street Signs

It was reported that the street nameplate for Kingsley Road is missing at the Tennyson Road junction. It was AGREED to report this to the Borough Council.

421 PLANNING

Report of the Planning Referee

Councillor Mrs Brown repeated her Interest as a Member of the Borough Planning Committee, and Councillor Spendlove declared a Pecuniary Interest as the Applicant for Application No. KET/2010/0317.

The following Approvals had been received:-

KET/2007/0052)	Kettering North Business Park, Rockingham Road, Kettering.
KET/2007/0148)	Offices, leisure, restaurant, hotel and retail uses.
KET/2007/0187)	
KET/2010/0250	28 Scott Avenue - Conservatory.

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

KET/2010/0119	17 Littlewood Street - Retrospective for house. No objection.
KET.2010/0284	Land at Rothwell Town Football Club, Cambridge Street - Renewal of Outline Permission for 17 dwellings. No objection.
KET/2010/0317	Sandy Hill Farm, Lamport Road - Two agricultural buildings. No objection.
KET/2010/0354	Crispin Street Garage, Crispin Street - Three flats. No objection.

422 MATTERS OF BUSINESS

Possible Capital Projects

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

Kettering Civic Service

Copies of the letter inviting Members of the Town Council to the Kettering Civic Service had been circulated prior to this Meeting. Members would respond to this individually.

Village Voices Radio Programme

Barbara Burton, the Village Voices Co-ordinator at Market Harborough FM 102.3 Radio had telephoned the Clerk that ten villages have now agreed to take part. They will probably do the interviews early in September, and the broadcast will take place on the 6th and 10th October. If there is any alteration she will let us know.

423 FINANCIAL REPORTGeneral Statement

The Clerk submitted a written statement as attached. It was **MOVED** by Councillor Cross, **SECONDED** by Councillor Spendlove 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
H M Revenue & Customs	Tax and N I (three months)	£456.24
Mr C Barnard	Internal Audit Fee	£125.00
Holy Trinity Rothwell PCC	Hire of Trinity Centre for Annual Meeting	£12.00
Cash	Petty Cash	£30.00

Internal Audit

The Clerk confirmed that the internal audit had been completed satisfactorily, and the Annual Return signed by Mr Barnard. The only recommendation he had to make was that in future the Chairman should sign an acknowledgement of their allowance, and also that if there is a reimbursement payment, the Member of the Town Council involved should also sign an acknowledgement. As the payment of £400 to Councillor Matthew as reimbursement for the cost of the new computer had been made in this financial year, the Clerk had prepared a short receipt for him to sign, and this was **AGREED**.

424 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.