

ROTHWELL TOWN COUNCIL

A Meeting of Rothwell Town Council was held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday, 9th March 2010 in the Market House, Market Hill, Rothwell.

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Councillor A J Mills	<u>Chairman</u>
	Councillor Mrs C M Brown	
	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	
	Councillor K D Sumpter	
	Councillor Mrs M E Talbot	

387 PRAYERS

The Meeting was attended by the Revd Roger Smith, who introduced the Revd Canon John Westwood, the new Rothwell Priest In Charge. Canon Westwood said Prayers and mentioned the town and the community here, together with the shops, businesses and organisations and asked that there should be peace and justice everywhere.

388 PRESENTATION

Before the business of the Council commenced, the Chairman welcomed Mr Cliff Dines and his family to the Meeting as the Town Council wished to thank him for his work for the community in Rothwell. In 1963 he took on the St John Ambulance, and he has delivered Meals on Wheels and run a library service. Mr Dines has been custodian of the Coach House and helped with the Carnival and the Gala Evening for many years, when he took charge of making sure the tables and canopies were all in place. We wanted to recognise all his help, and Councillor Mills was pleased his sons were here as they have assisted, and also his wife has put up with his absences working for the town. The Chairman presented Mrs Dines with a bouquet and an inscribed crystal vase to Mr Dines. Mr Dines thanked the Town Council and agreed that he has had a lot of help from his sons and other members of the community, for which he was grateful.

389 COMMUNITY POLICING

General Report

PCSO Peter Firth was present at the Meeting and the crime figures had been circulated prior to this Meeting. These showed a total of 27 crimes during February 2010 as follows:-

- Burglary dwelling – 2
- Burglary other – 3
- Criminal damage – 6
- Deception/fraud – 3
- Theft from motor vehicles 2
- Theft/handling – 4
- Violence offences – 7.

We still have included in the Rothwell figures the drive-offs from the Garage on the A14. PCSO Firth also went through the crimes so far in March.

He also explained about CHAT which is an organisation which deals with youth behaviour and is funded by the Police. There are two Youth Workers in each of the towns and they will be here for about six weeks. On 27th March they will be doing some guerrilla gardening by putting some flowers in the town. Councillor Pote thought CHAT was a very good idea and perhaps they could contact Councillor Mrs Brown on the Youth Group. These Youth Workers will engage with any young people who are on the streets.

Councillor Mrs Brown reported problems in Cook Close on the footpath to Grenville Close with criminal damage, including a fence panel being stolen. There is a lot of litter on the path and these young people are lurking there most evenings. The PCSOs have been round and some Officers from out of the area attended in response to a call. PCSO Firth thought these lads were also causing problems at the back of Gordon Street and the Police do have a good idea who they are and are following this up.

Councillor Mrs Brown said there are still problems in Bridge Street with parked cars on the double yellow lines and also cars mounting the footpath near the Rothwell House Hotel. She wondered if there could be a bollard outside the Arts & Heritage Centre to stop this. She could afford to pay for a bollard from her Ward monies and perhaps we could ask Mr Nick Gore, the Highways Liaison Officer, to come over and check that a bollard could be put there. She had found out that the approximate cost would be £350. PCSO Firth will pass this comment to Sgt Preece.

Councillor Sumpter asked if the speed gun could be used again in Harrington Road and Glendon Road as vehicles are racing along these streets, as well as along the bypass.

It was reported that a vehicle is parking outside Jesus Hospital on the zigzags. Councillor Pote said he had arranged for these to be re-painted recently so they are clear and it is mainly to be kept free of vehicles in case an ambulance needs to get there. The Revd Roger Smith will provide a registration number of the vehicle.

Bollards, Churchill Close

Some residents of Churchill Close were present to complain about the new bollards which have been placed there. Some vehicles (mainly from Glendon Road) do park there which obstructs access and the refuse lorry cannot now get up in and the residents have had a letter that it will not call unless this is clear. No-one in the Close was informed that the bollards were to be put there and none were asked about this.

The Chairman explained that the Police had asked the residents of Glendon Road not to park in that street because of the blind spot and the fatal accident there. This has shifted the problem to Churchill Close. Councillor Pote said there is the Borough Council car park on the other side of the road which can be used by residents. Cars do park right up to Glendon Road and the residents said the situation was alright until the bollards came. Councillor Roebuck said the bollards are on the path and not in the road so these are not the problem but it is the parked cars. Councillor Mrs Brown said the Borough does have small refuse vehicles to collect the rubbish and she will ask for one of these to be used. However, it was pointed out that a fire engine would not be able to reach the houses, if this was needed. The bollards were put there to stop vehicles going on the footpath.

The Chairman asked if the residents would be happy if the Town Council got the County and the Fire Service to look at the situation. The residents also object to the fact that these are concrete which are very unattractive. It was originally to stop large lorries backing into Churchill Close to turn round and the Town Council had been given photographs of these lorries, but the residents said this only happened very occasionally. One of the other residents claims that these lorries are damaging his house, but he has not taken into account the trees very close to his house, which is causing the problem.

It was AGREED to ask for a Site Meeting with the County Highways representative, the Fire Service and the Police to look at the situation.

390 MINUTES

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

391 ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITY

Proposed Community Project

Major Richard Cook of the Salvation Army was present at the Meeting and reported that the former Health Centre is not an option at the present time because the NHS is preparing its strategy for their buildings. He has also made enquiries about the former Lloydspharmacy building, but there are only two rooms available of 10' x 10' because they have already had an offer in for the rest. Although New Street is not entirely suitable, perhaps they could do something for the older people there. He has talked to Canon Westwood and perhaps the Trinity Centre is somewhere the young people could meet. He has seen Mr Martin Jones, the Deputy Head at Montsaye, and has been invited to attend one of the JAG Meetings, because if we are to do something with the young people this needs to be co-ordinated and not duplicated with what someone else is doing. It might be that we then have two groups, one for the young people and the other for older residents. He would like work towards September and thought we would need someone to cook a meal, say two or three times a week, and there could be a film show. They would look at Tuesdays, Wednesdays and possibly Fridays. He would want a part-time co-ordinator. He is to meet his superior next week and then get together with Revd Smith and Canon Westwood. There is the question of finances but he felt it would be a good idea if the Town Council and Churches Together in Rothwell could be seen to be working together.

Councillor Mrs Russell would support this as the events which used to be put on by the Lions are no longer done, so the older people do miss this. Major Cook would really like to do something for every age group, and has had a feedback that people aged 40 to 50 would like something but they cannot do everything at once.

Major Cook referred to Lewisham's Young Mayor Project which has created significant changes in the way they work with young people. This is costly but perhaps some of the principles could be adopted. He left a copy of the information for information.

Town Centre Partnership

Copies of the Report of the Partnership Meeting held on 22nd February 2010 had been circulated prior to this Meeting. It was MOVED by Councillor Spendlove, SECONDED by Councillor Pote and RESOLVED that the Report be approved and adopted.

Councillor Mrs Brown said she and Councillor Pote were prepared to pay for some more planters in the town, but this money needs to be spent before April.

It was mentioned at the Partnership Meeting about potholes and this is still a problem. Councillor Pote has spoken to the County Council about the potholes in Bridge Street down to The Woolpack Inn and, weather permitting, they will be dealing with these on Saturday or Sunday.

Action for Market Towns

Copies of the Briefing Notes and E-mails had been circulated prior to this Meeting. The North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit has taken out membership for the area, but we have still had requests to join. It was AGREED to see what further information we receive.

ACRE Funding

The Clerk had circulated copies of the E-mails between Mike Oakley of ACRE and the Arts and Heritage Centre, which had also now been forwarded to Mr Robert Denton and the Rowell Fair Society. It will be interesting to see if there is any finance available.

Tree Wardens

We had heard from the County Volunteers Co-ordinator that there is the Annual Meeting for Tree Wardens in Northampton in late April. Councillors Jones and Roebuck would both like to attend and the Clerk will reply for them.

Library Garden

Councillor Mrs Talbot wanted to thank Mr Ian Dudley and the Scouts for clearing this garden and re-planting some of the primulas. Councillor Mrs Brown said this area should not need further work because the Borough Council is going to treat it with weed killer and then put a plastic liner on to stop the weeds, and have bark on top. Mr Dudley has also offered his advice on trees in the Parish.

It was AGREED to write to Mr Dudley and thank him and the Scouts for this work.

Litter in the Town

Councillor Jones said there is a massive litter problem here, including in Fanny Joyce's Lane and the Well Lane Recreation Ground. He estimated there must be tons of rubbish. Councillor Mrs Brown said Operation Kleen Sweep did take place last September and there will be another one later this year. The Nosehill footpath was reported and cleared by the Borough, but this is a mess again and apparently it is owned by Bovis and the Borough needs to speak to them. Councillor Jelley suggested we could ask the Probation Service if they could help, but Councillor Jones had hoped local people would assist with this. Councillor Mrs Brown confirmed that the A14 will have a litter pick shortly, and if there are any areas in the town where litter is very bad, she will ask for a team to come out from the Borough to do a clean-up. However, she agreed that it would be a good idea to have the community involved.

It was thought we could advertise this in the Evening Telegraph, as other towns have done this. There should also be posters around Rothwell with a telephone number so that people can call to volunteer to help.

Councillor Cross said from Moorfield Road back into town, there are a lot of leaves and some items of rubbish which need to be cleared away. Councillor Matthew said we did this a few years ago and the Evening Telegraph were quite interested so they might put an article in. Councillor Roebuck said there is also the articles on the A6 towns, but this usually relates to Desborough or Burton Latimer. Councillor Mrs Talbot said you can contact the Customer Services Department in the Library to report areas which need to be cleaned up.

It was AGREED the litter pick would be held on Saturday, 27th March, meeting at the Market House at 2.00 pm. Councillors Mills and Mrs Brown will arrange the publicity and equipment.

392 HIGHWAYS

Bollards, Churchill Close

This item had already been dealt with earlier in the Meeting.

Diversion of Footpath UH2

This is the footpath going through the Groococks development, where a retrospective application has been made for the diversion for the part of the footpath coming off Kettering Road. There had been a Site Meeting there back in October 2009 with all interested parties. The Clerk had received an E-mail from the County Definitive Map Officer, asking if the Town Council would be prepared to withdraw its objection to the diversion. He originally asked for a response by 2nd March 2010, but the Clerk had spoken to him and we can respond after this Meeting, but he is concerned to have a reply as soon as possible as there is to be a review of the Definitive Map and they would like to include any amendments. He confirmed that Orbit Housing Association did consult the residents of the town houses, but they objected strongly to having another footpath into Manor Park from their parking area.

It was AGREED that the Town Council will reluctantly accept the situation and will withdraw our objection, but we are aggrieved that Kettering Borough Council Planning Department did not respond to our queries at the time.

Winter Gritting

The Clerk had circulated copies of the E-mail and information from the Northamptonshire Countywide Scrutiny Board about winter gritting.

It was reported that this matter might be going back to the Borough Council. It was not known if the Borough would grit any of the footpaths as they did not do this last year. The County did do a bit of work on the paths this year. Councillor Spendlove suggested that perhaps our Road Sweeping Operator could use one of the push-along gritters in bad weather, as he cannot carry out any litter picking then.

Facilities Signs

A response had been received from Mr Martin Hammond that the current situation regarding facility signs for Rothwell is that they are waiting to hear from the County Transport & Highways Department, which is presently reviewing all the direction signing on the A6 through Northamptonshire. They have estimated that this review should be completed by the end of March.

Twinning Sign

It was asked what is to happen with the twinning sign, but it is now up to the Twinning Committee to come back to us with what they would like to do. It is believed that the Borough has the old sign, but the Committee has the one new side to be re-fitted.

The Chairman went to the last Twinning Committee Meeting but this was not mentioned. There is a party coming from Droué for Rowell Fair this year as it is the 25th anniversary of the twinning agreement.

Bus Bays

The Chairman did telephone John Ellerby at the County Council today about progress, and he has sent an E-mail to Stagecoach as he needs them to confirm that they do not object to the buses stopping there for a trial period. He understood that Stagecoach did agree verbally but Mr Ellerby needs this in writing.

Rushton Road

Councillor Mrs Russell said the mud is still on the road near the landfill site, but as mentioned at the last Meeting, this is not in our Parish. The Chairman suggested perhaps County Councillor Pote could raise this. Councillor Pote has inspected and said they do have a washer to clean the road but the weather has been so bad that it was impossible to keep it clean. A resident has followed the washer but you cannot get past this and it makes other vehicles dirty.

Bollard, Harrington Road

It was reported that the bollard outside the derelict garage has now been replaced.

Chicane, Glendon Road

The Clerk had chased this work, and received an E-mail that the Engineer did not know why the work was not done when originally scheduled but he had now been assured it would definitely start today, and the bollards will be done the following week. It was confirmed the workmen have started there.

393 PLANNINGReport of the Planning Referee

As usual, Councillor Mrs Brown declared an Interest as a Member of the Borough Planning Committee. Councillor Spendlove reported that the following Approvals had been received:-

KET/2009/0696) 21 Market Hill - Change of use of ground floor rear to A1, first floor rear
KET/2009/0699) flat to B1 and alterations.

We had also received copy of the request for a scoping opinion for commercial uses including B1, B2, B8, C1 and C2 on land at Braybrooke Road, Desborough. We had sent in a comment that this considerable development could have an adverse effect on traffic levels in Rothwell if the existing Rothwell/Desborough Bypass (A6) is not used for total access to and from the development. We want to protect our town centre and would not accept any increase in the traffic level on the B669 and B576 (the former A6) to access the development from the south east.

The Application for a proposed food store on land at Magnetic Park, Desborough now has a revised environmental statement and amended plans and documents submitted and we had been notified of this.

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

KET/2010/0072	62 Greening Road - Extension. No objection.
KET/2010/0100	64 Connolly Drive - Extensions. No objection.
KET/2010/0142	5 Vickers Close - Extension. No objection.

It was reported that at the Groococks development there is a gas pipe which does not comply with regulations and this is being investigated. In addition, at the Wales Street development the floor levels do not comply with the submitted plans. It was thought the original developer had now sold this project on.

394 MATTERS OF BUSINESS

Possible Capital Projects

There was nothing to report on this item.

Radio Programme

Copies of a letter from HFM Radio Limited at Market Harborough had been circulated prior to this Meeting, inviting Rothwell to take part in a series of programmes highlighting village life. It was AGREED to respond that we would like to participate.

County Draft Plan

Copies of an E-mail giving details of the consultation on the draft County Plan had been circulated prior to this Meeting.

Stockburn Memorial Trust

We had received a letter from the Stockburn Memorial Trust about its availability to consider giving grants to people who are both sick and in receipt of benefits, residing within the Borough of Kettering. It was AGREED this should be circulated with the next Agenda, and a copy also sent to Major Richard Cook.

Licensing Application

Councillors Pote and Mrs Talbot declared Interests as Members of the Borough Licensing Committee. We had received notification of a new Premises Licence for the Olive Lounge at the rear of The Old Bakehouse, 19 Market Hill. We had previously understood there was a proposal to turn this into a wine bar. It was AGREED to make no comment on this.

CPRE Northants

We had received details of the Road Show event this year, including the Agenda. It was AGREED not to participate in this.

395 FINANCIAL REPORTGeneral Statement

The Clerk submitted a written statement as attached. It was **MOVED** by Councillor Spendlove, **SECONDED** by Councillor Mrs Talbot 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>
Mrs C E Mackay	Clerk's Salary	£474.90
H M Revenue & Customs	Tax and N I (3 months)	£444.32
Rothwell Gala Committee	Christmas Lights Grant	£2862.00

Risk Assessment

The Clerk had circulated copies of the Risk Assessment for the next financial year, 2010-11. There is the item of Incapacitation of the Clerk, with the effect that this could be serious if it was sudden. It has always been assumed that the Borough Council would assist if the Clerk was suddenly taken ill, and it was **AGREED** to make enquiries of the Borough Council what arrangements could be made. It was **MOVED** by Councillor Matthew, **SECONDED** by Councillor Mrs Brown and **RESOLVED** that the Risk Assessment be approved and adopted.

Internal Audit

It is also now a requirement that the Town Council carries out an annual review of the effectiveness of the internal audit and whether the internal auditor is sufficiently independent, unbiased and objective. Mr Colin Barnard is a former County Council colleague of our previous internal auditor, and as such is knowledgeable about local authorities and their finances. He does also advise, if necessary, on any changes which should be made. It was **MOVED** by Councillor Spendlove, **SECONDED** by Councillor Mrs Talbot and **RESOLVED** that the Town Council feels Mr Barnard is carrying out an effective job on the internal audit.

Office Computer

The Chairman reported that the Clerk is having a lot of problems with the office computer. We have already agreed that Councillor Matthew can arrange for a new one to be purchased and he will look into this.

Gala Committee

Councillor Pote had brought a financial statement from Mrs Pote, who is the Treasurer to the Gala Committee, which showed that this had made a profit of over £1,500 this year.

The Meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

Chairman

Date