

ROTHWELL TOWN COUNCIL

A Meeting of Rothwell Town Council was held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday, 9th November 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 N A Matthew	
	Councillor A J Mills	
	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	

469 PRAYERS

Before the business of the Council commenced, the Revd Canon John Westwood said Prayers and mentioned the Town Council and all those residents who serve the community, the Police Force and in particular our local Officers. As we approach Armistice Day he also said prayers for those people who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

470 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Councillors Pote and Spendlove who would be late joining the Meeting.

471 COMMUNITY POLICING

General Report

No Police Officer was able to be present, and we do not have the crime figures for October, only the detection rate for Rothwell.

Consultation

Copies of the letter and information from the Police had been circulated prior to this Meeting. It was AGREED that those Members who wish to will respond individually. There is to be a consultation evening at Montsaye Community College at 7.00 pm on 24th November, and all responses should be returned by the 10th December.

Police Questions from the Public

The Chairman said that if anyone has any questions they would have liked to raise with the Police, she will forward these on. A resident mentioned the number of cars in parked Market Hill Square for a long time during the day. The Chairman said we believe some people park here and then several go in one car to Kettering railway station. A resident wondered if there could be a four-hour limit, but we did not think we could because this is governed by the Lord of the Manor who is keen to retain the free parking as long as possible. We are also concerned this might result in Market Hill Square becoming a pay and display car park.

Councillor Jones asked if we still had the information about the number of cars there, as this survey was carried out when we were considering changes to the area. This did indicate that at that time a lot of vehicles were parked for only a short time. The Clerk will try and find these figures.

472 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

(1) Bus Stops, Medical Centre: the latest situation is that we have not been sent the direct response from Stagecoach, but we understood that their only problem was students from Montsaye getting on and off the bus at the Medical Centre, causing the bus to stop there for longer than they wanted. Councillor Mills said at present we have temporary signs and it was AGREED to ask Mr Ellerby at the County Council if there could now be permanent signs there.

We have also asked Mr Hammond and Mr Chaplin at the Borough Council if they could retain any monies left over from the s.106 Agreement so that these could be put towards a bus shelter on the opposite side of the road to the Medical Centre. We have not yet had a reply, but they are possibly waiting until they know the full cost of the stops to see what is left. It was AGREED to chase the Borough Council on this issue.

Mr West said it was reported at the September Meeting that the bus drivers dislike stopping there but he has spoken to several of them and none of them mind doing this, and do not have any objection. It was explained this arose at the Site Meeting and the original site for the bus stop meant that other vehicles could overtake the stationary bus and this was considered dangerous. This is why the precise location was chosen, because the island prevents this happening.

(2) Operational Traffic Wardens: it was believed that we still only have one Traffic Warden for this area. The new Environmental Wardens do not deal with parking. There are two more in training and it was confirmed that the Wardens will spend 75% of their time outside and 25% doing the essential paperwork.

(3) Trees, Moorfield Green: Ms Sarah Parr at the Borough Council had obtained for us details of what the County Council regard as being highway land in Moorfield Green, and this is just the footpaths either side of the open space. The E-mail to Ms Parr did say that this is an area where the County has never had reliable information, so it is something of an educated guess. There are no adoption plans to refer to, so what is shown as highway land on the plan is what they consider to be what was most likely dedicated as highway. The County suspect that the bulk of the land may have been dedicated as open space.

Councillor Cross said the footpaths shown as highway have never been touched since 1973. The residents said they were told they could not purchase the green because there are services underneath. The trees were trimmed, we believe by the County Highways Department, but the Borough Council mows the grass although this might be as an amenity if the County maintains the rest. The main problem is with the sewers being broken by the tree roots, but there are also roots coming up in people's gardens and they are concerned that they might damage the house foundations if nothing is done. The residents have also taken this to Philip Hollobone MP.

It was AGREED to send copy E-mails to Mr Brendan Coleman, the Borough Head of Environmental Services, with a copy for Philip Hollobone. The Chairman will also try and arrange a Site Meeting with Mr Coleman and we will let the residents know when this will be.

473 MINUTES

Councillor Jones referred to the item on page 431 relating to the Pocket Park, in that it is the trees on the east side which probably need more work to create a glade.

Subject to this amendment, It was MOVED by Councillor Sumpter, SECONDED by Councillor Jelley and RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th October 2010 be confirmed and signed.

474 ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITY

Proposed Community Project

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

Town Centre Partnership

Copies of the Report of the Meeting held on the 1st November 2010 had been circulated prior to this Meeting. It was MOVED by Councillor Jones, SECONDED by Councillor Cross and RESOLVED that the Report be approved and adopted.

Cleaning Wheeled Waste Containers

Copies of the Information Note from the Environment Agency had been circulated for information.

Concessionary Travel

Councillor Cross had raised the question of where holiday trips being picked up in Sheep Street would now collect passengers from. The Chairman will look at this.

Highway Grit

Councillor Matthew asked if we knew how much grit the County Council had in store for this winter. This was not known, although the County only does the major roads. We will check the grit bins to see if these have been filled up yet. The Chairman said the legislation has been changed so people gritting junctions need no longer worry about being sued. Any problem can be reported to Street Doctor.

Street Lights

It was reported that the street lights on the footpath from Droué Court to Crown Yard is out, as is the wall mounted light on the back of the Crown House so this area is very dark. It was AGREED to report this to Street Doctor.

Flytipping

It was reported that there has been a lot of flytipping near the Memorial on the Lamport Road, but the Chairman thought this was in Daventry District. She will report the flytipping in Violet Lane.

Parking on the Pavements

The Chairman said the new planters are in place outside the former Chinese Takeaway and have been planted with winter pansies. However, these have had to be put further back on the path than she and Councillor Pote had hoped, so they do not stop parking on the footway there. They are hoping to put a plaque on these to say they are being maintained by the Junior School children to deter vandalism. However, perhaps we should put two or three removable bollards there to stop the parking. It was AGREED to write to Mr Nick Gore, the Highways Liaison Officer, and ask him to consider this, especially as the footpath is crumbling because of the weight of vehicles.

Pocket Park

The Clerk still has some cowslip plants and a buddleia, and Councillor Jones has some wild garlic, which could be put in the Pocket Park. We will arrange to have these planted.

A14 Roundabouts

The Chairman and Councillor Pote have received an E-mail from the Borough Council that the County says they are worried the proposed landscaping might interfere with their roundabout scheme and the bridge parapet might obscure visibility. This is an ongoing matter which they hope to resolve. We were hoping their might be another time capsule as well.

Gala Committee

Copies of the Report of the Meeting held on 4th November were available at this Meeting. It was MOVED by Councillor Matthew, SECONDED by Councillor Sumpter and RESOLVED that the Report be approved and adopted.

The Clerk reported that the Arts & Heritage Centre would like to bring their own stall as they have a banner on the front with their name on. This is weighted and they could put it up in the morning so that a light could be put on. It was confirmed this would be in order and we could put this in front of the Market House, but they will need to take this down quickly at the end of the evening. They are selling soup, and would like access to electricity for a hot plate to keep the soup warm. Councillor Sumpter said it would not be possible to take electricity from the Market House with the other uses that evening. He felt they needed a portable gas stove and we might be able to lend them one if they cannot find their own. As to the new lights at the Bridge Street junction, the Clerk had received details of small shooting snowflakes in blue at £250 each, which the Borough Council's suppliers have in stock and so could be put up this year. It was MOVED by Councillor Matthew, SECONDED by Councillor Mills and RESOLVED that we purchase these light units.

Access to the Water Tower

An E-mail had been received from Mr Lewis at Persimmon that he is looking into the issue with the vandalism of the locks, and in the meantime he is aware that the gate is currently clamped shut. He has to take the view that until a suitable solution can be found, the gate is better locked shut than left open, as he is concerned that the general public will use the access as a general cut through, which could result in an issue with the Highways Department. He appreciates that this might cause some allotment holders an inconvenience, but access can be gained via Scott Avenue. He will also make Anglian Water aware of this. If we have any further information, we should pass this to him. It was AGREED to respond that we look forward to hearing from him further when he has been able to make some further progress.

Large Picture

The Borough Council had a 9' x 4.5' picture which used to be in the Community Centre, and they wondered if any Rothwell organisation would like this. It was AGREED to put this on the Agenda for the next Meeting.

475 HIGHWAYSRushton Road Traffic Calming

A letter had been received from Mr Ian Boyes of the County Highways Department that they have investigated the provision of a vehicle activated sign here, and a suitable location would be

at the point of the boundary between Nos. 24 and 26 Rushton Road. He enclosed a plan and a photograph of this location. He suggested that the Town Council carry out a consultation with the residents here to obtain their views before they consider this option further. Funding for such a feature would also have to be found as currently their budgets are fully committed for this year. As to a chicane feature, they did not feel this would be appropriate due to the road layout and the on-road parking in the area. A chicane would result in the removal of considerable areas of parking which would be unpopular with residents and also displace parked vehicles elsewhere. The bend at the top of Rushton Road forms a speed reducing feature for drivers entering the town. Noise might also be an issue with vehicles stopping and starting in the immediate vicinity of residents properties.

Councillor Jones thought they had misunderstood as he had suggested the chicane should be before the 30 mph sign where the path from the Avalon Allotments comes out into Rushton Road. Vehicles reach the corner at 60 to 70 mph. Some Members felt that after all the VAS should be outside No.56 Rushton Road where there is the manned crossing point for children. It was AGREED to ask for a site visit to Rothwell to consider both the chicane and the VAS in Rushton Road, as well as the request for bollards outside the former Chinese Takeaway in Market Hill.

A14 Junction 4 Slip Road

The traffic lights on the slip road have now appeared although these are not due to be operational until March. It was felt that if this holds people up too much, they will use Greening Road and Harrington Road instead. The Town Council did oppose these traffic lights. It was felt we should give this the benefit of the doubt and see how they actually work.

Street Re-surfacing

We had mentioned at the previous Meeting that Wales Street and Daisy Bank Avenue both needed a complete re-surfacing scheme. The Clerk had looked back at the previous letter and We had also stated that High Hill Avenue, Well Lane and New Street were all in a very poor condition, and so she had reiterated that these needed attention, as well as Meeting Lane although she had reported to Street Doctor that there was a large pothole near the junction with Kettering Road. We had not received any response to our letter as yet.

Glendon Road

The overhanging bushes on the left hand side of Glendon Road have not been touched, or the dead trees taken away from this area. The right hand side has had the bushes trimmed back a little although this still needs more work. There are also the bushes on the footpath from Harrington Road to Trinity Road. It was AGREED to chase these matters.

476 PLANNING

Report of the Planning Referee

Councillor Mrs Brown declared a personal Interest as a Member of the Borough Planning Committees. Councillor Jones presented the first part of the Report, and Councillor Spendlove declared a Pecuniary Interest as the Applicant. The following Approval had been received:-

KET/2010/0626 Hetherington House, Sandy Hill - Garage and storeroom.

The following Application had been received, and the Town Council's observation was as stated:-

KET/2010/0631 Sandy Hill Farm - Two agricultural buildings.
No objection.

Councillor Spendlove presented the remainder of the Report. The following Approval had been received:-

KET/2010/0548 1 Chichester Close - Extension.

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

KET/2010/0683 Land at Castle Hill - Demolition of two garages and construction of a single storey dwelling.
Rothwell Town Council objects to this Application because this bungalow would be at the junction of two busy streets near Rothwell Junior School, and would be over-development of this small site. There are two mature and healthy trees next to the site, which it is important to retain as they add to the street scene on the edge of the Conservation Area, and development here would harm these healthy trees.

KET/2010/0656 Whilst the Town Council would not object to the change of use to B1 offices, it is felt this design is not appropriate in the Conservation Area, especially the size of the glazed area.

KET/2010/0666 24 Rushton Road - Dropped kerb.
No objection.

KET/2010/0684) 2 Castle Hill - Change of Use of first and second floors from offices to
KET/2010/0691) tattooing and body piercing, and advertisements.
No objection.

KET/2010/0687 98 Connolly Drive - Replace flat roof with pitched.
No objection.

KET/2010/0690 6B School Lane - Outbuilding.
No objection.

KET/2010/0712 Wincanton Distribution, North Kettering Business Park - Canopy.
No objection.

KET/2010/0722 19 New Street - Change of Use from meeting room to residential.
No objection.

Anaerobic Digester

The Clerk had received a telephone call from the County Planning Department that the site is operational, but the developers are finalising the agreement with the Highways Agency as to the road improvements to the access. They should be able to let us know what is to happen shortly.

Planning Stop Notice

The Chairman reported that a Stop Notice has been put on the work at the Old Greyhound because they were taking out the first floor windows and converting these to picture windows. It was mentioned that people are still working there so they will ask for the Enforcement officer to inspect.

477 MATTERS OF BUSINESSPossible Capital Projects

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

Budget Setting and Precepting

Copies of an E-mail from Northants CALC had been circulated prior to this Meeting, for information.

Borough Standards Committee

Copies of a letter, Annual Report and Bulletin received from the Borough Council had been circulated prior to this Meeting, for information.

ACRE Small Grants Scheme

We had received a response from Mr Les Rolfe of ACRE that these are the "Bitesize" grants which they administer on behalf of the Northamptonshire Community Foundation (NCF) with the money coming from the Government's Grassroots Grants Fund. However, this money is only available where a Parish or Town has undertaken a Parish Plan and identified particular actions so Rothwell would not qualify.

Action for Market Towns

We had been notified that there was to be a Seminar on Thursday, 25th November 2010 in Stony Stratford, Buckinghamshire to help small towns and communities understand how they can increase visibility and footfall through improved marketing. No-one was available to attend.

Day Centre

An E-mail had been received from the County Council that they need a building or room to rent to provide day opportunities for people with a learning disability. It was AGREED to pass this to the Preservation Trust to see if the ground floor at the Market House would be suitable.

478 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk submitted a written statement, as attached. It was MOVED by Councillor Mills, 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>
British Telecom (paid 5.11.10)	Phone and Broadband	£217.86
Mrs C E Mackay	Clerk's Salary	£477.70
Ricoh UK	Photocopier Maintenance	£18.18
RBL Poppy Appeal	Remembrance Sunday Wreath	£20.00
Cash	Petty Cash	£20.00

479 ADMISSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC

In view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, the Press and Public were requested to leave the Meeting.