

ROTHWELL TOWN COUNCIL

A Meeting of Rothwell Town Council was held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday, 12th October 2010 in the Market House, Market Hill, Rothwell.

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs C M Brown Chairman
 Councillor C W Cross
 Councillor I F Jelley
 Councillor D W Jones
 Councillor A J Mills
 Councillor A C Pote
 Councillor M W Spendlove (7.40 pm)

457 PRAYERS

Before the business of the Council commenced, the Revd Canon John Westwood said prayers and mentioned the Government, the Town Council and the residents and organisations.

458 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Councillors Matthew, Roebuck, Sumpter and Mrs Talbot.

459 COMMUNITY POLICING

General Report

PCSO Sam Gell was present at the Meeting and was pleased to report that there were only 20 crimes in Rothwell during September, as follows:-

- Criminal damage - 5
- Deception/fraud - 9
- Theft from motor vehicles - 2
- Theft/handling - 3
- Violence offences - 1.

A lot of the deception/fraud cases are down to drive-offs at the petrol station, and some issues which have happened in the home. The Police do spend a lot of time at the petrol station to prevent the drive-offs but this does still happen. The violent offence has been detected by one of our Officers and was not domestic, but it was not very serious although she cannot go into detail. The criminal damage is mostly as a result of car damage, and a couple of the theft/handling offences occurred in a domestic situation. The Chairman asked if the work carried out at the petrol station had affected the number drive-offs and PCSO Gell thought this had made a difference. The Manager is working with the Police to try and deal with these in the long term.

The Chairman referred to a recent incident outside Tesco Express where three or four Police cars and the fire engine had attended. PCSO Gell will find out about this. A lot of incidents in every category are related to alcohol, including with children.

Councillor Pote referred to vehicles still parking in the bus bay and on the pavement outside the former Chinese Takeaway in Market Hill. PCSO Gell said they will often put warning cards on vehicles which are badly parked. It was hoped that the new planters being paid for by the Chairman and Councillor Pote will stop parking on the pavement. The Police will look at the illegal parking here. It is hoped the Junior School children might help with the planting.

The Borough Council did put some troughs on the railings outside the Old Greyhound, but within a couple of hours people complained about these because they said they obstructed visibility, so the Borough removed these. The Police will still keep putting the warning notes on vehicles. Councillor Pote also reported that someone parks a low loader in the evening in front of the Taste of India on the double yellow lines.

The Town Council has written to Inspector Aistrop to ask for more visits by the Traffic Warden, and we have received a reply that he has asked the Traffic Warden to give some attention to the locations we mentioned, and he will make an effort over the next few weeks to attend. However, he is a lone Warden and has the whole Borough to cover with requests coming in regularly from across the area.

Police Questions from the Public

- (1) Planters: Major Cook thought the planters would be a good idea, but wondered how the young people would react. There could also be plaques on when these are being maintained by the children of the Junior School to try and deter any vandalism.
- (2) Drugs Offences: Major Cook asked if there was a problem with drugs in the area of Horse Fair Lane. PCSO Gell was not aware of this but confirmed they have spent quite a lot of time there. Major Cook reported that about 10.30 to 11.00 pm on Wednesday or Thursday, there is a red car parked near the recycling bins with a lot of activity around it. The Police will look at this area.
- (3) Traffic Offences: it was reported that there is a lot of bad driving in the area recently, with people just pulling out: this is mainly older people and not the younger drivers. This occurs particularly on the hill in Glendon Road. Residents will try and take registration numbers. PCSO Gell said they are out with the speed guns when they can do this.

460 MINUTES

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Cross, **SECONDED** by Councillor Pote and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th September 2010 be confirmed and signed.

461 ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITY

Proposed Community Project

Major Cook reported that matters are still ongoing, but the Salvation Army can take quite a long time, being a registered Charity. The current Lease expires in 2014 but this has renewal rights and if they purchased it they would have that right. Lloydspharmacy previously had a deal with Totesport and there are some issues about Planning Permission.

Pocket Park

Councillor Jones confirmed that the work at the Pocket Park has been completed and he had inspected this to ensure it was what we wanted. They did everything they were asked to do. The Supervisor asked if the Town Council would consider having work done in the spring and autumn each year to tidy it up and do some pruning but we do not know what the cost would be. The trees on the west side probably need more work to create a glade. The scrub should be taken away by the Borough Council tomorrow, and Councillor Pote will make sure this is done soon because we are concerned it might be set on fire, and it is also killing the grass underneath.

It was **AGREED** to write and thank BTCV for their work and to ask for a quote for a regular maintenance visit to the Pocket Park.

The Clerk has some cowslip plants and a buddleia, and Councillor Jones some wild garlic which could be planted there.

Town Centre Partnership

Copies of the Report of the Meeting held on 21st September 2010 had been circulated prior to this Meeting. It was AGREED that the Report be approved and adopted.

Seat Opposite Medical Centre

We had asked the Borough Council if there could be a seat opposite the Medical Centre, and the Borough would like us to mark on a plan they submitted the exact location where we wanted this, especially as there is already a seat nearby.

However, we now have some of the responses to the trial period of the bus stops at the Medical Centre, and these are in favour. There has not yet been a formal response from Stagecoach although Mr John Ellerby, the County Principal Bus & Rail Development Officer, understand that the only problem the Company has encountered has been with Montsaye School pupils boarding there in the afternoon. As the number of pupils delays the bus, the School has been asked to advise them to board at the next pair of stops towards Kettering. Mr Ellerby asked for the Town Council's response. It was AGREED to reply that these bus stops have been a complete success and the trial period has proved that this is very much needed by our local residents.

Councillor Spendlove joined the Meeting at 7.40 pm.

It was felt that as it looks as though these stops will be there permanently, we do need a bus shelter on the opposite side of the road for people waiting to catch a bus back into Rothwell. We will therefore not pursue the issue of a seat there and push for a shelter instead. It was AGREED to write to Mr Hammond and Mr Chaplin at the Borough Council, that if there is any s.106 money left, the Town Council and local residents would like this to be put towards the cost of a bus shelter.

Environmental Wardens

Copies of the Borough report presented to the A6 Towns Forum on 8th September 2010 had been circulated prior to this Meeting, and the item placed on the Agenda in case any Members had any questions on this. It was AGREED that the report be noted.

A14 Roundabouts Landscaping

It is hoped that part of the parapet of the former bridge which was removed when the A14 was built might be put on the roundabouts at junction 4. A photograph of the bridge was available at this Meeting.

Councillor Spendlove said we have been told that there is a time capsule but we do not know which pillar this is in or how it was put there, it is not certain if this will be found. A metal detector might assist although it is likely there are metal rods in the pillars. It is thought the bridge is late 1950s or early 1960s. We have not heard any more about the landscaping but it is thought this will be done at the end of October or beginning of November when the other planting and maintenance work is finished.

The Chairman took the colour photograph and will scan this and let the Borough Council have a copy. It is also hoped the Junior School children might prepare a new time capsule.

Concessionary Travel

Copies of a letter from the County Council had been circulated prior to this Meeting, about the possible changes to the concessionary travel arrangements in Northamptonshire. Councillor Cross would be in favour of leaving the arrangements as they are, particularly if a pensioner had an early hospital appointment. It was reported that 70% of Rothwell residents are aged 55+. Apparently with London Transport bus passes can be used 24 hours a day.

It was AGREED to comment that Rothwell Town Council would like the arrangements in Kettering to remain the same as they are now.

Councillor Cross said that long-distance coaches often pick up from Kettering Library for trips or holidays and he asked where these would pick up when the buses no longer go down there. It was thought this would be in the Horsemarket but the Chairman will check this with Mr Paul Thomas who prepared the plans for the Kettering town centre improvements. It was also confirmed that phase 5 of the improvements will include a bus station at the railway station and this should be completed in a few years.

Funding Opportunities

Councillor Pote said that ACRE has grants of £500 for various projects. It was AGREED to contact Mr Les Rolfe at ACRE to find out what these grants are for to see if it would be appropriate for the Pocket Park.

Rothwell Gala Committee

Copies of the Report of the Meeting held on 7th October 2010 were available at this Meeting. It was AGREED that the Report be approved and adopted. Councillor Jelley has spoken to Neil Gossage about the bucking bronco and he will bring this to the Gala Evening. He would also bring a candy floss machine. He has orange lattice fencing about 1 metre high which should be suitable for the street dancers.

Cleaning Wheelie Bins

Councillor Pote had an information note from the Environment Agency that as from November 2010 companies will not be allowed to put any wash water, rinse water, solid wastes or cleaning chemicals into the drains when they clean out a wheelie bin, as these can cause environmental pollution. Copies of this note will be circulated so that Councillors are aware of the restrictions.

Access to Water Tower

A reply had now been received from Mr Chris Lewis of Persimmon Homes (Midlands) that they have had an ongoing issue with the gate by the water tower and he would like to arrange a permanent solution that all parties could accept, although he was not sure how this could be managed. He will contact the resident we believe has clamped the gate to see if he can shed any light on the situation, and in the meantime Mr Lewis will also contact Anglian Water to confirm that they can continue to access their tower via Scott Avenue whilst the gate is not in operation. He asked if we could let him know who uses this gate as access to the allotments, as this would help him get a fuller picture before deciding how to resolve this awkward issue.

All the people who have plots at Avalon Allotments would have the right to use this access, and it was believed there are about eight plots being used at the present time. It was confirmed there is still pedestrian access but some of the allotment holders need to take vehicles, or even tractors, to the allotments to take in materials or equipment from time to time. It was AGREED to pass on this information.

Children's Circus

An E-mail had been received from Mr Patrick Austin that he runs a small children's circus called Circus Ginnett which seats about 200 people. He would like to visit Rothwell with the show and asked if there was a small playing field or plot of land available for hire for the 2011 season. They would like to come and open for about four or five days and would need a couple of days to set up, so in total would be here for a week.

It was AGREED to contact Ms Pia Bellamy at the Borough Council and ask if the Borough would allow Greening Rod Park to be used for this purpose.

462 HIGHWAYS

Obstruction, Leys Avenue

A reply had been received from Mr Ian Boyes of the County Transport & Highways Department that they have looked at the site and consider that extending the school zigzags would be too restrictive a measure as this would prevent parking at all times and they would not be able to continue these around the corner into Leys Avenue. They could consider, subject to funding, the introduction of a section of limited waiting parking restriction at specific times (i.e. a single yellow line) around the corners of the junction. He attached a plan and asked if the Town Council could mark on this the approximate length of lines that would be required for the restriction. They would then give this matter their consideration.

It was AGREED that there would need to be single yellow lines on both sides of Leys Avenue and in front of Ninevah House.

Traffic, Greening Road

Mr Nick Gore, the County Highways Liaison Officer, has now spoken to the resident who complained about the excessive amount of traffic in Greening Road, and explained why they cannot do anything more in this street.

Footpath UH15

As reported at the last Meeting, the County Rights of Way Department is going to re-open this footpath, and if Bovis will not do this the County will do the work themselves. We had now received an E-mail from a local resident that the footpath is overgrown and has not been used for perhaps up to ten years. It did once serve as an access route into the old Groococks factory, but he felt it was now redundant as the factory has gone, and that it is quicker to use Jubilee Street. He has spoken to ten residents who are close to the footpath and they have the same concern over anti-social behaviour if the footpath should be re-opened. They feel it would become another "hotspot" for youths to hang about and cause a nuisance, and the smashed bottles, litter and graffiti on the existing footpaths is evidence of what would happen. He could not therefore see the benefit in re-opening this footpath from Jubilee Street to Kettering Road.

It was AGREED to respond to the resident that this is a public right of way and cannot be closed without a specific Order which is very difficult to obtain, and which the Town Council could not support.

Definitive Map

A letter had been received from the County Definitive Map Team Leader that a new edition of the Map is now being prepared, which will be the first since 2005. In the past, the County has supplied a free copy of the relevant extract to each Town and Parish Council and, despite the current financial restraints, they have decided to continue this service, but no further maps will be printed until the next consolidation which is planned for 2015. If we wanted extra copies, these would be made available at a cost of £5.50 for each one. They also sent two copies of a Licence which enables the County to release the map to the Town Council. These should be read carefully, particularly the sections dealing with how the map can and cannot be used, and then both copies completed with the Town Council details, signed and returned to the County.

It was AGREED that we would have only the one copy for the Rothwell area.

Overgrown Hedges, Glendon Road

Councillor Jelley reported that the hedges in Glendon Road have not yet started to be trimmed. The Clerk has reported these to Street Doctor, but they only guarantee to inspect within 21 days.

Street Surfaces

It was reported that both Daisy Bank Avenue and Wales Street are in a very bad state, and really need to be re-surfaced. Daisy Bank Avenue is one of the old concrete roads and has broken up in the same way that Crispin Street did some years ago, and although the large pothole in Wales Street has been filled in the whole surface is poor. It was also reported that there is a large pothole in Meeting Lane at the junction with Kettering Road, and the surface of this street is also poor. We had pointed out to the County Council that some of these were in a bad condition some time ago. It was AGREED to list all these streets as needing re-surfacing.

A14 Highway Improvements

Councillor Mills reported that the work on the slip road as a condition of the Planning Approval for the anaerobic digester has not yet been carried out. We had heard from the Environment Agency that this site is operational and pig slurry was pumped directly into the digester a couple of months ago. The gas engines have only recently arrived on site, so prior to that methane was flared off on site. All this work is in accordance with the permit, which also does not restrict a phased approach for waste inputs, and quantities permitted are up to 30,000 tonnes annually.

It was AGREED to write to the County Planning Department that we are informed by the Environment Agency that this digester is operational but the proposed improvements to the road structure to allow lorries to access the site safely have not yet been carried out.

Street Lights

It was reported that the light is out half way down the northern Church Walk footpath, and the light on the rear wall of Oddfellows Hall by Madams Hill is also out. It was AGREED to report these lights to the Borough Council and Street Doctor respectively.

463 PLANNINGReport of the Planning Referee

As usual, the Chairman declared a Personal Interest as a Member of the Borough Planning Committees. Councillor Jones, the Deputy Planning Referee, presented the Report. We had been informed that Applications KET/2010/0474 and KET/2010/0475 for work to the Trinity Centre, Market Hill had been withdrawn. The following Approval had been received:-

KET/2010/0572 114 Connolly Drive - Extensions.

The following Application had been received and had been dealt with by Councillor Jones. Councillor Spendlove declared a direct Pecuniary Interest as the Applicant.

KET/2010/0626 Hethrington House, Sandy Hill Farm - Garage and storeroom.
No objection.

Rothwell & Desborough Urban Extension

Councillors Jones and Spendlove have both studied the Submission Document in some detail, and the Borough Councillors have also had a quick look at this.

Councillor Spendlove said this tells prospective developers what the Borough wants to achieve and they have to explain how they will do this. It is proposed there should be 700 houses here, which will mean 1,320 more residents by 2021. There is a road across the top of the site and into the bypass. There will also be a buffer between the development and the gullet. The junction to the bypass has to be built before any employment area is constructed. Once this road is in, there will be some serious traffic management to deter drivers from the Desborough area coming through Rothwell. The Borough wants to dissuade people from using their cars but to use public transport or to walk and therefore no house should be more than 300 metres from a bus stop.

Any new shops will not be permitted to have above 200 square metres of floor space. The housing density is not to be too high, and there will be 30% to 32% affordable housing although this will probably be the last part of the development because they will permit the developer to build the private houses first to fund the affordable ones. The policy is to encourage the re-use of water and any surface water run-off should not exceed that of open land. The sewage system will be up-graded for quite a good length.

Rothwell will need a new Community Centre which could be built on the site of the existing one. Contributions should be made towards this Community Centre and also the re-location of Kettering Fire Station to a more suitable site. There should also be a contribution towards improvements to the Heritage Centre and the Library. Green infrastructure and new footpaths will also be important. Montsaye Community College will remain the only secondary school for the two towns but they will have extra land for sporting facilities. The primary schools should not be boxed in but have spare land. The 700 houses are to be built between 2012 and 2021, and there will be four hectares of employment land for B1 and B2 use. They want to improve the quality of available employment.

Traveller Encampment

Councillor Pote has reported to the Traveller Unit that there is still the encampment in Harrington Road. It was AGREED to write to the Unit and ask how long these travellers are going to be allowed to stay because this makes a mockery of the whole Planning system.

464 MATTERS OF BUSINESSPossible Capital Projects

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

Local Elections

A letter had been received from Mr Ian White, the Borough Electoral Services Manager, to remind local Councils that any vacancies that occur within six months of the next regular elections must only be filled by co-option. Any vacancies that do occur must still be notified to the Borough Chief Executive as soon as possible. The next regular elections for Town and Parish Councils will take place on 5th May 2011, meaning that the six-month period comes into force on 6th November 2010.

County Registration Service

The Clerk had received a letter from the County Council that the improved Registration Service was launched on 1st October 2010, and registrations can now be made at any of the seven offices in the County.

Dog Control

Copies of a letter from the Borough Environmental Services Officer were available at this Meeting, to explain the new Dog Control Orders for the Borough. There will also be a presentations to the A6 Towns Forum on 10th November 2010.

465 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk submitted a written statement, as attached. It was **MOVED** by Councillor Pote, **SECONDED** by Councillor Jelley 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	£477.70
Kettering Borough Council	Work to provide level area, Manor Park	£900.00
BTCV	Work at the Pocket Park	£987.00
Colemans	Office Supplies	£19.99
Cash	Petty Cash	£60.00

Copies of an extract from the Local Government Website were available at this Meeting, to explain that Parish Councils might be allowed to make electronic payments in future, rather than having to have two signatures.

466 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.