

## ROTHWELL TOWN COUNCIL

A Meeting of Rothwell Town Council was held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday, 14th September 2010 in the Market House, Market Hill, Rothwell.

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Councillor Mrs C M Brown Councillor C W Cross Councillor I F Jelley Councillor D W Jones Councillor N A Matthew Councillor A J Mills Councillor Mrs L A Russell Councillor K D Sumpter Councillor Mrs M E Talbot	<u>Chairman</u>
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### 447 CHAIRMAN

As Councillor Mrs Brown was unavoidably delayed, Councillor Sumpter took the Chair, opened the Meeting and took the apologies. The Chairman arrived and conducted the remainder of the business.

### 448 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Councillors Pote, Roebuck and Spendlove, and from Canon John Westwood and Major Richard Cook.

### 449 COMMUNITY POLICING

#### General Report

PCSOs Jayne Breeze and Peter Firth were present at the Meeting, and the crime figures for August were also available, showing 36 crimes as follows:-

- Burglary dwelling - 3
- Burglary other - 1
- Criminal damage - 11
- Deception/Fraud - 2
- Sexual offences - 1
- Theft from motor vehicles - 3
- Theft/handling - 6
- Theft of motor vehicles - 1
- Violence offences - 8.

PCSO Firth confirmed that not many of these offences affected the general community as some were committed on the A6 bypass and there were 11 domestic incidents including some of the ones involving violence. Criminal damage was mostly to vehicles and this was throughout the town. For September so far, there have only been four crimes of theft from motor vehicles, including the theft of number plates. Someone set fire to the basket on a swing in Greening Road Park. He felt this is a good start to the month.

It was confirmed that Operation Night Safe has not yet taken place in Rothwell, but we will try and arrange this when Councillor Pote returns. PCSO Firth confirmed that Sgt Preece has been seconded to Kettering as Acting Inspector, and Sgt Simon Lloyd is in charge here now.

Councillor Cross said that at the end of March there was a break-in in Harrington Road, and at Nos. 78 to 82 there is a service road which does not have a light which it was felt had contributed to this particular burglary. A light has now been put up but this is not yet lit, despite the County promising to do this under works reference 443785. The Police will discuss this with the Crime Prevention Officer. It was AGREED that the Town Council will contact our County Highways Liaison Officer.

It was also reported that the light is out near The Vicarage which makes that area very dark, and Councillor Mrs Brown will report this to the Borough Council.

Councillor Mrs Talbot had details of persistent parking offenders, and passed this information to the PCSOs.

#### Police Questions from the Public

(a) Graffiti: a resident reported there was graffiti on the path at the back of Gordon Street in blue and black, and the Chairman mentioned this had also appeared near her house. This will be reported to the Borough Council once the Police have inspected and taken a photograph to show to the Officer who deals with graffiti.

(b) Police Follow-up: a resident said he reported a Mercedes which was damaged and parked half on the road and half on the pavement about three or four weeks ago. By the afternoon this had gone, but he did not get any information from the Police about what had happened. PCSO Firth said they do usually get back to an informant and he did not know why this was not done on this occasion.

(c) Orton House: PCSO Firth said there is to be a Police Meeting in the Market House on Thursday, 16th September with the Company which runs Orton House and some of the neighbours. If any Councillors also wished to attend, they would be very welcome.

#### 450 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

(1) Bus Stops, Medical Centre: these have been there for about two months and it was confirmed that the Members have not had any feedback from residents. Mr West has been told how pleased people are with them and Mr Mason had put it in the Rothwell column that people should use the bus stops. Mr West goes to Market Harborough and has seen people using them. Councillor Matthew had heard that the bus drivers did not like the stops there, but Councillor Mills said the location was positively selected because the traffic island prevents other vehicles overtaking when the bus has stopped. It was confirmed the stops were put in on 16th July.

(2) Anaerobic Digester: the Chairman has spoken to the Borough Environmental Services Department and this is not yet operating. Mr West had wanted copies of the report mentioned at the last Meeting, but this was only the name of the person at the Environment Agency who will be dealing with the plant, and the report as to why the surrounding villages were not consulted at the planning stage. It was understood work will start at the end of September/beginning of October and it will be phased in over several stages to check everything is satisfactory. It was reported that there was a smell in the area, and that recently there was smoke coming from the site. It was thought the smell is from something which the farmers are putting on the fields.

(3) Footpath at rear of Gordon Street: this was included in the Borough Walkabout. There is quite a lot of broken pathway which is probably where the stones are coming from. The Chairman will chase this.

The resident asked if there could be some more signs about dog fouling on this footpath and also in Manor Park. There is a Land Rover which stops at about 6.30 pm every evening on the corner of Gordon Street and the driver lets his dogs out to run through. The Chairman said they have asked for another bin at the end of Jubilee Street. It was reported that there is also a lot of dog mess on the footpath from Cogan Crescent to Manor Road.

(4) Trees, Moorfield Green: some residents said the County are saying the sewer pipes are too deep be affected by the tree roots, but these are only 14" to 3'6" under the ground. The County and MGWSP also say that tree roots cannot encroach underground pipes unless there are already defects in the pipe. The County will not fell healthy trees purely on the basis that the pipes are defective and they suggested that the residents contact Anglian Water. Copies of the correspondence and E-mails were available at this Meeting including a response from Mr Boyce that they have been in touch with Anglian Water but they do not want to know, as they insist that the pipe is on County property so they are responsible.

The Clerk has an old Borough Grounds Maintenance plan, and she will try and find out if this is still current and who owns this land. The Chairman said Mr Brendan Coleman, the new Head of Environmental Care Services is keen to take over some of the County responsibilities and we could contact him. The residents do not want to bear the cost of repairing the sewer, because they maintain these are not their trees which have damaged them. Councillor Mills said there is another area of the town where the sewer pipes collapsed and the residents had to pay to have these repaired. The resident was told that the Officer responsible for trees is on long-term sick leave so nothing will be done. There is someone at MGWSP who also looks at trees. It was AGREED to follow up this matter to see if we can resolve who is responsible.

(5) Drain, Gordon Street: a resident reported that there is a sewer cover between Nos. 22 and 24 Gordon Street which has a very bad smell coming from it. Anglian Water has been out, but they said they needed to speak to the County Council. It was AGREED to try Anglian Water and/or Street Doctor about this.

(6) Police Patrols: it was reported that these visits in Gordon Street are not as frequent as they were and the area around the flats is getting noisy again. It was AGREED to report this to Mr John Conway, Borough Head of Housing, and ask him to report this to Orbit Housing Association.

#### 451 MINUTES

It was MOVED by Councillor Mrs Talbot, SECONDED by Councillor Sumpter and RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th August 2010 be confirmed and signed.

#### 452 ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITY

##### Proposed Community Project

This is a standing item on the Agenda and Major Richard Cook was not able to be present at the Meeting to give any update.

##### Pocket Park

The Clerk reported that BTCV had let her know that they had made a preliminary booking to carry out the work at the Pocket Park on 21st, 22nd and 23rd September. After obtaining confirmation from Mr Ham Young at the Borough that they would be able to collect the excess scrub at that time and speaking to the Chairman, the Clerk had confirmed these dates.

We have now heard from the Big Lottery Fund that our application for a grant was unsuccessful because there was a high demand for funding under the Community Wildlife programme and they do not have sufficient funds to support all the projects they would like to. Subsequently the Clerk had received a telephone call that our application could be passed to the Awards for All Scheme, but we would not be able to do any work until late December. As we had already confirmed the dates and this was later than BTCV wanted to do the work, this had not been passed on. Councillor Pote has already indicated that he would be prepared to consider funding the work from his County Grant.

The Clerk has some small cowslips in pots and a buddleia which could be planted in the Pocket Park and it was AGREED to see if the Junior School children would like to do this.

### Ward Walkabout

Copies of the Schedule from the inspection in Rothwell had been circulated prior to this Meeting, giving details of the areas inspected and the possible solutions.

Councillor Cross said that the hedge of 2 Harrington Road is now overgrown again and obstructing the pavement. In addition, the passageway from Harrington Road to Trinity Road has hedges growing over the middle section of this footpath. It was AGREED to report these matters to Street Doctor.

The seats in Squires Hill were also looked at and it was felt these could have a periodic pressure wash to keep them clean and they do seem better now. They did consider moving these seats but this would create other problems. The trees here will also be pruned to allow a view of the Parish Church.

We did discuss having a seat opposite the Medical Centre. It was AGREED to write to the Borough and ask if there could be a seat there, in a suitable location which would not obstruct the area where a potential bus shelter would go in the future. Councillor Mrs Talbot thought this should be a metal seat rather than wooden, because the wooden ones remain wet after it rains. There are two wooden seats in front of the Library and perhaps in future we could consider having metal ones. It was not thought Montsaye pupils would be able to do this.

It was reported that the trees in Glendon Road are still there although the Clerk had enquired when this work would be done. The hedges are now half over the carriageway in this area on both sides of Glendon Road. It was AGREED to report this to Street Doctor.

### Trees in Rothwell

A reply had been received from the Borough Council that the dead tree in Well Lane Recreation Ground is due to come out soon as this is included in their proposed tree work here during September and October. The tree at Blythe Close has been ring barked which is why it died. There are two more trees that have had bark stripped in the same way (one medium and one big tree) and these will also die in the next year so. The little dead tree will be removed in the next couple of months.

Well Lane and Columbus Crescent are always great locations for tree planting and this winter the Borough will be replacing the new ones that died or were vandalised recently (two in Manor Park and one in Columbus Crescent).

Environmental Wardens

Copies of the presentation given to the A6 Towns Forum on the Borough Environmental Wardens were available at this Meeting. This could be put on the Agenda for the next Meeting.

Councillor Matthew said these generic Wardens will not be responsible for illegal parking, but only for the residents' parking schemes and the Borough's own car parks, although they will deal with untaxed and abandoned vehicles, as well as littering, and dog fouling/strays. However, these Environmental Wardens will have a link to the Traffic Wardens for on-street parking enforcement, and the Borough deploy the Police Wardens on yellow line enforcement.

The Clerk had been informed that we could ask Inspector Aistrop if we could have more visits by the Traffic Wardens here. It was AGREED to do this especially to look at Bridge Street and Market Hill.

Rothwell Gala

It was AGREED to hold the first Rothwell Gala Committee Meeting at 7.30 pm on Thursday, 7th October to start organising this event.

Additional Planters

The Chairman confirmed that she and Councillor Pote are funding two planters at the top of Market Hill Square in the area of the former Chinese Takeaway, and the children from the Junior School will plant these up with the flowers supplied by the Borough Council. It was AGREED to mention this to Mr Denton and that the planters will be taken away by the Borough for Rowell Fair as they are removable.

A14 Roundabouts

The Chairman and Councillors Jones, Mills and Pote had a Meeting with Sarah Parr, the Borough Grounds Maintenance Officer, at the A14 roundabouts to discuss planting these up. They are also considering putting some of the old bridge parapet (which was removed from the A6 when the A14 was constructed) there as a feature. Ms Parr has been planting some wild flowers and these will self-seed. There is a time capsule from about the 1900s sunk in the bridge parapet which Councillor Spendlove is going to try and find as he is storing this. The Junior School children are keen to do a new time capsule to put in there in due course.

453 HIGHWAYSA14 in the Kettering Area

A response had been received from the Highways Agency that the Government is carrying out a full spending review which is due to report in the autumn. The Highways Agency is playing a full part in this review and this includes working with the Department for Transport to examine all planned highways expenditure, including the proposal to widen the A14 around Kettering. They aim to provide all interested parties with an indication of the way forward for this scheme later in the year, once the spending review is complete. They will contact the Town Council again once they have a greater understanding about the future of the scheme.

Access to Water Tower

We had now heard from the Borough Planning Department about the clamp placed on the gates at the end of Scott Avenue. This matter was previously investigated following receipt of a previous complaint in 2009. At that time, they decided it was not expedient to enforce the

breach of condition 10 of Planning Permission KET/2005/0810 as they would not be able to successfully defend an appeal because the condition is likely to be considered unreasonable (i.e. it should not have been attached to the original Planning Permission). The matter has therefore been left for the developer to resolve as a civil matter. They understand that the previous lock is being damaged by a local resident who has taken it into their own hands to secure the gate to prevent access. Actions to repeatedly break the existing lock and attach the clamp is criminal damage which the developers are entitled to pursue under a civil capacity and through the Police. He gave the contact at Persimmon Homes who we could contact to seek a more permanent resolution.

It was AGREED to write to Persimmon Homes to ask them to take action because access is needed for the water tower and to get to the allotments, and with the gate clamped people would need to go all round Scott Avenue. It was FURTHER AGREED to report this matter to the Safer Community Team.

### Footpath UH15

This public right of way from Jubilee Street to Kettering Road, which was blocked off when Bovis Homes were building in the area has been inspected by the County Rights of Way Officer with the Bovis Site Manager, who says he does not think the land is owned by Bovis. The Rights of Way Officer therefore thought his Department would have to carry out the work to re-open the footpath but this would take some time and they would have to hire a skip from their small budget. The Clerk had the name of the person at Bovis who arranged to clear the barbed wire off the footpath up to the Community Centre, and has passed this to the County so they can be in touch with him direct to see if Bovis will do the necessary work to re-open the path.

### Roundabout, Greening Road

Councillor Cross reported that the mini-roundabout at the junction of Greening Road and Desborough Road is in a very poor condition with the setts breaking up and going into the road. It was AGREED to report this to Street Doctor.

### Rushton Road

Councillor Mills said he has received another complaint about how difficult it is to cross Rushton Road by Crispin Street because of the speed of vehicles here and the parked cars obstructing visibility, especially on Sundays when people attend the Catholic Church in the area. We did ask for a vehicle actuated sign in the area to ask people to slow down. We do have chicanes in Glendon Road and Harrington Road, which are the other main entrances to the town. It was AGREED to ask if we could have a chicane in Rushton Road where the houses start.

### Highways Issues

Mr Nick Gore, the County Highways Liaison Officer had telephoned that he had only just received our letters regarding the obstruction at Leys Avenue and HGVs using Greening Road, because he has moved from the Highways Depot at Brixworth to Riverside House, Northampton and it took some time for the letter to reach him. He will be in touch as soon as he has looked at these matters.

As to the proposed change of priorities in the High Street, there has been a delay in starting the Feasibility Study due to holidays, sickness and staff moves, but this should now begin in October.

454 PLANNINGReport of the Planning Referee

As usual, Councillor Mrs Brown declared an Interest as a Member of the Borough Planning Committees.

Councillor Jones presented the Report and there had been the following Approvals:-

- KET/2010/0284 Land at the Football Club, Cambridge Street - Renewal of KE/01/0175, Outline for residential development.
- KET/2010/0289 21 Market Hill - Replace stud walls and other interior work.
- KET/2010/0394/400 6 Market Hill - External seating and barriers.
- KET/2010/0412 3 Bridge Street - Lime render upper section of right hand gable wall.
- KET/2010/0430 Woodland Hospital - Additional parking spaces.
- KET/2010/0431 87 Greening Road - Extension.
- KET/2010/0445 62A Harrington Road - Extension.
- KET/2010/0551 Glendon Road - Non-material amendment to landscaped park.

There had been an Application for an agricultural building at Rothwell Lodge Farm, but as this had deemed consent we had not been sent the actual Application. The following Applications had been received and the Town Council's observations were as stated:-

- KET/2010/0548 1 Chichester Close - Extension  
No objection.
- KET/2010/0551 Glendon Road - Non-material amendment to landscaped park.  
No objection.
- KET/2010/0562 Land at North Desborough - 700 residential units.  
Rothwell Town Council is concerned about the increasing volume of traffic coming through Rothwell from the Desborough area on the old A6 (B576) despite the bypass, and obviously this development would add significantly to the number of vehicles in Rothwell. The 7.5 tonne weight limit seems to be ineffective because lorries from the new distribution centre continue to access the A14 through Rothwell using the old A6 (B576)/High Street/Greening Road/High Hill Avenue/Harrington Road and some of these are residential streets, with Montsaye Community College also in Greening Road. Rothwell Town Council has been asking for some time for a relief road from the B576 to the north of Rothwell directly to the A6 bypass and perhaps any s.106 Agreement could specify that there should be a contribution towards this proposed road as shown on the plans for the development at Rothwell North. In the meantime, it might also be considered necessary to have further conditions to persuade drivers to access the A14 via the A6 bypass.
- KET/2010/0572 114 Connolly Drive - Extensions.  
No objection.

Rothwell & Desborough Urban Extension

We had received copy of the Rothwell and Desborough Urban Extension Submission with a letter dated 25th August 2010, and this was discussed by the Borough Planning Department on 31st August. It was AGREED to write that Members of the Town Council did not have the chance to look at this because of the short time available, and also it is holiday time. This is now being circulated and the Borough Councillors will make their copies available to other Members.

Anaerobic Digester

A letter had been received from the County Council that the County Approval did not include a requirement for a s.106 Agreement, as this would not have passed the legal tests.

Councillor Spendlove had raised concerns about the disposal of waste, especially the dirty water, and we had therefore E-mailed Ms Jane Mossman at the Environment Agency to mention this and that the Town Council would like to ensure there is no danger of pollution of the streams or bad smells which would affect the town. A reply had been received that this site has been constructed as a bunded facility which protects the surrounding land from contamination in the event of a spillage or leak from the waste treatment tank systems. This also means that all rainfall in the area is held on site and is required to be tested prior to discharge. In addition, the tanks and pipework are protected by an alarm system which detects any reduction in pressure. Effluent (sludge and liquids) from the facility will be treated on site to the industry standard (PAS 110) and may be applied to agricultural land periodically in place of chemical fertiliser as part of routine farm management practices. It was AGREED to ask the Environment Agency when it is intended the digester will start working.

There are road works to be carried out in connection with the development. Councillor Matthew said there is a notice that there will be overnight closure of junction 4 of the A14 for four weeks starting the following Monday. It was assumed this is for the road works at the entrance to the digester site, but this will be monitored and if not we will ask the County Council when the work will be done.

455 MATTERS OF BUSINESSPossible Capital Projects

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

Licensing Policy

We had received a copy of the draft Statement of Licensing Policy which is due for the 3- yearly review. Councillor Mrs Talbot is on the Borough Licensing Committee and will deal with this.

Training Events

Copies of the E-mail from the Northants County Association of Local Councils had been circulated prior to this Meeting in case any Member would like to attend.

Miscellaneous Information

We had received details of the following events:-

- The Big Society Seminar which the County is hosting on Saturday, 2nd October at Kettering Conference Centre.

- The NHS Northamptonshire Annual General Meeting on Thursday, 23rd September in Daventry.
- An Emergency Planning Conference which the County is running on 7th October in Thrapston.

In addition copies of the leaflets on the Trading Standards Approved Trader Scheme were available at this Meeting.

## 456 FINANCIAL REPORT

### General Statement

The Clerk submitted a written statement as attached. It was **MOVED** by Councillor Cross, **SECONDED** by Councillor Matthew 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
H M Revenue & Customs	Tax and N I (3 months)	£457.38
BDO LLP	External Audit Fee	£158.63
Colemans	Office Supplies	£11.98
N A Matthew	Reimbursement for Domain Names	£14.05

As to adding the Clerk as a signatory to the Town Council Account so that she can collect the cheques, the forms have now been completed and it was **AGREED** to submit these, together with a copy of the Minutes of the last Meeting as requested, which will be signed by the Chairman, the Clerk and two existing signatories.

### External Audit

We had now received the Annual Return back, and there were no issues raised by the External Auditors.

### Manor Park

Copies of the E-mail from Ms Pia Bellamy at the Borough Council had been circulated prior to this Meeting. This specified that the breakdown of the cost of providing a level area in Manor Park as a total of £900, rather than the anticipated £500, because they bought the soil and had to transport this. We had previously agreed that the Town Council and the Citizens Welfare Committee would pay £250 each. It was **MOVED** by Councillor Matthew, **SECONDED** by Councillor Sumpter and **RESOLVED** that the Town Council will pay the full £900. It might be that the Borough and County Councillors will be able to assist from their Grants.

The Meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

Chairman

Date