

ROTHWELL TOWN COUNCIL

A Meeting of Rothwell Town Council was held after the Annual Town Meeting at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, 14th May 2013 in the Market House, Market Hill, Rothwell.

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Councillor A J Mills	<u>Chairman</u>
	Councillor D F Anderson	
	Councillor C W Cross	
	Councillor Mrs K M Draper	
	Councillor I F Jelley	
	Councillor N A Matthew	
	Councillor Mrs L A Russell	
	Councillor K D Sumpter	
	Councillor Mrs M E Talbot	
	Councillor R Wilson	

321 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Councillors Mrs Brown and Jones, and from County Councillor Hakewill.

322 COMMUNITY POLICING

General Report

PCSOs Paul Miller and Laura Mitchell were present at the Meeting, and confirmed that there were 22 reported crimes during April as follows:-

- Burglary dwelling - 4
- Burglary other - 1
- Criminal damage - 9
- Drug offences - 1
- Other offences - 1
- Sexual offences - 1
- Theft/handling - 4
- Violence offences - 1.

It was confirmed that someone who might be responsible is in custody in relation to the burglary dwelling offences. As to the criminal damage, two were sprayed paint, two were damaged cars, one garden ornaments and another was when some sand was thrown. The Chairman said that wing mirrors have been knocked off in Tresham Street. It was confirmed the Police do allow cars to park partially on the pavement and wing mirrors can then get damaged. We had been informed that there was a strong smell of drugs in the Brachers Wood area between 4.00 and 8.00 pm. PCSO Miller asked people to report all incidents direct to the Police as this does help retain the manpower level. Councillor Mrs Draper was pleased to note that there was no mention of violence offences among school children and PCSO Miller thought this could have gone down as the Police are spending a lot more time in schools now and believed this was going to increase even more, including talking to pupils about bullying.

Councillor Jelley reported there is a small car parked at the top of Columbus Crescent about a foot away from the kerb and PCSO Miller said they would look at this, as they have been issued with more powers in Kettering North so they can write parking tickets for obstruction only. Councillor said cars are parking by the build-out in Harrington Road which obstructs visibility

and the Police will look at this also. Councillor Mrs Talbot had accompanied PCSO Parish on the walk in Littlewood Street and this had been very successful. Councillors Mills and Sumpter had gone to meet PCSO Parish on the other two days, but unfortunately they were at different locations.

323 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

(1) Glendon Road Amenity Area: Mr Weston asked the Borough Councillors what has happened to the proposed amenity area to be provided by the s.106 monies from the industrial units in Glendon Road. There was to be a football pitch and play equipment and we will find out about this. The Chairman said there is also the play equipment to be provided by Bovis, who have now built 75% of their houses so they are being pushed to deliver, including the improvement to the Nosehill footpath and the ball park. Councillor Mrs Russell said they have cleared a lot more land on the Bovis site but there is still no provision for the children. It was explained there has been a problem with the drainage but it was understood this has now been sorted out.

2. Podiatry Department: a resident explained that there was a room at the Medical Centre for the podiatry work but the Health Authority is to save some money by closing this. She is worried that the frail elderly people will not be treated, although probably people with diabetes will still get this. She left some information with a questionnaire. Some people might have to pay and not be able to do this which can result in amputations and hospital treatment which is a false economy. The Head Office of the Podiatry Department is at Battle House in Northampton.

3. Twinning Association: a member of the Association thanked the Town Council for the support that it gave when the visitors from Droué were here. They are now fund raising, probably with an event in the first weekend in October. They want to subsidise the visits to Droué including for children. The Chairman agreed that Droué is a fantastic place to visit and the Town Council will support the Association as much as it can. They do want to do much more with the children and can get grants if there is a three-way twinning, but the Town Council needs to ask for this initially as there is a German town twinned with Droué.

(4) Army Cadet Force: a member of the D-Company Army Cadet Force gave details of the Annual Open Evening on at 8.00 pm on 21st May 2013 in Desborough when the Corps of Drums will demonstrate their skills. Unfortunately this is the evening of the Borough Planning Policy Committee Meeting so it was not known if anyone would be able to attend.

324 MINUTES

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Cross, **SECONDED** by Councillor Mrs Talbot and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th April 2013 be confirmed and signed.

325 ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITY

Town Centre Partnership

Copies of the Report of the Meeting held on 17th April 2013 had been circulated prior to this Meeting. It was **AGREED** that the Report be approved and adopted.

Councillor Jelley has still not been able to find out anything about the BID Scheme as Ms Val Hitchman has been away from work for three weeks. However he still intends to chase this up and hoped to have more information for the next Meeting.

Precept

Copies of the Report of the Meeting held on 25th April 2013 had been circulated prior to this Meeting. Councillor Mrs Russell wanted the words "because it was minuted at the information day that there would be a further information or consultation day later in the year" added to the end of the first paragraph after "The Chairman said every household needed a leaflet". Subject to this addition, it was AGREED that the Report be approved and adopted.

The Clerk had needed to explain to the Northants CALC why the Town Council was raising such a large sum by way of precept without a formal budget in that we did not know if people would say they did not want a Town Council so needed sufficient to dismantle the Council if necessary. He responded that he was interested in our comment that *"if enough people in the town decided they did not want the precept, the Town Council would have to be dismantled"*. He explained that there is no such requirement in law so he assumed we meant that Rothwell Town Council would seek to trigger a Community Governance Review (CGR) and put forward the abolition of the Town Council as a proposal. It would certainly be a test of the public's perception of the Town Council and one that he was sure would lead to a show of support from the Rothwell electors. Even though Rothwell has not joined NCALC this time, he would still be pleased to come and visit the Council one day and discuss the role of Parish and Town Councils in the medium term, particularly in relation to financing and working with Principal Councils. Councillor Cross thought this would depend upon the reaction but Members of the Town Council will look into this procedure.

There will be a further consultation as this was agreed when the precept was brought in. Councillor Mrs Draper thought a leaflet should go to every household in Rothwell before the consultation on Wednesday, 11th September. Councillor Matthew had missed the first 25 minutes of this Meeting and asked what the issue was. He valued the Clerk's advice but there were comments expressed by her as a personal opinion rather than giving advice. Councillor Mrs Russell said the precept was raised because otherwise the Town Council would not have sufficient funds to meet its commitments during this financial year. However the Council would remain to begin with but we will explain further and if the residents of the town do not want a Town Council it will be disbanded. She did not feel that there would be proper consultation unless every household has a leaflet explaining the situation. Councillor Matthew thought we were originally going to have a referendum but this would have been very expensive so we would move forward with a consultation. It was decided again that there will be this formal event after contacting every household in the town and we will find out everyone's opinion. Councillor Anderson said the reason the first Town Meeting was arranged so quickly was because a decision had to be made immediately as to whether a precept had to be raised.

Councillor Mrs Talbot had made enquiries of the Rural Trader about their costs for delivering to every household in Rothwell and they deliver 3,378 copies here. The cost would be £142 + VAT for a full page inside, £205 + VAT for the front page, or £168.90 + VAT to include our insert. They need the notice by July for delivery in August. Rural Trader advised that an insert could fall out or just be thrown away. Councillor Mrs Draper thought we needed the insert to have a reply slip. As to the Post Office, Councillor Mrs Talbot has looked at this but it would be very expensive, however Councillor Anderson thought this would look more professional. There will be a Working Party to look at these options. As to printing a leaflet, we had 5,000 for the Town Plan and this cost £620 to be printed by the Borough Council. Councillor Sumpter thought the Borough Council should be using some of the £20,000 Government grant to have these delivered rather than expecting the Town Councillors to do this.

Brachers Wood and Brachers Allotments

The Woodland Trust need vehicular access into Brachers Wood for maintenance work but the Allotment Association has now put locked gates up. However the two organisations have sorted out the necessary arrangements between themselves.

A resident had mentioned earlier that there was to be a seat in Brachers Wood, but this is actually to be put in the Allotments with a plaque about Mr Butlin and is being paid for by the Allotment Association.

Taxi Rank

We had received an E-mail from Russ Howell, the Borough Health Services Manager, and he has been in touch with the County Council who believe such a taxi rank would be possible, provided there is no conflict with the bus service, but there would be costs involved. The Borough has not had any requests or enquiries relating to a taxi rank in Rothwell over the last seven years or so. There used to be a rank in Desborough but he did not think this was ever supported by either the taxi trade or the public and so is no longer in use. Mr Howell did not think one man with his car would be able to properly service the rank and unless the public know that a taxi will be available within a reasonable time, it will quickly fall out of use. It is not possible to put in a temporary bay and for the Borough to go through the necessary processes and costs Mr Howell would need to take a proper business proposal to Committee, and this should include some evidence to indicate there is a significant demand. The Clerk had forwarded the E-mail to Mr Jones but has not heard anything further back from him.

Gala Committee

An E-mail had been received from Jennifer McStay, who has now joined the Gala Committee, and she suggested a Meeting fairly soon and would also like us to consider a firework display for the evening. It was AGREED that we will arrange a date at the June Meeting.

Gipsy and Traveller Sites

The Chairman reported that the Borough report on possible gipsy and traveller sites was made public the previous day and they have removed the Avalon Allotments area from the list. The Chairman said we must thank the local residents, especially Mr McQuade and Mr Deacon for all their work in getting this taken off. There is still the illegal encampment off Harrington Road on the list although this is an illegal traveller site on other people's land. Over the past few years the Borough Council has done the following against the wishes of the Town Council:-

- (a) stopped the grant
- (b) allowed the lorry park to go ahead
- (c) not objected to the anaerobic digester
- (d) not taken action about the gipsy site off Harrington Road.

The attitude of the Borough Council was discussed further as it is thought the Hollands have been on the site for about six years and the Borough is minded to let them stay and we have not had any support from the County Traveller Unit. We were re-assured that there were no other sites in Rothwell but now there are seven areas in the Parish although we had been told that the County Council had identified land outside Rothwell which would meet the Borough Council's allocation needs. The Chairman said this will be discussed at the Borough Planning Policy Meeting on 21st May and they are aware of the situation with the Hollands. Councillor Sumpter said there is virtually no land identified as suitable for a traveller site in the town of Kettering.

Councillor Jelley said the policy is going out for consultation and he suggested that we write to the Borough Council and ask the Head of Development Services to give a presentation to the Town Council, and that we would like to see a copy of the protocol on gipsy and traveller sites and why the Officers did not look at anything in the town of Kettering. He sits on the Gipsy Committee, but not on the Planning Policy Committee. Councillor Mrs Russell was concerned that the Borough already owns some of the land they are proposing for a traveller site and had been informed that the Borough is looking for more pitches than are required. Councillor Matthew said most of the other sites have been ruled out so a decision has already been made that the gipsy and traveller sites will come to Rothwell and the Borough intends to legitimise the illegal site off Harrington Road. The immediate concerns about this area are:-

1. the Hollands have a septic tank which is flooding into the adjacent field
2. they have street lights and we would like to know where the electricity is coming from and who is paying for this
3. the Hollands already have more caravans on the site than the number they were refused Planning Permission for
4. they have already moved into the fields on the left as you look at the site from Harrington Road
5. we would like to know if they are having their wheelie bins collected and if so who authorised this, but if not where are they dumping their rubbish
6. a local farmer was fined for putting one caravan in one of his own fields but no action has been taken against Mr Holland despite him setting up an illegal site on someone else's land.

The Clerk had at last managed to speak to Mr Robert Phillips of DLP Consultants and he thought his clients had received a letter from the Borough Council asking if they wanted their site to be considered for a gipsy site but he did not think his clients had responded. He believed Morris Homes had spoken to the landowners. Mr Phillips is dealing with planning issues but not the legal ones so he does not know if his clients are considering serving a notice of eviction. There will be consultation on the preferred sites and they can comment at that time. It was felt that if the landowners do not serve an eviction notice quickly, Mr Holland might be able to claim the land as you only need to be there for nine years and he will have been there for seven years in October. A resident thought the owner had refused to sell the Harrington Road site. It was thought it would be a good idea to write direct to all the landowners, but the Clerk did not think she had all their addresses, only that for Persimmon and Mr Johnson. However, after the Meeting she found the addresses of the agents for the other two landowners and the Chairman had approved letters to all four and these had been sent.

It was AGREED to write to Robert Harbour, the new Head of Development Services, that in the light of the report to the Planning Policy Meeting, we would like a special Meeting with him at the Market House to explain the situation.

War Memorial

An E-mail had been received from the County British Legion that for many years they have run a competition for war memorials for Branches of the British Legion to submit entries. They are now extending the competition to all interested Parishes, and the memorials will be judged on general appearance, state of maintenance and surrounds. Entries, to include location and access arrangements, if necessary, should be submitted no later than Friday, 21st June 2013. Winners will be notified, and the trophies awarded at the Royal British Legion County Conference held in January each year in Northampton. It was AGREED to enter the Rothwell memorial.

Pocket Park

Rose Little, the County Pocket Parks Officer, had forwarded an E-mail from Daniel Walker of Siemens that their apprentices have a requirement to do some volunteering as part of their corporate social responsibilities so they give something back to the areas and communities that Siemens operates within. This means that they have eleven able-bodied young people, aged between 18 and 23 available to help out with environmental work at Pocket Parks across the County. They are enthusiastic, polite and professional and have their own transport and PPE. Mr Walker and a colleague would accompany them which would give us two bonus volunteers. The Chairman said that we want to provide paths in the Pocket Park so we need to put in some edging and crushed aggregate. It was AGREED to write back that we have this work to do, but we have not managed to organise this yet so we would welcome their help later in the year. It was FURTHER AGREED to write to Ms Pia Bellamy that we wish to do this but we need the permission of the Borough Council and perhaps they could assist with some materials.

Library Garden

Councillor Mrs Draper asked what is happening about tidying this up and Councillor Jelley said this was to be done the following week when they will put some membrane down and bark on the top of this.

Anaerobic Digester

Councillor Mrs Russell said that Shaun Cherry is still sending her a monthly report and said he was blamed for a smell recently but this was from spreading the material for the digester onto fields and the Environment Agency dealt with this quickly.

326 PLANNINGReport of the Planning Referee

Councillor Anderson presented the Report and confirmed that the following Applications had been received and the Town Council's observations were as stated:-

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|---------------|---|
| KET/2013/0080 | 19 Norton Street - First floor side extension (Amended Plan)
No objection to this amended application. |
| KET/2013/0189 | Underwood Road - Two dwellings.
No objection to development on this site, but two dwellings would be over-development and there is not sufficient room for parking. |
| KET/2013/0210 | Harrington Road - 91 dwellings.
Approval of reserved matters for KET/2009/0474.
No objection but we would like details of the s.106 money and what this will be spent on as it should be for the local community. |
| KET/2013/0246 | Harrington Road - 91 dwellings.
Variation of conditions 14 and 15 of KET/2009/0474.
No objection but we would like details of the s.106 money and what this will be spent on as it should be for the local community. |
| KET/2013/0294 | Rothwell Town Football Club, Cecil Street
Renewal of KET/2010/0285 for replacement of training area and floodlighting.
No objection. |

KET/2013/0294 Land at Rothwell Town Football Club, off Cambridge Street
Renewal of KET/2010/0284 for residential development.
No objection.

As to Applications KET/2013/0210 and 0246, it was AGREED to write to the Developers and make them aware of the situation with the illegal gipsy encampment on part of the land which is the subject of these Applications, and that the gipsies are likely to remain unless an eviction notice is served by the landowners.

The following Refusal had been received:-

KET/2013/0189 Underwood Road - Two dwellings.

The following Approvals had been received:-

KET/2013/0080 19 Norton Street - First floor side extension.

KET/2013/0134 3 Lancaster Road - Side extension and alterations.

KET/2013/0193 1 Gibbons Drive - First floor rear extension.

Town Plan

The Town Plan consultation is to take place on Friday and Saturday, 17th and 18th May in the Methodist Church. Councillor Jelley has spoken to Mr Tony Boswell, who has been unwell again. It was AGREED to send details of the consultation to County Councillor Jim Hakewill. A Borough Planning Officer will be there most of Friday, but not on Saturday. Councillor Jelley has taken a lot of photographs of various parts of the town. Refreshments will be available. It was still not understood why the Borough Council did not spend some of the £20,000 grant on delivering the leaflets, but Councillor Mrs Talbot said if the Town Plan goes to a Judicial Review they will need this amount. Broughton Astley near Market Harborough is also preparing a Neighbourhood Plan which is going to an independent Government Inspector and it was AGREED to ask how their plan is progressing.

Local Validation Requirements

An E-mail had been received from the Borough Development Services Department that these requirements have been revised in line with national guidance which states that they should be necessary, precise, proportionate, fit for purpose and clearly show where assistance can be obtained. Consultation on this document will commence on Monday, 22nd April and conclude at 5.30 pm on Monday, 17th June 2013.

327 HIGHWAYS

Desborough Energy Centre

We had received a reply from Mr Mark Laurenson of the County Planning Department that permission for this energy centre was granted on 11th March 2013 and the associated s.106 agreement does address traffic routing with the details which need to be set out in their strategy. There is no specific requirement for the sign which the Town Council asked to be put on the A14, but the agreed routing does use the A6 and A14, therefore avoiding Rothwell. He will forward our letter to the Applicants and ask them to consider our signage request in the scheme they are required to submit for approval under the s.106 Agreement.

Resurfacing Scheme

A letter had been received from Nilesh Patel at Northamptonshire Highways that they are now proposing to resurface the carriageway in Bridge Street, Market Hill, Bell Hill and part of Glendon Road from the junction of High Street to 20 m past the Rock Hill junction. The work is expected to be carried out in late July 2013 over two Sundays from 8.00 am to 6.00 am on the Mondays when the road will be closed to all traffic. There might be other preparation works that form part of the scheme that will be carried out during weekdays under traffic lights. All the affected residents will be informed of the forthcoming work with a further letter just before the construction team starts on site.

After receipt of this letter, the Clerk E-mailed Ian Smith, Nick Gore, Ian Boyes and Ben Wright at Northamptonshire Highways to reiterate our request that Well Lane and Ponder Street be included in these works because this is needed and these streets adjoin those being done. No reply has yet been received.

328 MATTERS OF BUSINESSCapital/Maintenance Projects

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

Licensing Application

We had received copy of an application for a convenience store in the empty shop at No. 63 Kettering Road, Rothwell for the sale of alcohol (off) from Monday to Sunday from 6.00 am to 10.00 pm.

North Northants Parish Forum

Copies of the E-mail from Mr Danny Moody, the Chief Executive of Northants CALC, had been circulated prior to this Meeting to announce the inaugural Meeting the North Northamptonshire Parish Forum to be held from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm at the Saxon Hall, Raunds on Tuesday, 18th June 2013. Councillors Anderson and Mrs Draper would like to attend at the Clerk will book two places for them.

Training Courses

The Clerk had details of the various training courses available from Northants CALC.

Badge of Rothwell

A request had been received by E-mail from some people who collect badges, patches, pins etc. depicting the seals or coats of arms of English Councils of every type. The Clerk had found a photo of the badge on the Chairman's chain. It was AGREED to send them this photograph.

329 FINANCIAL REPORTGeneral Statement

The Clerk submitted a written statement as attached. It was MOVED by Councillor Cross, SECONDED by Councillor Jelley and RESOLVED that the statement be approved and adopted and the following amounts paid:-

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Goods or Services</u>	<u>Amount</u>
BT Payment Services	Phone Bill	£154.42
Mrs C E Mackay	Clerk's Salary	£576.20
British Telecom	Mobile Broadband	£9.00
Northants CALC	Internal Audit Costs 2013-14	£175.00
Cash	Petty Cash	£50.00

Annual Return

The Clerk had completed the Annual Return, the accompanying risk assessment, asset register and table of significant variances and these were available for inspection. It was MOVED by Councillor Sumpter, SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Russell and RESOLVED that the Annual Return be approved and signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

Cleaning Contract

We had now received the quote from Inter-County Service Group for cleaning the Council Chamber and office at the Market House of £125 + VAT for the initial deep clean, and then £30 for a two-hour clean every month. It was MOVED by Councillor Matthew, SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Talbot and RESOLVED that the quote be accepted. It is hoped that the schedule can provide for the monthly clean to take place just before the Town Council Meetings.

Councillor Mrs Talbot thought we should have a mat at the bottom of the stairs to absorb the dust and water before people come up the stairs. It was AGREED that Councillor Mrs Talbot should obtain a suitable mat to be paid for by the Town Council.

Insurance

An E-mail had been received from the Clerk to Loddington Parish Council that they are looking into combining their Insurance Policy with neighbouring Parish Councils in the hope that they can bring down their premium, and she wondered if this would be of interest to us. They insure with Came & Company at the moment and they are happy with them. It was AGREED to respond that we are with Zurich Municipal and would only be interested if the policy was with that company.

330 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.