

ROTHWELL TOWN COUNCIL

A Meeting of Rothwell Town Council was held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday, 14th April 2015 in the Market House, Market Hill, Rothwell.

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Councillor R Wilson Councillor Mrs C M Brown Councillor C W Cross Councillor Mrs K M Draper Councillor I F Jelley Councillor M E Jones Councillor N A Matthew Councillor A J Mills Councillor Mrs L A Russell Councillor K D Sumpter Councillor Mrs M E Talbot	<u>Town Mayor</u>
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618 PRAYERS

The Revd Canon John Westwood said Prayers and mentioned Rothwell and its well-being and everyone who lives and works here.

619 COMMUNITY POLICING

General Report

PCSO Donna Fenner was present at the Meeting and confirmed there were 36 reported crimes in Rothwell during March as follows:-

- Burglary dwelling - 1
- Burglary other - 3
- Criminal damage - 5
- Drug offences - 1
- Theft from motor vehicles - 7
- Theft/handling - 5
- Theft of motor vehicles - 1
- Violence offences - 13.

This is a total for the 2014-15 year of 371. PCSO Fenner went through some details of the crimes, and in particular mentioned that the violence offences are mainly domestic and there was only one real offence of violence which related to two Montsaye students scrapping on a bus. She thought there were actually two burglary dwelling, but one of these might have been listed under burglary other. As to the break-in at the Salvation Army premises, over the last few months there have been various churches and chapels broken into by people looking for cash. They do give all the advice they can to try and help. As to how this year compared with the previous one, PCSO Fenner did not have the figures with her but people can find this on the website. [The Clerk subsequently looked at last year's figures and for 2013-14 there were a total of 464 reported crimes so there has been a reduction of nearly 100.]

Northamptonshire Residents Panel

Councillor Mrs Talbot had received an E-mail with details of this Panel and it was thought that perhaps the invitation to join was personal to her. The Clerk will forward this to Councillor Sumpter.

620 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

(1) Land off Glendon Road: a resident referred to the proposed sale of the land owned by Anglian Water which was up for sale by auction at Savills but has now been withdrawn. He has a copy of the reply from Anglian Water to the letter sent by the Town Council, saying that they will not give the land back to the Town Council. The Clerk said there are rumours that they had received an offer much higher than the auction guide price of £25,000 but we do not know if this is correct. Councillor Sumpter said there is a restriction on the land because of the pipes underneath and it is recommended that this should be grazing land. He thought we should ask what they would accept. Councillor Mills understood that Anglian Water and Savills are looking into the legal situation here. It has been rumoured that the travelling community would be interested in this land but if they do get this, it could be very difficult for Anglian Water to get access to the equipment they still have there as happened at Kangaroo Spinney, Wellingborough. Councillor Sumpter has passed a copy of this letter to someone who might be interested. We need to find out the proper legal position and see if we can put forward a case.

It was MOVED by Councillor Mills, SECONDED by Councillor Matthew and RESOLVED that the Clerk sends a letter to Anglian Water pointing out the difficulties they might encounter if they sold the land, and asking them to re-consider passing the land back to Rothwell, asking if there is a prospective purchaser, and appealing to their corporate responsibility because when Anglian Water took over the land they were not a private company so this land was publicly owned for many years.

It was FURTHER AGREED that the Clerk would send a copy of her draft letter to the Mayor, Councillors Mills, Matthew and Sumpter, and to Mr Cox, for approval.

621 REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

County Councillor Hakewill was not able to be present at the Meeting. A resident referred to the report from the January Meeting on page 476 when it was reported that Mr Cherry had been rude to a member of the public who went to the Borough Planning Meeting. Mr Cherry definitively denies that he was rude to anyone at any Meeting and this was noted.

622 MINUTES

(1) Councillor Jones circulated a statement signed by the four Labour Councillors about the validity of the Minutes because they do not believe they represented a true record of the discussion under paragraph 611(3) which states that Councillor Jones was looking for a resignation. In fact Councillor Jones read the excerpt from The Good Councillors Guide as follows:-

"Rule 10. At the Meeting

What if you cannot attend? Remember, you have a duty to attend but sometimes things crop up and you are unable to make it. You must contact the Clerk with an apology and explanation. A darts match is not an adequate excuse whereas illness or work commitments are acceptable reasons. If you fail to attend any Meetings for six months, you will automatically cease to be a Councillor unless the Council approved your reason for absence before the end of the six month period."

The Labour Councillors felt it would be helpful to understand whose responsibility it is to implement this rule and whether it was the Mayor or the Town Clerk. The Clerk explained that it was certainly not her responsibility, or that of the Mayor, but it is up to the Town Council to decide to do this. With such an issue, the best procedure would have been for Councillor Jones to let the Clerk have a formal written Motion with a proposer and seconder which (with the

approval of the Mayor) could then have been put on the Agenda and debated at the next Meeting when the Town Council could have reached a decision with proper notice having been given and the Standing Orders do explain the correct procedure [Further information is contained in Standing Order 9 and in particular paragraph b states that "No Motion may be moved at a Meeting unless it is on the agenda and the mover has given notice of its wording to the Proper Officer at least three clear days before the Meeting."]

Councillor Mrs Russell felt perhaps this should have been taken up earlier but this is not the time because it is so close to the election. She felt that everyone who stands for election should turn up to more than one Meeting a year, but she also felt this was purely political at this time. Councillor Jones still felt that the Mayor, the Clerk and Councillor Jelley as Leader of the Conservative Group should have acted on this. The letter from the Labour Group referred to the case of Councillor Anderson, but as recorded at the March Meeting, Councillor Jelley had informed him he was no longer a Member of the Town Council but no formal proposal had been put forward to be passed by the Town Council.

Councillor Jones thought Councillor Matthew did not meet the criteria either. As recorded at the March Meeting Councillor Matthew had always given his apologies and the reason he was not able to attend Council Meetings was because of his work commitments which is an acceptable reason as stated in the Good Councillors Guide. The fact that his apologies had always been accepted by the other Members of the Town Council was a tacit approval of Councillor Matthew remaining a Member of the Town Council and again there was no formal proposal on the issue.

Councillor Sumpter agreed that he went round and asked Members to attend this Meeting if they possibly could. Councillor Mrs Russell felt lessons should be learnt from this and if people cannot attend Meetings they should step down.

It was MOVED by Councillor Mrs Talbot and SECONDED by Councillor Sumpter that the full statement signed by the Labour Members should not be recorded in the Minutes.

Voting for the Motion	5
Voting against the Motion	4.

The Motion was therefore Carried.

(2) Councillor Mrs Draper referred to Minute 607 on Community Policing where it was minuted that she still intended to find out who deals with the anti-bullying campaign at Montsaye. She has now found out who the new person is at Montsaye and has a copy of their Anti-bullying Policy.

Subject to the above, it was MOVED by Councillor Jelley, SECONDED by Councillor Sumpter and RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th March 2015 be confirmed and signed.

623 ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITY

Medical Centre

Copies of the letter from Linda Wood, Chair of the Rothwell and Desborough PPG had been circulated prior to this Meeting. Councillor Jones is on the Virtual Patient Participation Group. A suggestion has been made to him that the 12 people on the main Group is a low number but it was explained that they do not have a large enough room for more. It was felt it would be a good idea for a Town Councillor to be on the main Group after the election.

Councillor Mrs Draper had heard that patients from Rothwell will have to go to the Corby Centre in future. Councillor Jelley said there have been talks about Rothwell and Desborough joining a Medical Group but this does not mean people will have to go to Corby. The Town Council had previously been told that the Weavers Centre would take patients from Desborough and Rothwell but it was thought you would have to actually join that Practice. Rothwell is going to expand and this will make the situation even worse. The situation was discussed in full again and it was AGREED that Councillor Mrs Russell will draft a letter to be sent from the Town Council because we need answers to our queries and she said the Practice will be funded by the NHS. In the meantime, it was AGREED to acknowledge the letter from Linda Wood and let her know that we are dealing with the Practice Manager who is running the Surgery. Councillor Jelley will continue to chase NHS England but they now deal with a very large area.

Town Centre Partnership

Copies of the Report of the Meeting held on 18th March 2015 had been circulated prior to this Meeting. It was AGREED that the Report be approved and adopted.

An E-mail from Steven Edwards, the Borough Community Services Officers, had been received by Councillor Jones and this suggested Mr Edwards could come over to the Town Council to discuss the Women's Tour and what support might be needed to engage residents and businesses in the town. It was MOVED by Councillor Jones, SECONDED by Councillor Sumpter and RESOLVED to invite Mr Edwards to the Partnership Meeting on 22nd April.

Councillor Mills has spoken to Mr Russ Howell at the Borough about this and the Rothwell section is in the middle of the race and it will be good publicity for the town so he has thanked both Mr Howell and Mr Edwards. Councillor Jones had wanted a slightly different route and to have the sprint in Rothwell but they cannot do this.

Bring Banks

An E-mail had been received confirming that the recycling bins will be removed from the access to Brachers Allotments. This has now been done and there will be CCTV cameras there.

Twinning Visit

Councillor Mrs Russell said the visitors from our twin town of Droué will be coming in the late afternoon on Wednesday, 27th May and they would still like to meet up with their hosts in the Market House. This was AGREED.

Skateboard Park

The resident who has been campaigning to get play equipment/a skateboard park for older children sent an E-mail about this and referred to the recent installation of an outdoor gym in Desborough with funds from WREN and the Borough Council. They have attended various meetings but there has not been any progress but nearly every week she reads about new skate parks and playgrounds in towns smaller than Rothwell, e.g. Irchester and she felt they were not getting the support from the Town Council.

Councillor Jelley said he has been trying to get in touch with the mothers who wanted this. They now have a Constitution and a bank account. Councillor Mills said we need a proposal for exactly which skate park they want and the cost; in addition the land on the Bovis site is not ready yet. When we have the plans we can present these to WREN or the Mick George Fund with costings to see if they would contribute funds. We have been promised £120,000 from the development at the former Football Club ground and the next Town Council can decide how this

should be spent, perhaps on a French drain to keep the area dry. Councillor Mrs Russell thought we could improve what we have now with just another ramp. The area needs to be adopted by the Borough Council and the nearby residents on the Bovis site need to be consulted on this. The money from the Football Club development is because the town is losing a sports facility, so has to be spent to replace this. It was felt we needed a special Meeting with Pia Bellamy and Dave Lane from the Borough Council.

It was MOVED by Councillor Mrs Talbot, SECONDED by Councillor Jelley and RESOLVED to reply to Ms Joyce that the Town Council is looking at ways to bring something for the older children and perhaps the new Town Council will take this up on her behalf but a full consultation period will be necessary.

Town Guide

The Clerk is still working on this and felt we should have a section on community facilities, with the Medical Centre, Library, Post Office and Community Centre included. She also thought it would be nice to have some photographs of these.

624 PLANNING

Planning Committee

Copies of the Report of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 18th March 2015 had been circulated prior to this Meeting as follows:-

Notices & Applications

Notification had been received that the hearing for the appeal in respect of a wind turbine with access track, hard standing area and electricity substation at Aspenfield, Main Street, Orton had been postponed and no new date had yet been set.

The following Approvals had been received:-

KET/2014/0568 Land off Harrington Road - 21 dwellings and public open space.

KET/20154/0781 30 Rock Hill - Side Extension.

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

KET/2015/152 Hospital Farm, Rushton Road - Conversion of farm buildings to three dwellings.
No objection.

KET/2015/0206 68 Connolly Drive - Garage to accommodation, side extension, and widening of dropped kerb and hardstanding.
No objection.

The Meeting moved into one of the Planning Committee and it was reported that the following Approval had been received:-

KET/20145/0061 Flat 4, Jesus Hospital - Full refurbishment.

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

KET/2015/0194 19 Burditt Close - Side extension.
No objection.

Land off Glendon Road

This item had been dealt with earlier in the Meeting, under Questions from the Public.

Neighbourhood Plan

Copies of an E-mail from the Government Decentralisation & Neighbourhood Planning Team had been circulated prior to this Meeting.

Councillor Mrs Russell had not returned the completed questionnaires but has looked at some of these and there are nearly 300. She will finish her summary within a week and let the Clerk have the forms back. We can then take these in to the Borough Council for them to produce the official schedule.

31 Nelson Drive

Councillor Jelley said he and Councillor Mrs Brown had inspected this area because of the complaint reported at the last Meeting about the number of cars parked on the road and the path leading to Slade Valley Avenue, and also the large extension. The Borough Council confirms there was no Planning Application for the extension and has put a Breach of Planning Order on the extension. They are also investigating the issue of the number of cars parked in the area.

625 HIGHWAYSA14 Cycle Route/Footpath

The Clerk had received a reply from the Highways Agency that they are actively looking at ways to improve the safety of cyclists along this cycle path on the A14, including removing the sub-standard sized lay-by and other measures at the service station. They have also discussed this with the Police to see if they can help more with enforcing against unauthorised HGV parking. Mr Price who was dealing with this is now moving and Steve Pearce and Matt Read are leading on this issue and should update us on progress.

A resident of Crispin Street wanted to comment on this situation, and the Town Council did not object although this should have been done in the Questions from the Public section. He put forward various issues, such as the lack of maintenance, lorries in the vicinity of the service station, damage to and blocking of the path and verge, and the amount of mud there. It is now 25 years since this was constructed and there has not been any maintenance and it does not meet the current regulations as a dual use path.

HGVs also park in the lay-by further along the A14 towards Kettering and they were right over the footpath opposite the Woodlands Hospital. Apparently the lorry drivers are not using the eight lorry parks within 50 miles of Rothwell because of the cost. A lot of people use this cycle route/footpath but there is a problem where you cross the northern bypass which is dangerous because there are no light controls there.

The path between Rothwell and Desborough was re-constructed and widened but the hedge has grown right over the path, with a tree in the Parish of Desborough which will cover about two-thirds of this so that path also needs to be maintained. This path is the responsibility of the County Council rather than the Highways Agency and Councillor Mills believed that County Councillor Hakewill and David Farquhar (Head of Highways) were both aware of these issues.

A14 Works

An E-mail had been received from CH2M informing the Town Council of a cutting slope earthworks remediation scheme eastbound on the A14 near Kelmarsh between junctions 2 and 3 at marker post 20/3 to stabilise a section of the embankment. The programmed start date is 21st September 2015 and will last approximately eight weeks, with work to be undertaken during the night. They also sent plans showing the area and the diversion routes.

Councillor Matthew said previous closures of the A14 in this area had the main diversion route up on the A508 to Market Harborough and then down the A6 to junction 3 which would seem shorter and more reasonable for the heavy traffic than going into Northampton and back again. We would also not want the local diversion to be advertised so as to avoid unsuitable use of this.

It was AGREED to submit these comments to CH2M and a response was subsequently received that they had looked at the diversion up the A508 to Market Harborough and then down the A6 to junction 3 but Leicestershire will not approve this, and there is also a low bridge on the A4304 which is not suitable for heavy goods vehicles; the local roads will not be signed.

Damaged Tree, Kingsley Road

A flowering cherry tree outside No.19 Kingsley Road had been badly damaged, probably by a lorry crashing into it, and the Town Mayor had asked the Clerk to report this as it was dangerous. The County Council had inspected and had felled the tree in the interests of highway safety.

Former Garage, Desborough Road

The fence around these premises at the top of Desborough Road had come down and this had been reported to the owner.

Street Lighting

It was reported that the residents of Barlow Close, Butlin Close and Lewin Close are not happy with the new lights there because there is only one light at the end of each Close and they do not think this is sufficient. In addition the lights have been replaced in Cecil Street, Oxford Street and Cambridge Street but there is nothing in Spencer Street. Councillor Jelley will E-mail about this.

Councillor Matthew asked if we had a schedule of where and when the lights would be done and it was confirmed this is on the County website.

Re-bike System

Councillor Sumpter has passed on the details of the Re-bike Team to Northampton University as at the end of the year they often have a lot of bicycles left on the campus. They are in touch direct with John Garner and apparently when they have bikes a lot of children do attend the William Knibb Centre.

626 MATTERS OF BUSINESSRothwell United Charities

A letter had been received from the Chairman of the Charities that both Mrs Betty Cobley and Mrs Celia Jones are no longer able to continue as Trustees due to health reasons. The remaining Trustees are Peter Weston (Chairman), Revd Canon John Westwood (ex officio), Miss Ann Rowlett (representing the United Reformed Church), Mr David Whyte, Mrs Margaret Harris and

Mrs Sandra Marlow. The Clerk was asked to draw this to the attention of the Town Council and ask the Members to nominate two replacement Trustees, who do not have to be Members of the Town Council. It was AGREED that this letter will be circulated for the next Meeting.

Visitor to a Meeting

The Clerk had received an E-mail from the Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant that he would like to attend one of each of the Council Meetings in the area throughout the course of the next year and asked for the dates of the Meetings. The Clerk had replied giving this information and it was hoped he would be able to visit Rothwell in due course.

Former Councillor

Councillor Mrs Brown reported that former Councillor Alan Pote, was very unwell with a heart condition and was to have an operation for this.

627 FINANCIAL REPORT

General Statement

The Clerk submitted a written statement as attached. It was MOVED by Councillor Matthew, SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Russell 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>
Direct356Online)	Toilet Roll Dispenser and Paper	104.70
Ricoh UK Ltd) Pd. 9.4.2015	Copier/printer Maintenance	16.62
Mrs C E Mackay	Clerk's Salary	597.80
Northants CALC	Annual Subscription	2079.22
Inter County Cleaning Services	Cleaning Market House	37.20
Colemans	Stationery	16.97
Cash	Petty Cash	50.00

Annual Return

Although this was not on the Agenda, it was AGREED to deal with the Annual Return at this Meeting and copies of the Accounting Statement and the Annual Governance Statement for 2014/15 were available for the Members to check. It was MOVED by Councillor Sumpter, SECONDED by Councillor Jelley and RESOLVED that the Annual Return was approved and adopted and that it should be signed by the Town Mayor and the Clerk.

The Meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

Signed

Dated