

**Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting for Desborough held on 19 May 2011 in the Lower Hall,
Marlow House, Gold Street.**

PRESENT

Councillors: Cllr P Goodman (Chairman), Cllr D Soans, Cllr A Matthews, Cllr D Coe, Cllr M Tebbutt, Cllr P Malin, Cllr J Pearce, Cllr M Watson, Cllr J Watson, Cllr R Sawford, Cllr S Clayton, Cllr M Dearing.

Clerk: Leigh Parkin

Also in attendance: Mr R Martin – Path Warden for Desborough, PCSO P Firth and members of the public.

1.	Chairman’s Announcements The Chairman welcomed all those present.
2.	Apologies for absence Cllr J Derbyshire, Cllr B Humfrey.
3.	Declarations of Interest None were received for this meeting.
4.	Minutes of Annual Town Meeting held on 20 May 2010 The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.
5.	<p>Report of the Town Council The Chairman gave a report for 2010/11 as follows:</p> <p><i>“It is hard to believe that a year has passed since the last annual Parish meeting. However, during the last twelve months this Council and its’ Members have continued to press for what we hope and envisage to be the best for Desborough. This has been a challenging year on several fronts.</i></p> <p><i>Desborough had its’ first ever Parish poll, held in October last year. There was a good turnout for the Poll, but due to the undisputed fact of the regulations governing this type of activity, polling cards were not issued and the day, arguably, was not long enough for all those to vote who had wished they might.</i></p> <p><i>We are still waiting for final decisions on both the Sainsbury and Tesco applications. However, this council believes that we will finish up with both of these retailers, as there are another 700 + houses in the pipeline, for Phase 11 on The Grange. Consultations in all three of these areas have taken considerable time and thought by your Councillors, particularly some of those who stood down at the recent local elections.</i></p> <p><i>I have been pleased to represent Desborough at numerous Civic events over the year. I say pleased because it does help to put Desborough in the spotlight. I have attended Civic Services at Corby, Daventry, Rushden, Rothwell, Burton Latimer and of course our own service in September, at which all the Town & Borough Councillors dedicated themselves to the Town and its’ people.</i></p> <p><i>As Chairman I was also invited to Northamptonshire Youth in Concert at the Derngate Theatre in Northampton – a really memorable evening, as Councillor Tebbutt has always enthused. I was also lucky enough to see them again at a Charity night in Rushden, when invited to attend by their Mayor. Other events have included the Guides Centenary Finale and the British Legion Women’s Section celebration lunch, they have celebrated their 65th anniversary this year (2011). As usual I, as Chairman, was invited to judge at the Carnival last June.</i></p>

	<p><i>More thought provoking attendances have been at Desborough War Memorial on both November 11, for the children’s dedication and then on Sunday November 14 for our annual Remembrance Service.</i></p> <p><i>I also attended the Holocaust Memorial service at the Borough Council Offices in January with several other Councillors. This Memorial is open to all and is worth attending.</i></p> <p><i>In contrast, I have worked with the Pocket Park committee as a Council representative and attended various Workdays. The Pocket Park has also had considerable financial and active support from several of the Borough Councillors. I was also on the original Hawthorns Working Group, set up by the Town Council to try and hold onto this facility for the town. We still fully support this venture. The metal work for the new leisure centre is going up and this Council is still fighting to get both phases built together, hoping that s106 money can be “loaned” to the project up front of actually being received by the Borough Council. We also, as a Council, took part in “Stop the Drop” in March. As an aside, I do wonder what it is that prompts people to throw down some of the things they do!! I enjoy the project, but it is an eye opener!</i></p> <p><i>It has also been my pleasure to be the Council representative on the Twinning Group and also the Charter for European Rural Communities. I was privileged to go (as one of ten people) in June 2010 to the Annual General meeting of the Charter Group at Stryzow in Poland. This year I (and four others) have had the pleasure of attending another meeting in Bienvenida, in Spain (that was in April). These are working meetings, generally all paid for and the hospitality is excellent, wherever we travel. There will be a mini meeting here in Desborough in November, when two people from each of the countries, (some 54 people) will be here and the theme for that meeting is “Volunteers and Volunteering”. The visit will be the same weekend as the Christmas Tree Festival and Christmas Gala.</i></p> <p><i>To finish then, the Council is disappointed that some level of decision has not yet been reached in regard to the retail developments previously mentioned. However, we are delighted that the Ritz was bought late last year and is expecting to re-open in mid-June. We are delighted that we did eventually receive the Grant to refurbish the play area on Rushton Road. We have had some problems with the work, but the contractors have not yet completed, so we await the outcome.</i></p> <p><i>There is much still to be done and I leave that to the new Council that you see here before you. I welcome them all, particularly the new faces, with their fresh ideas and new enthusiasm. I have much enjoyed my time on the Town Council, never once wishing to be a Borough Councillor, my love is for Desborough and the growth that it and the townspeople deserve.</i></p> <p><i>I extend my thanks to the Councillors who HAVE sat here previously and those who remain, for their help and support over the twelve years that I have served. To the Clerk I also say a huge thank you for her enthusiasm, attitude, application and the fact that she WANTS to work for and with Desborough Town Council. We are so very lucky to have all that Leigh Parkin has to offer. Thank you”.</i></p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Accounts for year ended 31 March 2010 and 31 March 2011 The accounts for year ended 31 March 2010 have been adopted by the Town Council and audited by both the internal and external auditors. The accounts for year ended 31 March 2011 have been adopted by the Town Council (Minute: 6989.4 – April 2011) and are shortly to undergo audit.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>County Councillor report No report was available.</p>

<p>8.</p>	<p>Borough Councillor Reports</p> <p>Cllr Dearing reported that over the past year he had been delighted to be on the Executive at KBC with a particular focus on the Kettering Town Centre Regeneration with employment as an objective. Cllr Dearing has been in charge of Suite 16. Cllr Dearing has also dealt with many local issues including roads, crossings, play areas, home improvements and litter picking. Cllr Dearing has undertaken Ward Walkabouts and his Ward Initiative Fund has supported many local organisations. Cllr Dearing stated that it is a privilege to serve the Town and he is delighted to have been re-elected.</p> <p>Cllr Tebbutt reported that he has served on the following Committees for KBC: Monitoring & Audit; Tenants Forum; Joint Consultative Forum; A6 Towns Forum, Chair of Planning Policy, which over the last 12 months has examined the North Northants Core Spatial Strategy 2021 – 2031; North Northants Joint Planning, East Midland Councils Branch.</p> <p>Cllr Soans thanked members of the public for his re-election and reported that he has been part of the KBC Planning Committee (meeting every 4 weeks plus 3 extra emergency meeting over the last 12 months) and Chair of the A6 Towns Forum which has met quarterly. Other outside bodies Cllr Soans is part of include: Kettering Old Grammar School Foundation, Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE), Friends of Kettering Museum & Art Gallery. Cllr Soans has been involved in Ward Walkabouts, Desborough Town Council litter pick and Pocket Park Work Days. He has used his Ward Initiative Fund to benefit organisations in Desborough.</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>Reports from Local Charities</p> <p>Desborough Town Lands and Loake’s Charity – Cllr Goodman and Cllr Coe are the Town Council representatives to this Charity. Cllr Goodman reported that the Charity began the year with a balance of £2113.95. A meeting to allocate funds was held on 24th August 2010. It was agreed to allocate £600 to the Town Welfare Committee and £1,300 to the Vine Community Trust for Marlow House. These allocations were greater than usual as there had not been a meeting for two years, due to the change of incumbent. The balance at the close of the year was £1,242.07.</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Reports from Local Organisations</p> <p>Desborough & Rothwell Futures Ltd end of year report May 2011 – Cllr Goodman gave the following report:</p> <p><i>“Rothwell & Desborough Futures Ltd held their final Annual General Meeting at the Heritage Centre in Rothwell on January 11 2011 at 7.30pm.</i></p> <p><i>Funding had ended several months earlier, having been spread as far as possible by the fact that Robin Matthews had decided to work part-time. It was determined at the AGM meeting that the working group would be disbanded and the Directors would all resign their post except Mr David Larmour and Mr Maurice Goodwin, who would transfer to the new Company.</i></p> <p><i>Particular thanks must be extended to the tenacity of each member of the working group, for their commitment over the years to improving the towns of Rothwell and Desborough. It would not be unfair to highlight the efforts the Chairman, Mr David Larmour and of course Mr Robin Matthews, without whom the group may well have not grown the contact base that they did”.</i></p> <p>Desborough Path Warden - Mr Bob Martin, Desborough Path Warden, attended the meeting to talk through his written report. A copy of this report will be placed in the Desborough Town Council file held in Desborough Library. The Chairman thanked Mr Martin for his continued work as Path Warden and thanked all who had provided a presentation to the meeting.</p>

9.	Representations from Members of the Public There were none.
	THE MEETING CLOSED AT 7:33 PM CHAIRMAN DATE