

**Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting for Desborough held on 17 May 2012 in the Upstairs Meeting Room, Marlow House, Gold Street.**

**PRESENT**

**Councillors:** Cllr D Soans (Chairman), 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 M Dearing.

**Clerk:** Leigh Parkin

**Also in attendance:** Cllr B Humfrey, Northamptonshire County Councillor, Mr R Martin – Path Warden for Desborough, PC I Cotterell and members of the public.

<b>1.</b>	<b>Chairman’s Announcements</b> The Chairman welcomed all those present.
<b>2.</b>	<b>Apologies for absence</b> Cllr J Derbyshire.
<b>3.</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b> None were received for this meeting.
<b>4.</b>	<b>Minutes of Annual Town Meeting held on 19 May 2011</b> The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.
<b>5.</b>	<p><b>Report of the Town Council</b> The Chairman gave a report for 2011/12:</p> <p><i>“Councillors Ladies and Gentlemen; this time last year marked the formation, following the town council elections, of a new and changed town council to be in place for the next four years.</i></p> <p><i>Following the retirement of five councillors, we welcomed five new members to the council: - Cllrs Stuart Clayton, Jane Pearce, Rose Sawford, Joanne and Mark Watson joined the seven existing members who were re-elected.</i></p> <p><i>The first part of the year has been dominated by the debate around the closure of the Hawthorns Leisure Centre and the building of its replacement at the Grange. Despite a petition signed by 3600 Desborough residents, impassioned speech’s made to both Kettering Borough Council Executive and full Council and a hugely attended public meeting; the decision has been made to close the Hawthorns building and ultimately redevelop the site.</i></p> <p><i>We do, however have a brand new, first class facility at the Grange, together with a multiuse games area, children’s play area and BMX track. The existing Hawthorns Skate Park, which is not part of the Leisure building, will also remain open until such time as a developer comes forward.</i></p> <p><i>The junior football pitch at the Hawthorns will also remain in use until the two new pitches are built at the Grange in the near future.</i></p> <p><i>The Town council will continue to press for the retention of the remaining facilities at the Hawthorns; that is the car park, tennis courts and green space.</i></p> <p><i>At the end of November, Desborough was honoured to host the European rural charter convention. We welcomed 56 visitors from 28 different countries to our town. May I take this opportunity to thank and congratulate all those who organised and participated in this wonderful event.</i></p>

	<p><i>The outline planning application for 700 additional houses at the Grange, will shortly be considered by the Kettering Borough Council planning committee; this is a huge and complex application which will also have far reaching effects on the town. Desborough town council has had a number of meetings with KBC planning department during the consultation period for this application.</i></p> <p><i>In January the Kettering borough council planning committee made the decision to pass the planning application to build a new Tesco supermarket on the Lawrence factory site in the town centre. At the same meeting the Sainsbury's application for an out of town centre supermarket was rejected. These decisions will have a far reaching effect on the town; we hope and indeed expect a considerable regeneration of the town centre as a result.</i></p> <p><i>The town council has recently been informed and indeed have had a number of presentations for an energy centre which is proposed to be built at the Grange industrial estate. We are informed that this centre will process industrial and domestic waste to produce both electrical energy and local area heating.</i></p> <p><i>Many questions still have to be asked about this project, the challenge for this council will be to ensure that the people of Desborough are able to make their opinions and concerns known, when this application is considered by the Northamptonshire county council planning committee later this year.</i></p> <p><i>The council has recently published and distributed a questionnaire relating to future community facilities in the town. All the responses have now been collated and the results are being exhibited this Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May at the library, between 10.00am and 12.30 PM. Councillors will be in attendance to answer any questions or concerns from Desborough residents.</i></p> <p><i>Last year the council applied for the Dunkirk avenue recreation ground to be granted the status of a Queen Elisabeth II field; I am delighted to announce that this honour, one of only three in the Kettering Borough, has now been granted. I will be reporting on this in greater detail during tonight's council meeting.</i></p> <p><i>The Desborough pocket park, under the leadership of Dennis Ainge and his committee continues to flourish. I would like to record my thanks to Dennis and all the volunteers who work hard to maintain this wonderful facility.</i></p> <p><i>Finally, I would like to thank all the councillors for their help and consideration to me during, what has at times, been a difficult year, a year which has had many challenges and changes.</i></p> <p><i>I must also add my thanks to our fantastic clerk, Leigh Parkin, for all the help and support she has given both to me and the council over the year; it is most appreciated. That Councillors, ladies and gentlemen concludes my annual report. Thank you."</i></p>
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>Accounts for year ended 31 March 2011 and 31 March 2012</b>  It was reported that the accounts for year ending 31 March 2011 had been adopted by the Town Council and audited by both the internal and external auditors. The accounts for year ending 31 March 2012 had been adopted by the Town Council (Minute: 19.3 – April 2012) and are shortly to undergo audit.</p>
<p><b>7.</b></p>	<p><b>County Councillor report</b>  Cllr Humfrey reported that is has been a successful year for Northamptonshire County Council (NCC). Quite a few roads have been resurfaced in Desborough and many more have been listed to be patched or re-surfaced. A few of weeks ago Cllr Humfrey reviewed the roads in Desborough with Mr B Wright, MGWSP, noting what work needs to be</p>

	<p>completed.</p> <p>Cllr Humfrey has served on a number of NCC Committees including: Personnel; Children &amp; Young People Scrutiny Committee; Customers, Communities &amp; Education Scrutiny Committee and the Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee.</p> <p>Cllr Humfrey detailed where she had spent her Empowering County Councillors Fund over the past 12 months which included provided support to: Havelock Infants School; The European Charter; Desborough Town Junior Football Club; Desborough Skate Park; printing leaflets for walks around Desborough; Desborough in Bloom; Stroke Club Desborough Branch and the Friends of Desborough Library.</p> <p>Cllr Humfrey made reference to and read extracts from Cllr Harkers', Leader of Northamptonshire County Council, speech on the summary of NCC achievements presented to the NCC AGM.</p>
<p><b>8.</b></p>	<p><b>Borough Councillor Reports</b></p> <p><b>Cllr Dearing</b> reported that it has been a very busy year. There have been a number of problems on the Grange but these are being resolved. The new Leisure Centre has opened. More locally Cllr Dearing welcomed the work Desborough in Bloom is undertaking and the progress towards the provision of a Community Centre for Desborough.</p> <p><b>Cllr Tebbutt</b> reported that his main activities had included: Chair of Kettering Borough Council (KBC) Planning Policy; Member of the Joint Planning Unit and Member of the East Midlands Councils.</p> <p>The three main elements of Planning Policy have been:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moving forward with the North Northants Core Spatial Strategy;</li> <li>• KBC Local Development Document Site Specific Proposals;</li> <li>• New National Planning Framework.</li> </ul> <p>A key priority for this area is the proposed electrification and line enhancement for the East Midlands Mainline Railway. LANRAC is contributing to this activity.</p> <p><b>Cllr Soans</b> reported that he has been part of the KBC Planning Committee, A6 Towns Forum, KBC Research &amp; Development Committee and Chairman of the Task &amp; Finish Group. Other outside bodies Cllr Soans is part of include: Kettering Old Grammar School Foundation, Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE), Friends of Kettering Museum &amp; Art Gallery.</p>
<p><b>9.</b></p>	<p><b>Reports from Local Charities</b></p> <p>Desborough Town Lands and Loake's Charity – Mrs Goodman and Cllr Coe are the Town Council representatives to this Charity. It was reported that no meeting had been held since Revd. Seaton Burn had left his position in Desborough.</p>
<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>Reports from Local Organisations</b></p> <p><b>Desborough Path Warden</b> - 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.</p> <p>A discussion was held about a number of the footpaths including the re-routing of the footpath along Back Lane and horses located in a number of fields where there is a footpath. Mr Martin is currently following these issues up with the NCC Rights of Way Department.</p> <p>Cllr Humfrey, Northamptonshire County Councillor highlighted that she represents the</p>

	<p>County on the Local Access Forum where Mr Martin is regarded as an exemplary Footpath Warden for the County.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked Mr Martin for his continued work as Path Warden.</p>
<p><b>9.</b></p>	<p><b>Representations from Members of the Public</b> There were none.</p>
	<p><b>THE MEETING CLOSED AT 7:45 PM</b></p> <p>..... <b>CHAIRMAN</b> ..... <b>DATE</b></p>