

**Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting for Desborough held on 16 May 2013 in the Upstairs Meeting Room, Marlow House, Gold Street.**

**PRESENT**

**Councillors:** Cllr A Matthews (Chairman), Cllr D Soans, Cllr D Coe, Cllr M Tebbutt, Cllr R Sawford, Cllr J Watson, Cllr M Watson, Cllr J Pearce, Cllr P Malin

**Clerk:** Leigh Parkin

**Also in attendance:** Cllr A Matthews, Northamptonshire County Councillor, PCSO Firth/PCSO Breeze and members of the public.

<b>1.</b>	<p><b>Chairman’s Announcements</b> The Chairman welcomed all those present and confirmed the health and safety/housekeeping issues for the building.</p>
<b>2.</b>	<p><b>Apologies for absence</b> Cllr J Derbyshire, Cllr B King, Cllr M Dearing , Mr R Martin – Path Warden for Desborough, Ms B Humfrey</p>
<b>3.</b>	<p><b>Declarations of Interest</b> None were received for this meeting.</p>
<b>4.</b>	<p><b>Minutes of Annual Town Meeting held on 17 May 2012</b> The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Cllr Tebbutt and seconded by Cllr Sawford – <b>Agreed</b>).</p>
<b>5.</b>	<p><b>Report of the Town Council</b> The Chairman gave a report for 2012/13: <i>“The year has been one of mixed events and emotions. We have a new leisure centre at the Grange but we have to wait for the section 106 contributions from the Grange Phase 2 housing development to fund the installation of squash courts and additional changing rooms. Planning applications for approximately 1,000 houses are in the pipeline for the town, 700 of them on Grange Phase 2. The old leisure centre has been demolished and the site is now redundant apart from the private skate board park and the football training ground.</i></p> <p><i>Town centre improvements, funded by the Tesco section 106 payment, have been agreed but the negotiations to remove the covenant on this brownfield site are still in progress. The site is now an interesting habitat for various wild flowers and weeds.</i></p> <p><i>The controversial plan to build a combined heat and power plant, adjacent to the Great Bear Distribution Centre, was rejected by the whole Town Council. The plan was approved by the County Council’s Development Control meeting in November 2012 despite a significant group of residents and Desborough Town Council raising a whole range of practical, functional, health, visual and scientific objections to the plan. Fresh Air Desborough is building a fighting fund to launch a judicial review against this development and has the support of the Town Council in this process.</i></p> <p><i>Another frustration is the considerably delayed completion of the trout lakes and the ever increasing public anger, over fleets of tipper lorries using Dunkirk Avenue and small parish roads to reach this development site on the edge of town. A</i></p>

	<p><i>recent site visit by four Town Councillors discovered that this construction work is stalled frequently by inclement weather! Completion might not be until 2014 but the developer has accepted that the carriageway near the site has crumbled and he will install new kerbs at his cost to protect the edges of the road at that location.</i></p> <p><i>On a more positive vein, the Rushton Road play area has been revamped and the recreation ground in Dunkirk Avenue has been granted QEII parks status, one of only a few in the county. Desborough is also looking more attractive through the efforts of Desborough in Bloom and the flying of national flags throughout the year, celebrating memorable national and international dates.</i></p> <p><i>The Ritz Conference Centre is growing in popularity and the transformation of Bosworth's corner shop into a wine bar is almost complete. Work on the Co-op Drapery building is also underway and should be completed later this year. The main shopping street is at last receiving much needed retail developments and the future of the Library Service in Desborough appears to be more secure.</i></p> <p><i>The Town Council has recently committed to the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan and we welcomed a new Town Councillor after a by-election last year. The Chairman has attended many civic services around the County throughout the year, acting as an ambassador for the town. Those [Chains] who accepted the invitation to our Civic Service were very complimentary about the church, the reception and our friendly town.</i></p> <p><i>We are very pleased to report that many successful events were held in the Town during the year including: Desborough Carnival, Gala Night, Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations, Millennium Green Day and many more. We thank all of those organisations and the many individuals who helped make these events, and many more not included above, a great success for residents of our town.</i></p> <p><i>Our thanks are also extended to the active support of our local Police and the co-operation we enjoy by working together to secure a safer, better and more pleasant environment to both work and live in. The Town Council is seeking pledges currently to become part of the Community Speed Watch Programme.</i></p> <p><i>Desborough Town Council still has a number of issues to face, one of those being the Town and Parish Council Funding Review which operates from April 2014. A new Code of Conduct for Councillors in line with the Localism Act 2011 is another issue which needs consideration and we will continue to work on plans to develop community facilities for Desborough.</i></p> <p><i>It has been an enjoyable year for me and I wish to thank all the Town Councillors and our Town Clerk for their contributions and support throughout the last year. Desborough is a great place to live and I am convinced that the town is gradually being transformed and moving into the 21st century”.</i></p>
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>Accounts for year ended 31 March 2012 and 31 March 2013</b></p> <p>It was reported that the accounts for year ending 31 March 2012 had been adopted by the Town Council and audited by both the internal and external auditors. The accounts for year ending 31 March 2013 had been adopted by the Town Council (Minute: 14.6 – April 2013), have undergone internal audit and are shortly to be submitted to the external auditor.</p>

7.	<p><b>County Councillor report 2012/13.</b> Ms B Humfrey had sent her apologies to the meeting. No report was received.</p>
8.	<p><b>Borough Councillor Reports 2012/13</b> No reports were received.</p>
9.	<p><b>Reports from Local Charities</b> Desborough Town Lands and Loake’s Charity – Mrs Goodman and Cllr Coe are the Town Council representatives to this Charity. Mrs Goodman reported that a meeting of the Town Lands and Loake’s Charity had taken place on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2013 following the appointment of the new Vicar, Reverend Mills Powell. It was agreed at the meeting that with a bank account balance of £2,436.07 - £436.07 is to be held in the account for emergencies, £500 will be given to Town Welfare and the balance will be given to Marlow House.</p>
10	<p><b>Reports from Local Organisations</b></p> <p><b>10.1 Desborough Path Warden</b> - Mr Bob Martin, Desborough Path Warden, had sent a written report which was noted. A copy of this report will be placed in the Desborough Town Council file held in Desborough Library.</p> <p>Cllr Coe thanked Mr Martin for his Path Warden report.</p>
9.	<p><b>Representations from Members of the Public</b> There were none.</p>
	<p><b>THE MEETING CLOSED AT 7:10 PM</b></p> <p>..... <b>CHAIRMAN</b> ..... <b>DATE</b></p>