

Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting for Desborough held on 21st May 2015 in the Library, High Street, Desborough

PRESENT

Councillors: Cllr Matthews (Chairman), Cllr K Sills, Cllr D Soans, Cllr D Howes, Cllr M Tebbutt, Cllr R Brooks, Cllr J Putt, Cllr R Marlow, Cllr J Pearce, Cllr A Turigel, Cllr R Cutsforth

Clerk: James McKechnie

Also in attendance: Cllr A Matthews, Northamptonshire County Councillor, and members of the public.

1.	<p>Chairman’s Announcements The Chairman welcomed all those present and confirmed the health and safety/housekeeping issues for the building.</p> <p><i>First of all, I should like to introduce and welcome our 6 new elected Councillors, Cllr K Sills, Cllr R Brooks, Cllr J Putt, Cllr R Marlow, Cllr A Turigel, Cllr R Cutsforth. I’d like also to congratulate Cllr J Derbyshire who is now the Mayor of Kettering Borough for 2015/16. Thank you to all past Councillors who have not been re-elected, for all the hard work and support over the past 4 years.</i></p>
2.	<p>Apologies for absence – Cllr J Derbyshire</p>
3.	<p>Declarations of Interest None were received for this meeting.</p>
4.	<p>Minutes of Annual Town Meeting held on 15th May 2014 The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Cllr Pearce and seconded by Cllr Tebbutt – Agreed).</p>
5.	<p>Report of the Town Council The Chairman gave a report for 2014/15: It has been a most enjoyable year as Chairman of Desborough Town Council. The much appreciated Carnival, the Women’s Cycle Race, the 40’s Day and the Gala Evening are just a few of the community events held in Desborough since the last Annual Town Meeting in May 2014. As Chairman, I have attended as many civic events as possible during the year as the ambassador for our town and many “new chains” attended my civic service in February this year as a result. The Bellway Homes development is well underway and ground work has started on the smaller housing development at the end of Harrington Road. Various smaller infill applications for housing have been approved but the major extension of the Grange Estate has not yet started. The future of the Hawthorn’s site has yet to be agreed but we are aware of an interesting community plan for this now redundant area. Of course all these extra houses, when built and occupied, will increase the strains already felt on local facilities – typically the health centre and the local schools and of course the nearest petrol station is at Rothwell on the A14. Despite the general lack of some facilities, private enterprise is seen as enhancing the town centre with the Tapas Bar and Hotel extensions to the Ritz, the continued popularity of the Revive Café and the redesign of the Wine Bar at the corner of Station Road and Gladstone Street. Several other small retail businesses have also joined the numbers in Station Road so the underlying feeling is that Desborough is rising to the challenge of improving the town centre, slowly but surely. We are pleased to see the terrific improvements that have taken place at Loatland School and the extra places offered to our children but every success seems to be matched by a disappointment. Tesco finally ditched their plan to build on the town centre site and at present the future use of this area, redundant since 2000, is uncertain although talks are being undertaken with interested parties. Also the long running frustration of lorry movements, through our town, to the fishing lakes</p>

	<p>development in the Parish of Rushton has ebbed and flowed throughout the year. Despite some periods of relatively little activity, the last week or so has seen a massive increase in lorries travelling through the town again, despite an option for lorries to use the link road to and from Pipewell and Oakley Hay roundabout to access this site.</p> <p>We have liaised with Kettering Borough Council, Northampton County Council, the Police and the site developer throughout the year in attempts to seek some improvements to road conditions around the site and restrict the number of vehicle movements. This problem is not easy to solve as the developer appears to be working within the original planning conditions attached to the development. However both Kettering Borough Council and Northamptonshire County Council are unhappy with the continuous stream of complaints and are actively seeking a solution.</p> <p>And finally, it would be very remiss of me not to mention the new Outdoor Gym equipment on Dunkirk Avenue Recreation Ground. It has been well received by both young children and adults even though it was anticipated to be a big attraction for teens and twenties originally. Well done to all those who have played a part in getting these facilities installed.</p> <p>I would like to close by thanking all the Councillors for their support over the year.</p>
6.	<p>Accounts for year ended 31 March 2014 and 31 March 2015</p> <p>It was reported that the accounts for year ending 31 March 2014 had been adopted by the Town Council and audited by both the internal and external auditors. The accounts for year ending 31 March 2015 had been adopted by the Town Council (Minute: 12.6 – April 2015), have undergone internal audit and have been submitted to the external auditor.</p>
7.	<p>County Councillor report 2014/15.</p> <p>Cllr A Matthews – From my Empowering Councillor Fund, I have contributed to the following:</p> <p>Support the Town Plan Public Engagement Event £100 Defibrillator for Marlow House £820 Donation towards the refurbishment of the Town Cross £500 Physio Tables for Desborough Town Football Club £509.48 Donation towards Kitchen alterations at Marlow House £500 Donation towards the Outdoor Gym Equipment £500 Connections for new Street Lights/Christmas Decorations £2,884.52 Vehicle Activated Speed Signs x 2 £3,816 Operator’s Licence for Speed Signs £260</p>
8.	<p>Borough Councillor Reports 2014/15</p> <p>Borough Cllr Tebbutt Report</p> <p>Significant progress has been made during the year with the preparation of the updated North Northants Joint Core Spatial Strategy, it is now undergoing final review and is expected to be forwarded to the Department of Communities and Local Government for examination and then adoption.</p> <p>Implementation is scheduled for early 2016.</p> <p>My Ward Initiative Fund had been saved so as to support a number of important projects, £500 was donated to 'Paddock Lane' Youth Club towards replacement heating system.</p> <p>A further £500 was awarded to Havelock Infant School towards replacement of outdoor facilities.</p> <p>I was pleased to be able to contribute £100 via Mrs Helen Crabtree to helping restore the 'Desborough Cross', Desborough Town Centre Partnership also received a small contribution towards Flag purchases.</p> <p>The biggest disappointment was the failure of the major supermarket development to come forward, which would have funded significant street scene and road safety improvement.</p> <p>The outdoor Gym in 'the Rec.' is now being enjoyed by young and old alike and will I am sure be a source of significant benefit.</p> <p>Borough Cllr Mark Dearing Report May 2015</p> <p>It has been a busy year in many ways particularly as portfolio holder on Environment.</p> <p>I continue to work towards getting a deal for Desborough residents on green energy specifically from the new solar panel fields being delivered around Desborough.</p> <p>Local issues have been around the new lighting being fitted and why some roads are not being done</p>

	<p>and others have been done. Also complaints on the switching off of some lamp standards and the siting of some of the new lights.</p> <p>Speeding down Rothwell hill has been a constant complaint from some members of the public and the Town Council have taken up an awareness campaign.</p> <p>Constant complaints regarding the lorries coming through Desborough to the Trout Farm continue and I have been working with other Councillors to try to help alleviate this issue.</p> <p>The issue of overgrown verges has been raised and I was able to have the grass on both sides of Rothwell hill edged back to give us the full width of path to walk down again.</p> <p>I have been able to use my ward money for a variety of causes including, new litter bins, help for Marlow House, money towards the flags for the Town centre, money towards a defibrillator and money to help Desborough Youth Group.</p>
9.	<p>Reports from Local Charities</p> <p>Desborough Town Lands and Loakes Charity – Mr D Coe and Mrs Goodman are the Town Council representatives to this Charity. Mr D Coe reported that a meeting of the Town Lands and Loake’s Charity had taken place 9th March 15. It was agreed at the meeting that with a bank account balance of £1,620. I can confirm that £200 will be given to Town Land Charity and £1,200 will be given to Marlow House.</p> <p>Mr D Coe kindly declined the invitation to continue to be a representative for this Charity, stating he felt it best for a Desborough Town Councillor to be a representative.</p>
10	<p>Reports from Local Organisations</p>
10.1	<p>Desborough Path Warden - Mr Bob Martin, Desborough Path Warden, submitted 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 Matthews asked that the Council’s thanks and appreciation be noted for all the hard work and effort Mr Bob Martin puts into the footpaths monitoring</p>
9.	<p>Representations from Members of the Public</p> <p>Mr D Coe asked if the Council could make improvements to the area outside the Co-op.</p> <p>Cllr Matthews and Cllr Soans both confirmed that all parties are working on this project to improve the area.</p>
	<p>THE MEETING CLOSED AT 7:22 PM</p> <p>..... CHAIRMAN DATE</p>