

**Minutes of the meeting of Desborough Town Council
held virtually using video and audio links
on Thursday 17 September 2020**

Councillors present: L Burnham (Chair), S Draycott, J French, G Holmes, I James, B Keys, J Read, P Sawford, J Taylor, and J Watson.

Also present: G Thomson (Town Clerk), and six members of the community.

40./20 CHAIR'S WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting and gave a special welcome to the three candidates for co-option. She reported that the annual fireworks display had had to be cancelled owing to the pandemic. With regard to the Remembrance Sunday parade and wreath laying she explained that advice was being sought from appropriate national bodies and any information would be placed on the Council's website.

41./20 TO CONSIDER AND IF SO RESOLVED TO APPROVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

No apologies for absence were received.

42./20 TO NOTE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM COUNCILLORS.

No declarations of interest were made.

43./20 TO NOTE OR CONSIDER ANY REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION.

Extracted from the report of the Town Clerk:-

To note any requests for dispensation for Councillors with an interest to be allowed to speak which have been considered by the Town Clerk in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 and the Council's Scheme of Delegation, and to consider any such applications not yet determined.

The Town Clerk reported that no requests for dispensation had been received.

**RESOLVED that:-
the report be noted.**

44./20 TO RECEIVE & APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20 AUGUST 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 August 2020 had been previously circulated.

**RESOLVED that:-
the minutes be confirmed and signed by the meeting Chair when possible.**

45./20 TO HEAR REPRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

No requests to make representations were made.

46./20 TO CONSIDER FILLING THE CASUAL VACANCIES ON THE COUNCIL BY CO-OPTION

Extracted from the report of the Town Clerk:-

The two vacancies for Councillor for Loatland ward were advertised and three self-nominations were received before the closing date. The candidates are: David LARMOUR, Bill McELHINNEY, and Paul ROGERS.

The Council will follow the procedure in the "Casual Vacancies and Co-Options Policy and Procedure" and will vote by show of hands. The Council will hear from the candidates (in alphabetical order) for up to four minutes each, and will proceed immediately to vote. At the meeting, there will be no discussion with candidates, or between Councillors on this matter. As Members will recall, in order to be co-opted, a candidate must secure an absolute majority of the votes of Councillors present and voting (50% + 1). Any candidate securing such a majority in any round of voting will be co-opted. If no candidate secures the required majority of votes in the first voting round then the lowest polling candidate is excluded and the next vote taken. If the lowest polling candidates have equal votes then a run off would be held between them and the lowest polling candidate excluded.

In order to vote in the most efficient way, Councillors will have two separate votes per voting round (one per vacancy). When the number of candidates equals the number of vacancies remaining, a final vote will be taken. Should there still not be a majority for one or both seats then the Council cannot co-opt to that post / those posts and the process will be run again at the next meeting following a further call for candidates.

The Council is REQUESTED to consider the candidates and vote on co-option as Councillors.

In accordance with the Council's policy, each candidate gave a presentation, and the Council voted immediately thereafter.

**RESOLVED that:-
David Larmour and Paul Rogers be co-opted as Councillors.**

47./20 PROPOSED ONE-WAY SYSTEM AND PARKING RESTRICTIONS GLADSTONE STREET / NICHOLS STREET

Extracted from the report of the Town Clerk:-

Addressed letters have been delivered to as many properties (residences and businesses) as possible which are likely to be directly affected by the proposed one-way system and parking restrictions. Recipients have been invited to respond by Thursday 1 October 2020 as follows:-

- Are you in favour of a one-way system covering Nichols Street and Gladstone Street?*
- Does the proposed plan meet your requirements?*
- If not, what would you suggest?*
- Please add any relevant information to support your response.*

It is hoped to collate and analyse responses in time for the October Town Council meeting, with a view to presenting these to Northamptonshire Highways and publishing the results on the Council's website. It should be noted that the Town Council's survey is not binding and that Northamptonshire Highways will have to carry out the statutory consultation in due course.

The Council is REQUESTED to consider the matter.

Councillors Keys and Watson offered to assist with the analysis of the responses.

RESOLVED that:-

the information contained in the report be noted.

48./20 TO RECEIVE INFORMATION ABOUT THE CONDITION OF TREES IN DESBOROUGH

Extracted from the report of the Town Clerk:-

An update on trees in various locations in Desborough will be given. The Council is REQUESTED to note the information.

It was noted that there had been damage to a number of trees during the recent storms and some trees had had to be removed. It was added that the trees were to be replanted this winter.

RESOLVED that:-

the information contained in the report be noted.

49./20 TO CONSIDER THE CONDITION OF GREEN LANE / HARRINGTON ROAD BRIDLEWAYS

Extracted from the report of the Town Clerk:-

As Members will know, the "little D" is a gated road formed of Green Lane which is Public Right of Way UC15 (bridleway), and the Harrington Road bridleway which is Public Right of Way UC14. It is believed that the bridleway is in a poor condition and the verges have encroached significantly making the bridleway difficult to traverse in places. Keeping the route clear and making sure vegetation does not encroach onto the route from the sides or above, bearing in mind the different clearances needed for users of different types of route, is the lawful responsibility of the landowner (believed to be the County Council). However, it has been confirmed that there is insufficient budget within the County Council to fund the clearance. It has been suggested that the clearance of the bridleway might be put forward for consideration as a project for the Probation Service's Community Payback Scheme.

The Council is REQUESTED to consider the matter.

RESOLVED that:-

the project be put forward as a Community Payback project.

50./20 TO NOTE A REPORT ABOUT VEHICLE MOVEMENTS INTO AND OUT OF THE ROTHWELL NORTH CONSTRUCTION SITE

Extracted from the report of the Town Clerk:-

The Council is usually notified about vehicle movements into and out of the construction site and any violations of the approved routes by HGVs. The most recent information is:-

17/08/2020 - 23/08/2020 7 violations inwards and 1 violation outwards

24/08/2020 - 30/08/2020 5 violations inwards and 1 violation outwards

24/08/2020 - 30/08/2020 5 violations inwards and 1 violation outwards

The attention of the developer has been drawn to a small number of issues over the month, especially relating to the return of pupils to the school.

The Council is REQUESTED to note the information.

RESOLVED that:-

the information contained in the report be noted.

51./20 TO CONSIDER ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 2021/2022 BUDGET CONSULTATION

Extracted from the report of the Town Clerk:-

As Members will recall, dates were set for budget consultations on Thursday 1 October (from 19:30 to 21:00) and on Saturday 3 October (from 10:00 to 11:30). Clearly it is not possible to hold physical meetings under the current COVID-19 restrictions although it is still possible to

hold meetings online with Zoom. The Council is REQUESTED to consider arrangements for the consultation process.

**RESOLVED that:-
the previously agreed sessions proceed online.**

52./20 TO NOTE THE TERMINATION OF THE LEASE OF THE POCKET PARK

Extracted from the report of the Town Clerk:-

In accordance with the decision of the Council, notification was issued to Kettering Borough Council to terminate the lease of the Pocket Park. In accordance with the terms of the lease the termination date will be 4 January 2021 and the rent will be paid until then.

The Council is REQUESTED to note the information.

**RESOLVED that:-
the information contained in the report be noted.**

53./20 TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON CRIME IN THE TOWN

Extracted from the report of the Town Clerk:-

Details of the latest crime figures have been received and will be available on the Council's website [here](#).

The Council is REQUESTED to note the information.

**RESOLVED that:-
the information contained in the report be noted.**

54./20 TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON VEHICLE SPEEDS IN THE TOWN

Extracted from the report of the Town Clerk:-

Details of the latest reports from the TVAS speed signs are available on the Council's website [here](#).

The Council is REQUESTED to note the information.

**RESOLVED that:-
the information contained in the report be noted.**

55./20 TO RECEIVE ANY REPORTS ON ACTIVITY FROM BOROUGH COUNCILLORS, THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR, LOCAL GROUPS AND VOLUNTEERS

Extracted from the report of the Town Clerk:-

Any reports received will be circulated to Councillors.

KBC Cllr Tebbutt

"Government Consultation – Planning for the Future

If the Town Council has not already submitted its comments on this consultation, please lodge your comments as soon as possible.

"North Northamptonshire Housing Consultation

"This consultation implies that the figures for new houses need to increase from 1860 per year to 3009 per year. This consultation closes on October 1st and the Town Council really needs to object to these increased numbers as unsustainable."

NCC Cllr Matthews

"Carriageway repairs

"Carriageway repairs to Lower King Street and Princes Avenue Desborough [ref TTRO [20/21] N210]

"Carriageway repairs were planned for these streets on August 20th and 21st this year.

Unfortunately this programme had to be adjusted for technical reasons and the new dates for these essential works are: 5th to 9th October this year.

"Note: Princes Avenue and Dunkirk Avenue are my top priorities for resurfacing in Desborough – Dunkirk Avenue is still on the programme of future works.

"School Transport

"As a result of social distancing measures and insufficient numbers of school buses for this term, NCC has developed a scheme for reimbursing parents who use their own vehicles for school runs, where the school is more than 3 miles from their home.

"The mileage claim rate is confirmed as 45p per mile, up to 10,000 miles per year, and will be paid in arrears every half term that qualifies, based on two return journeys each school day.

"Claimants must enrol into the scheme Academictransport@northamptonshire.gov.uk and complete a claims form which NCC will verify against school attendance records.

"This scheme requires the child to relinquish the bus pass [if relevant] which means that the bus operator will be aware that the child no longer qualifies for the school bus service.

"Note: parents or guardians may opt for another responsible driver to act as this "taxi service" – e.g. grandparent or another family member."

The Council is REQUESTED to note the information.

In response to a question about the news that the Borough Council proposed to use compulsory purchase powers to construct a travellers' site in the Stoke Albany parish which would have an impact on the services in Desborough, Borough Councillor French reported that the Borough Council had to find 24 sites in the next year.

It was reported that the County Council's school transport department had not been responding to the school or to parents in response to concerns raised about overcrowded busses. County Councillor Matthews acknowledged that there were clearly difficulties and the key individual had been on leave. Following a full discussion it was

RESOLVED that:-

- i) further information be sought about the proposed compulsory purchase;**
- ii) the Town Clerk write to the County Council's school transport department expressing deep concern about the difficulties with the school transport and requesting an urgent resolution;**
- iii) the information contained in the reports be otherwise noted.**

56./20 TO RECEIVE UPDATES, IF ANY, ON VARIOUS MATTERS

Extracted from the report of the Town Clerk:-

Oral reports of any progress on the following matters will be given. The Council is REQUESTED to note the information.

56.1./20 BRAYBROOKE ROAD PLAY AREA

It was noted that there had been no further progress on this item.

RESOLVED that:-

the information contained in the report be noted.

56.2./20 ROTHWELL ROAD / GOLD STREET JUNCTION

It was noted that there had been no further progress on this item.

RESOLVED that:-

the information contained in the report be noted.

56.3./20 HIGHWAY BARRIERS (A576 RAILWAY BRIDGE AND HIGH STREET)

It was noted that there had been no progress on this item.

RESOLVED that:-

the information contained in the report be noted.

56.4./20 DUNKIRK AVENUE PLAY AREA

It was noted that there had been no progress on this item.

RESOLVED that:-

the information contained in the report be noted.

56.5./20 CCTV UPGRADE

It was noted that detailed estimates had been received for the equipment elements of the upgrade and the Borough Council was establishing the estimates for the civil works (the columns and so on). It was anticipated that the total costs of the works would be available in time for consideration at the October Council meeting with a view to installation being complete well before Christmas.

RESOLVED that:-

the information contained in the report be noted.

56.6./20 GREENSPACE PLAY AREA

The Town Clerk reported that details of the scheme were being agreed with officers at KBC and would be reported in due course.

RESOLVED that:-

the information contained in the report be noted.

56.7./20 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Town Clerk reported that work had commenced with the contractor, Navigus Planning Limited of Manningtree at a cost of £525. He added that it was expected that a report from the contractor would be available for the October meeting.

RESOLVED that:-

the information contained in the report be noted.

56.8./20 DESBOROUGH MARKET

It was noted that there had been no progress on this item.

**RESOLVED that:-
the information contained in the report be noted.**

57./20 TO RECEIVE AND NOTE THE PLANNING AND LICENSING REPORT AND CONSIDER COMMENTING ON APPLICATIONS

Extracted from the report of the Town Clerk:-

In accordance with the views expressed by Councillors, any comments which were uncontentious and uncontested were submitted to the relevant planning authority as set out in the report attached at Appendix A.

The Council is RECOMMENDED to note the report and raise comment on any applications.

**RESOLVED that:-
the information contained in the report be noted.**

58./20 TO CONFIRM THE COUNCIL'S INSURANCE ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2020/21

Extracted from the report of the Town Clerk:-

The Council is entering the third year of a three year arrangement with Came and Company local Council insurance (which runs until November 2021). The arrangement fixes the premium subject to variation in line with any changes in the risk. The Council's Financial Regulations place the onus on the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) to set up the Council's insurance arrangements to cover potentially high cost risks and meet statutory obligations. The RFO has provided information to Came & Co in line with the Insurance Act 2015 and provided a fair presentation of the risk, the changes in the current year and the changes expected in the coming year. Came & Co has confirmed that renewal terms will be offered during October 2020 and a mid-term adjustment undertaken as necessary.

The Council is RECOMMENDED to note the report.

**RESOLVED that:-
the recommendation be accepted.**

59./20 TO RECEIVE THE FINANCE REPORT

Extracted from the report of the Town Clerk:-

The Council is RECOMMENDED to approve the report (Appendix B).

It was noted that the Council's investment the CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund had earned £51.47.

**RESOLVED that:-
the recommendation be accepted.**

60./20 TO CONSIDER AND IF SO RESOLVED TO APPROVE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT AND TO NOTE THOSE MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SCHEME OF DELEGATION

Extracted from the report of the Town Clerk:-

The report set out at Appendix C details those invoices and payments for payment, those authorised in accordance with the scheme of delegation, and those where payment is by continuous authority. Details in the report will be updated before the meeting as information is received.

The Council is RECOMMENDED to approve the payments.

**RESOLVED that:-
the recommendation be accepted.**

The meeting closed at 20:01

Signed by the Chair: _____

Date: _____

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Planning and Licensing Matters

[KET/2020/0488](#)

BP Desborough SF Connect, Bear Way, Desborough
Installation of electric vehicle charging bays and 2 no. floodlights with associated works

[KET/2020/0585](#)

21-23 Church View Road (land at), Desborough
Variation of condition 2 of KET/2020/0092 in respect of approved plans

[KET/2020/0516](#)

141 Braybrooke Road, Desborough
Single storey side extension

[KET/2020/0596](#)

6 St Anthony's Walk, Desborough
Variation of condition 2 of KET/2019/0333 in respect of amendments to glazing on the ground floor

New application (outside Desborough Town Council area)

[KET/2020/0543](#)

Eckland Lodge Business Park, Desborough Road, Braybrooke
s.73 Application: Variation of condition 3 of KET/2018/0655 in respect of use class ("Unit A2 (202 square metres GIA) shall only be occupied by Domnic Fitness as a public Gym facility. Should Domnic Fitness either not occupy or vacate this unit, the unit shall be used only for purposes falling within use classes B2 or B8").

Planning - Appeal against Enforcement Notice

[APP/L2820/C/19/3240085](#)

Land at Greenfields Top Field, Braybrooke Road, Braybrooke, NW14 2LJ
The Borough Council issued an enforcement notice in response to a material change of use from agricultural land to a mixed use of agriculture and the stationing of a mobile home to facilitate a carpentry workshop, manufacturing of bee hives and storage of ancillary equipment, all without planning permission.

Planning - Discharge of S106

The planning consent for the [Gaultney Farm development](#) (The Grange) in 2001 had various S106 requirements. One particular obligation is outstanding. Tata Steel (UK) Ltd (successor in title to Corus UK Ltd) has asked for this obligation to be discharged which means that it would no longer be a requirement.

In summary, the remaining requirement is that the developer sells up to one acre of land specifically for use as car parking for a railway station in Desborough should one receive planning consent by 15 October 2021. That means if there is no planning permission for a Desborough Railway station by October next year then the provision falls. The Council is not aware of any current realistic plans for such a station.

The deadline for the Council to respond to the discharge request was before the Council meeting. In accordance with the Planning and Licensing Policy, and following consultation with Councillors, the Town Clerk submitted a response on behalf of the Council in line with the wishes of the majority of Councillors expressing a view, as follows:-

"Desborough Town Council wishes to object to the proposed modification and discharge of the planning obligation of Tata Steel (UK) Limited (formerly Corus UK Limited) under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 entered into on 22 May 2003.

"The obligation is to sell up to one acre of land specifically for use as car parking for a railway station in Desborough should one receive planning consent. The final date that this can be triggered is 15 October 2021.

"Whilst the Council is not aware of any current plans for such a railway station, it is painfully aware to all of us that the world has changed drastically this year:-

- *timescales have changed and shortened beyond any imagining: witness the Nightingale hospitals;*
- *public services have been funded with a renewed interest in public transport;*
- *very recent pronouncements from Downing Street about removing planning restrictions to speed up development;*
- *the Government's declared plans to build infrastructure projects (such as a Desborough railway station) as soon as possible.*

"Given that the obligation was for twenty years and there is only just over one year remaining, it seems pre-emptory to discharge the obligation at this point."

Appendix B

**Desborough Town Council
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Financial Report

Monthly Bank Reconciliation (31/08/2020)

Unity Trust Bank Current	£1,694.24
Unity Trust Bank Saver	£62,888.24
Barclays Current	£1.00
Barclays Business Saver	£9.45
CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund	£315,787.05
Reconciled Balance	£380,379.98

The dividend from the CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund is reinvested each month into the fund. In August the dividend reinvested was £51.47.

Appendix C

**Desborough Town Council
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Accounts for payment

Table to be updated before the meeting

Further items may be added as received.

+ Paid in accordance with delegated or continuous authority

	Supplier	Description	Reason	VAT	Total Amount
+	Talk Talk Business	Town Council Office	Internet and telephone	£5.60	£33.60
+	Desborough Library and Community Hub	Town Council Office	Office Rent	£0.00	£666.66
+	Mr G Thomson	Salaries & all Employment Costs	Salary (September)	£0.00	£2,023.99
+	LGSS Pensions	Salaries & all Employment Costs	Pension (September)	£0.00	£874.10
+	HMRC	Salaries & all Employment Costs	PAYE/NIC (July - September)	£0.00	£2,445.94
+	Mr G Thomson	General office & sundry expenses	Refund (Zoom subscription Aug)	£2.40	£14.39
	Local Leaflet Drop Ltd.	Town Centre Road Improvements (Gladstone St / Nichols St)	Letter delivery - One-Way proposals	£8.20	£49.20
	Office Depot	Town Centre Road Improvements (Gladstone St / Nichols St)	Stationery (envelopes and paper)	£5.49	£32.94