

The Meeting of the Desborough Town Council held at Marlow House, Gold Street, Desborough on Thursday 18 September 2008.

PRESENT

Councillors: D Coe M Dearing (from 8:25) J Derbyshire
 G Dixon P Goodman I Hollinshead P Malin
 R Parker D Soans M Tebbutt, Chairman

Clerk: Matthew Smith

Also in attendance: Mr and Mrs Thomas, Leigh Parkin

Chairman

648 Chairman's Announcements

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The Chairman said that he was delighted to have Cllr Dixon back and asked the Clerk to send a "get well" card to Cllr Durward.

He had attended the Thrapston Civic Service.

The Chairman had accepted Mr Matthew Smith's resignation as Clerk and Mrs Leigh Parkin had been appointed as the new Clerk.

He thanked those who had attended the planning policy meeting on the previous Tuesday night. There are new design criteria for developers. Plans would allow for the 700 new houses but not for B8 areas. There were enough B1/B2 areas to meet the criteria at the Lawrence site, Magnetic Park and Key Site 1.

Cllr Goodman said that an audit on B8 warehousing had shown that the Borough has enough to meet the criteria and many are standing empty. Cllr Coe queried whether there was to be any industrial development in the Arthingworth Road area. Cllr Soans said "apparently not" and that he was happy that common sense had prevailed.

The Chairman and other Borough Councillors had, had a 'walkabout' with the Deputy Chief Executive and Head of Environmental Care, identifying concerns.

Operation Kleensweep review started with a visit to Desborough by the Police and the Housing Department, with the Borough Council's Tree Officer. It was mentioned that some trees in the Recreation Ground might be diseased and require replacement. The St. Giles Scouts had been involved in litter picking and the "grotbuster" had been used to tackle graffiti around the junction of Dunkirk Avenue and High Street. There were new bulbs to be made available for planting in verges in Harborough Road etc. The Library windows had been cleaned and the wall repaired, and graffiti removed from the rear door.

The Chairman had received a letter from Mr and Mrs Bayman saying that Desborough and Rothwell surgeries would not be able to do blood tests due to lack of funds. The Chairman would raise this with Richard Allsop at the next A6 Towns Forum and the Clerk would write to the Northamptonshire Primary Care Trust.

Finally, the Chairman advised that street drains were still blocked in Dunkirk Avenue and Braybrooke Road area. It was noted that grass cuttings are being blown into the gutters after cutting which has the potential to cause further blockage. NCC to inspect.

<p>649 0</p>	<p>Apologies for absence</p> <p>Cllr D Bindley, Cllr G Durward and Cllr B Humfrey.</p>
<p>649 1</p>	<p>Declarations of Interest by Councillors</p> <p>Cllr Soans would not take part in any consideration of planning matters as he is on the Planning Committee at the Borough Council.</p>
<p>649 2</p>	<p>Representations from members of the public</p> <p>Mr Lyndon Thomas had put in plans (KET/2008/0483 - Change of use from agricultural to leisure facility) which had been refused. He had amended the plans as advised by the Borough Council but the plans had been refused again. He wanted to know what advice could be given on how to move forward on the issue.</p> <p>Cllr Goodman spoke on the issues raised in the refusal notice. She said that the site would be used as an educational facility and that the security lights were required as the fish stocks had been subject to six thefts. There would be six full time jobs. The neighbours to the site had no objection.</p> <p>Cllr Coe advised that officers had used delegated powers. If Mr Thomas was aggrieved by the decision he could appeal to the Secretary of State</p> <p>Mr Thomas said that £500,000 funding had been obtained for the site. The site is actually in the parish of Rushton and the wooden building on the site would be primarily used for security.</p> <p>Mr Thomas wanted to know how to get the matter before a Committee and Cllr Coe advised that he should contact a planning consultant who has gone through and knows Borough systems. Cllr Tebbutt would see if he could help to get the matter before a Committee. Cllr Goodman said that the proposal would be an asset to the Town and less obtrusive than the polytunnels which had, had planning permission.</p> <p>The Clerk would pass a copy of the relevant plan to Cllr Coe.</p>

<p>649 3</p>	<p>Minutes of Town Council meeting held on 17 July 2008</p> <p>The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman with the following amendment: Minute 6480 should read “The Clerk was instructed to take Julia Beckett off the agenda as a regular item of business.”</p> <p>The Clerk confirmed that he had sent the letter with regard to Westmoreland Drive.</p> <p>The Clerk would follow up his letter regarding early evening visits to new Peaselands site development of flats and houses. Cllr Soans said that signs needed to be removed from the new housing site, he also asked who would ultimately be responsible for grass cutting in the area.</p>
<p>6 4 9 4</p>	<p>Police report</p> <p>There were no Police Officers in attendance and Cllr Soans gave the crime figures for April to June 2008. The Councillors’ wish to have Police Officers at meetings would be discussed at the next Joint Action Group meeting.</p>

649 County Councillor's Report

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Cllr Humfrey had sent a written report on getting safer routes to school, including a 20mph speed restriction in Havelock Street/Union Street area with signage operated at times when school children will be walking about. Cllr Humfrey is continuing to discuss the traffic calming around Loatland School.

She referred to plans for a pedestrian/cycleway between Desborough and Rothwell, and she hopes to get a speed restriction of 40mph on the whole of this length of the B576. Cllr Humfrey also referred to further resurfacing works at Princes Avenue, and a possible pedestrian crossing at High Street.

Her main involvement at the County Council is on the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Group and two other working groups on "Pupil attainment" and "Support for school governors". She also regularly attends Cabinet meetings, which are open to County Councillors. Recently she made a speech expressing her disappointment that so much Government money was being directed via the North Northants Development Ltd and Northants Enterprise to Kettering, Corby and Wellingborough. On the other hand, Desborough with 10,000 inhabitants had taken the first housing burdens of the growth agenda but still lacks a town centre, etc. She has also spoken to the County Director of Development and Environment. Cllr Humfrey offered to join with the Town Council and others on the delivery of the Urban Design Framework.

Under the Empowering Councillors scheme she had added £1,000 to the URC Scout hut roof replacement, and just under £1,000 went to Junior Footballers, Junior Bowls and St John's Ambulance in Desborough.

Cllr Humfrey continues to work towards the improvement of green walkways along the Ise Valley.

6 4 9 Borough Councillors' Reports

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Following a complaint from a resident of Mayfield Road regarding the appalling state of the road surface, Cllr Soans informed the Council that Mayfield Road was originally a concrete surface, which had been covered in tarmac at a later date. Cllr Tebbutt advised that he would be in contact with the successor to Atkins regarding the criteria for dealing with pot holes.

Cllr Soans reported on two planning meetings and that there had been a 50% reduction in the number of plans submitted since June.

From the A6 Towns Forum Cllr Soans reported considerable concerns about PCSOs' lack of powers, and it was hoped to have a senior Police Officer at the next meeting to debate PCSOs and Special Constables.

The Borough Council is working towards achieving a working agreement with the County Council which will allow them to be responsible for street cleanliness. Negotiations are currently taking place.

The recent Ward walkabout illustrated the need to improve the drainage at the Cemetery, together with provision of a new path and renewal of the rear fencing.

The re-surfacing of the Burghley Close car park had gone out for tender to a single supplier but their bid was over budget. The work was re-advertised and four contractors are now putting in tenders.

Dog waste can be deposited in normal litter bins, a ruling since March 2008. Cllr Dixon said that he had received a complaint that there were no litter bins at The Grange. This may be because the roads at The Grange have not yet been adopted. Cllr Tebbutt will talk to appropriate officers at the Borough Council. The Town Council has suggested that litter bins are required at all of the bus stops.

Cllr Soans advised that the footbridge from the Grange to the Co-op site under the s106 agreement might be difficult to obtain as it is understood that both the rail authorities and the Midland Co-op have strong reservations to it. The Town Council continue to support its' provision. CJC continue to use their best endeavours on this matter.

Cllr Derbyshire stated that along with Cllr Dearing they had used Ward Initiative Funding to supply a litter bin to the Cemetery.

649 Clerk's report

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The Clerk's report had been circulated and gave details of:

1. The Clerk had sent all correspondence required after the last Council meeting.
2. **Grass verges between Desborough and Rothwell:** The County Council advised that it does not require a specified number of cuts to grass verges during the year. It requires the grass to be cut to ensure that it stays below specified heights that vary according to location and the times of the year. In some rural areas with rare or endangered species of flora/fauna, the cutting regime is tailored to suit. The County Council is required to keep verges safe and unobstructed, especially at road junctions to ensure clear visibility for motorists and pedestrians.
3. **Tarmac in Harborough Road:** The County Council advised that some of the verge alongside the Great Bear/Stoke Road roundabout has been laid on top of the old road and that tarmac had indeed been "popped". This term means that the impermeable bituminous layers of the old road were drilled through at 1-metre intervals to allow water to disperse. This is common practice.
4. **Desborough Pocket Park:** The County Council advised that the Pocket Park was established in 1994. The Desborough Pocket Park Volunteer Group was named as the body that would manage the Park, but there is no clear information on the county's files as to the relationship between the Group and the Town council. It is usual in this type of venture for the Park to be managed by a designated group linked to the Town Council, with clarity as to responsibilities for maintenance, insurance, etc. The County has advised who the currently named co-ordinator is, and the Clerk would ask him to attend the next Town Council meeting.
5. **Proposed 20-mph speed limit in Harrington Road:** The County Council advised that it proposes a 20mph speed limit as part of its Safer Routes to Schools programmes. It will cover a section of the road from the existing calming measure by Neuville Way to Meissen Avenue.
6. **Pagination of minutes from July 2007:** The minutes for September 2007 to June 2008 were numbered incorrectly because the minutes for July 2007 were omitted from the electronic copy of the minutes. It is this electronic copy that generates the page numbers. The September 2007 minute page numbers start at the same numbers as do those for July 2007. The July 2007 minutes were inserted prior to the July 2008 minutes being paginated, and therefore the July 2008 minutes are correctly numbered. However, a gap exists in the page numbers from June to July 2008. The hard copy of the minutes, signed by the Council Chairman at each meeting, are correct except for the page numbers for this period. A note explaining this had been inserted into the file containing the hard copy of the minutes.

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8 **Community reports**

Civic Society: Cllr Hollinshead informed the Council that the planned trip to Oxford had been cancelled due to lack of numbers. The Civic Society was in the process of logging the items that were in its care in order for the Heritage Centre to gain museum status, but that status could not be granted as the Heritage Centre was currently in rented accommodation.

The recent visit to Thrapston to look around their town centre was a success. The Civic Society was continuing to have meetings in the Concorde lounge, Victoria Street.

Market Towns Initiative: Cllr Soans informed the Council that there had been no meeting.

Town Centre Partnership: Cllr Goodman informed the Council of a meeting last night. There would be a trial run of the Town Centre Partnership working with the Carnival Committee and the Fireworks Committee in relation to the Gala Night, which will take place on November 28, in conjunction with the Christmas Tree Festival, as usual.

Cllr Goodman informed the Council that the Town Centre Partnership was trying to get Councillors, businesses and others together to discuss the direction of the town and so that they could work in unison. A possible location for the meeting would be the Ritz. Cllr Soans informed that any notices needed to be out approximately two weeks in advance of the meeting. Cllr Goodman stated that all the organisations in Desborough needed to have some form of input. She would organise the meeting.

Cllr Tebbutt asked if the VCRs had been procured. Cllr Goodman informed the Council that the Secretary of the Town Centre Partnership had no date planned for the CCTV system with the VCRs to be implemented. Cllr Goodman would follow the matter up with Robin Matthews of the MTI. Cllr Goodman said that both cameras and VCRs would be available on application. If anybody would like further information about the cameras they should contact Cllr Goodman.

Twinning: There was no report given.

Youth: Cllr Derbyshire informed the Council that Cllr Humfrey was still trying to keep the skate park in operation. As yet there are no controls on the action of the youngsters who use the facility. There were currently boys using the facility, but no girls.

6 4 9 Financial

9 Management of Accounts:

The Council purchased stalls in 2007 and agreed to sell them to the Town Centre Partnership. Cllr Goodman would liaise with the Partnership regarding price. The stalls would be removed from the Council's asset register.

Contract of Employment:

The Vice-Chairman advised that she had obtained a copy of a standard contract from CALC.

Accounts for payment:-

The following were approved for payment:

Cheque No.	Amount	Payee	Reason for payment
100971	£455.18	M P W Smith	Salary and expenses (August)
100972	£119.66	HMRC	PAYE and National Insurance
100973	£462.12	M P W Smith	Salary and expenses (Sept.)
100974	£119.66	HMRC	PAYE and National Insurance
100975	£ 35.00	Vine Comm. Trust	Room hire
100976	£891.14	Cllr Tebbutt	Adverts for vacant Clerk's post

Cheque numbers were omitted in error from the minutes for May and June, 2008. The numbers have been inserted by the Clerk into the hard copy of the minutes and are as listed below:

May:

Cheque No.	Amount	Payee	Reason for payment
100961	£457.91	M P W Smith	Salary and expenses
100962	£119.61	HMRC	PAYE and National Insurance
100963	£ 35.00	Vine Comm. Trust	Room hire
100150	£1514.75	Ritz Ballroom	Charity Dinner & Dance fees
100151	£480.00	Vine Comm. Trust	Donation for Marlow House

June:

Cheque No.	Amount	Payee	Reason for payment
100964	£454.71	M P W Smith	Salary and expenses
100965	£119.61	HMRC	PAYE and National Insurance
100966	£ 35.00	Vine Comm. Trust	Room hire
100967	£700.00	Cllr Tebbutt	Chairman's Allowance

**6 5 0
0** **Planning Applications:**

The following planning applications had been dealt with by the Chairman and other Councillors under delegated procedures:

KET/2008/0554 – 191 Rushton Road, Desborough – Full Application: Single storey building to rear for use as a cattery

Desborough Town Council is not in favour of this type of business in what is a residential area with the potential for noise pollution etc for the neighbours.

KET/2008/067 – 11 Headlands, Desborough – Full Application: Single storey rear extension

No Objection

KET/2008/0659 – 17, Sycamore Drive, Desborough – s.73A Retrospective Application: Partial conversion of garage to habitable room

No Objection

KET/2008/0651 – 29a Station Road, Desborough – s.73A Retrospective Application: Change of use – ground floor to retail (A1) and convert first floor to flat

The Council regrets that this is a retrospective planning application, which is to be deplored. The additional retail is welcome however, disabled/wheelchair access needs resolution.

KET/2008/0701 – Woodside Bungalow, Stoke Albany road, Desborough Kettering – Full Application: Change of use to boarding cattery. Erection of 2 no. single storey timber buildings and lowering of kerb for vehicular access

No Objection.

KET/2008/0694 & KET/2008/0274 – Rothwell North, Rothwell – Outline Application with EIA: A mixed use urban extension, comprising of 700 dwellings, 11 hectares of employment land (Classes B1 and B2), a local centre (Classes A1-A5, B1(a), C3, D1) open space and green infrastructure, an extension to Montsaye College playing fields and a reconfiguration of the junior school playing fields. The proposed development also includes pedestrian and cycle routs, and associated roads and other infrastructure

The data that has been supplied is totally lacking in detail, for example, where is the Highways Agency and more detailed plans etc.

There are no plans shown where the new shops, etc will be situated. The plan could very well change the viability of the Rothwell town centre as it is at present, by constructing a new town heart.

The Councillors feel that it is unacceptable to expect them to comment on the plans with such a lack of information.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9:26PM

..... **CHAIRMAN**

Chairman