

The Meeting of the Desborough Town Council held at Marlow House, Gold Street, Desborough on Thursday 16 October 2008.

PRESENT

Councillors: D Coe J Derbyshire D Bindley
 G Dixon P Goodman (Vice Chairman) I Hollinshead
 M Tebbutt, Chairman

Clerk: Leigh Parkin

Also in attendance: Mr D Ainge – Pocket Park Co-ordinator, Mr L Thomas, Mrs P Green, Mrs D Varley, PC J O’Hara

Chairman

6501	<p>Chairman's Announcements</p> <p>Cllr Tebbutt welcomed Mrs Leigh Parkin as the new Clerk to the Desborough Town Council.</p> <p>Invitations have been sent out to the Borough of Kettering – Mayor's Charity Ball 2008 to be held on 14th November at Wickstead Park Pavilion.</p> <p>Raffle tickets are on sale for the Mayors Charity</p> <p>The Service of Remembrance will be held at the Anglican Methodist Church of St.Giles at 10.00am on Sunday 9th November 2008. All uniformed organisations and anyone who would like to parade are required to assemble in the Midland Co-op car park at 9.20am stopping en-route at Saxon Close.</p> <p>Desborough's Gala Night is to be held on Friday 28th November 2008 commencing at 6pm.</p> <p>A proposed amendment to the Desborough Town Council letterhead was circulated. The amendment was <u>AGREED</u> by the Council.</p> <p>The Desborough Town Council Civic Service is to be held in the New Year.</p> <p>Burton Latimer Town Council has launched a new website www.burtonlatimer.org. At present Desborough Town Council do not have a website.</p> <p>Cllr Tebbutt has been invited to Marlow Houses' 25th Anniversary Party to be held on Thursday 23rd October 2008 at The Ritz.</p>
6502	<p>Apologies for absence</p> <p>Cllr P Malin, Cllr R Parker, Cllr M Dearing, Cllr D Soans, Cllr G Durward, Ms J Beckett, Deputy Chief Executive, KBC, Cllr B Humfrey, County Councillor</p>

<p>6503</p>	<p>Declarations of Interest by Councillors</p> <p>None</p>
<p>6504</p>	<p>Police report</p> <p>PC O’Hara provided the meeting with September’s Parish Crime Report. These figures do not include anti-social behaviour. It has been reported that Desborough has more anti-social behaviour then Rothwell, Burton Latimer or Barton Seagrave. This issue was raised at the JAG meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Coe thanked the police for the action they took in Dunkirk Avenue. He has spoken to the Police with regard to Neuville Way and Dalton Close where children/youths are congregating. The Town Council were assured that anti-social behaviour is being treated as a priority in Desborough.</p> <p>Cllr Hollinshead asked what happens with regard to youths/gangs riding bikes erratically with no lights both on the road and pavement. Initially the police speak to the child/youth and give advice. If this advice is ignored then they are taken home with their bike and the Police will speak to their parents.</p> <p>The Community Panel Meeting to the Rural Forum has been realigned. A meeting of the new Community Panel is to be held on Thursday 6th November at KBC Chambers at 6.30pm. It is requested that a representative be sent from the Town Council who can help decide the priorities for the Rural East and Rural West Community Team. If successful it is hoped that the meetings will be run every 3 months in line with the Rural Forum. It was <u>AGREED</u> that Cllr Coe will attend the meeting and feedback to the Council.</p>

6505

Mr D Ainge, Pocket Park Co-ordinator

Cllr Tebbutt explained that concerns had been raised about the condition of the Pocket Park and that the Town Council are unsure as to whose responsibility it is to look after the park. Cllr Goodman highlighted that she had received a letter from a lady with a visual impairment who can no longer walk her dog there due to the poor condition of the steps, handrail and the height of the nettles and weeds which have now covered the pathway. Mr Ainge was invited to explain what his role is and the difficulties he is facing.

Mr Ainge explained that the Pocket Park Volunteer Group has collapsed leaving only 2 members including himself. In addition there is a severe drainage problem. As a result KBC have not been able to access the park to mow it. For a number of years Mr Ainge drained the ‘boggy’ areas of the park as a contractor. More recently another contractor has undertaken this work which in his opinion was poorly completed, three boggy areas still remain.

There has been no funding for the park in recent years. They currently have £127 in the bank. A grant was received to clear the pond and this work was undertaken, however, the pond has deteriorated again.

In June Mr Ainge contacted the Council to trim the hedge but nothing happened. There are 2 dog waste bins in the park however one has been damaged for a number of years. Cllr Goodman raised the concern that if the park was not adequately maintained then we may lose the facility through re-development. Cllr Coe referred to the Development Brief for Desborough Central which shows that the pocket park will be retained and enhanced.

There is an Association of Pocket Parks however they have not met recently. Cllr Dixon raised the point that local industry may provide some financial support to the redevelopment and maintenance of the park.

It was **AGREED** that the Council will (i) contact KBC and ask them to meet with Mr Ainge to look at the problems and report back their views as to the work that needs to be undertaken to allow the public to use this facility again. (ii) In addition KBC will also be asked about available funding to undertake the work, with particular regard to the issue around draining the ‘boggy’ areas. (iii) Write to Cllr B Humfrey, County Councillor to request her support in the re-development of the park. (iv) Design a leaflet requesting volunteers to help look after the pocket park which will be distributed to all local residents as well as being displayed in the Town notice boards. (v) Mr Ainge will be invited back to discuss progress with the Town Council in the New Year.

<p>6506</p>	<p>Representations from members of the public</p>
<p>6506.1</p>	<p>Mrs P Green and Mrs D Varley raised concerns in respect of Straight Furlong Lane which backs onto a number of houses in Pevrel Place. The lane should be accessed by the fire engine however the bridge is completely overgrown as are the trees along the lane. Many of the trees are Ash which are seeding in their back gardens because they are not being maintained. Nobody is sure who is responsible for maintaining the trees and hedges. The hedges cannot be taken out as they are specified in the deeds of the relevant properties in Pevrel Place.</p> <p>There has also been a lot of fly tipping, motorbikes being ridden up and down the lane and around the farmer’s field and the garages on Bridge Road are being used as a gathering point by youths in cars. The security lights fitted to the garages give the cars floodlighting but does not deter them from gathering there. They have contacted the Police who have said that they will come out but do not.</p> <p>Cllr Goodman reinforced that when they contact the police they must get a crime number. Cllr Tebbutt suggested that the issues, such as, fly tipping should be also reported to the KBC Response Centre situated in the Library. The Response Centre will also report the problems to the Police.</p> <p>In addition a new house is being built along Pevrel Place. Breeze blocks for the house have been placed on the footpath and left there for over 6 months completely blocking access to the footpath. The Police were contacted and they were told it should be reported to the Highways Department at NCC. The building company were approached however the blocks were not moved. The footpath is now damaged.</p> <p>It was AGREED that letters should be written to (i) Cllr B Humfrey, County Councillor. (ii) KBC (iii) Enforcement Officer, Planning Department at KBC (iv) PC Cotterill and copied to Bob Martin, Footpaths Officer in respect of all of the points raised.</p>
<p>6506.2</p>	<p>Mr L Thomas returned to the Town Council’s meeting to report on the current situation in respect of his planning application for a Trout Fishery on Rushton Road which had been turned down by KBC (Minute 6492, 18th September 2008). Mr Thomas has decided to re-submit his application addressing the points of concern raised by Mr T Shields, Case Officer.</p> <p>It was AGREED that (i) the Town Council write a letter to Mr Thomas fully endorsing his proposal which can be included with his re-submitted application. (ii) When the Town Council receive from KBC the re-submitted application for comment they will request that the application be considered at a Planning Committee.</p>

6507	<p>Minutes of Town Council meeting held on 17 July 2008</p>
	<p>The Minutes of the Town Council meeting on the above date were unanimously approved and signed as a true record of the meeting.</p>
	<p>Matters Arising:</p>
6507.1	<p>Minute 6489 – Blood Tests – a letter had been received from Mr Parkes, Chief Executive, Northamptonshire Teaching Primary Care Trust confirming that the phlebotomy service at both Desborough and Rothwell surgeries commenced on 1 September 2008. It was <u>AGREED</u> that (i) a letter to confirm this situation be sent to Mr & Mrs Bayman. (ii) Cllr Coe is to raise the issue as to why Desborough Surgery is only providing 1 day of service per week at the A6 Towns Forum meeting.</p>
6507.2	<p>Minute 6489 – Blocked drains – it was noted that litter is not being picked prior to grass cutting so cardboard, plastic etc. are being cut up with the grass and blown down the drains enhancing the blocked drains problem.</p>
6507.3	<p>Minute 6496 – Pot holes – Cllr Tebbutt reported that he is to attend a meeting on 26th November 2008 of the NCC Highways Partnership as the Roads Representative for the Town Council.</p>
6507.4	<p>Minute 6496 – Waste bin – Cllr Derbyshire reported that a green dog waste bin had been installed at the entrance to the allotments.</p>
6507.5	<p>Minute 6497 – Tarmac in Harborough Road – Cllr Goodman understands that the regulations have changed in respect of laying new road on old and ‘popping’ the tarmac. It was <u>AGREED</u> to write to NCC to confirm whether or not the rules have changed.</p>
6507.6	<p>Minute 6497 – Grass verges – Cllr Dixon raised a concern that the verges on the outskirts of the town around the ‘Welcome to Desborough’ signs are not regularly maintained and the Bryant Homes sign ‘All houses sold’ has been up over 2 years. In addition the black and white bollards on the Harborough Road have been demolished apart from one. It was <u>AGREED</u> to write to (i) CJC development to request the Bryant Homes sign be taken down, copied to the Enforcement Officer, KBC. (ii) Cllr B Humfrey, County Councillor, to highlight the issue of the bollards and the poor maintenance of the access roads into Desborough.</p>
6507.7	<p>Minute 6497 – Share cycleway/footway – It was <u>AGREED</u> that a copy of the letter Cllr Tebbutt had written to NCC be appended to September’s minutes.</p>

<p>6508</p>	<p>County Councillor’s Report</p> <p>Cllr Humfrey was unable to attend the meeting however the following points were noted by Cllr Hollinshead:</p> <p>Cllr Humfrey has been successful in obtaining £40,000 in match funding from various organisations to improve the Ise Valley in respect of building a weir, redesigning the flow of the river, installing a kissing gate to allow prams and pushchairs access over the river and connection with other pathways in the area.</p> <p>The empowering people programme is going ahead quite well.</p>
<p>6509</p>	<p>Borough Councillors’ Reports</p> <p>Cllr Derbyshire reported that she had attended a meeting with regard to the document ‘Aging Matters’ which was run by the Adult Social Care & Health Team. Cllr Derbyshire has a copy of the document if anybody wishes to read it.</p> <p>Cllr Derbyshire also reported that the damaged cemetery railings had been replaced with ones that had been painted emerald green. These now make the old railings look out of place. The damaged grave head stones and fallen angel have been repaired.</p> <p>Cllr Tebbutt reported that since Kleensweep the white marks on the railings in Dunkirk Avenue have been painted over. The trees have started to be trimmed in the Recreation Ground. Cllr Coe raised a concern about the length of time it took four men, two vehicles and a trailer to trim two trees. It was <u>AGREED</u> that Cllr Tebbutt will investigate the situation</p> <p>Julia Beckett, Deputy Chief Executive, KBC will be attending November’s meeting.</p>

6510	Clerk's report
	The Clerk's report had been circulated and gave details of:
6510.1	The Clerk had sent all correspondence required after the last Council meeting.
6510.2	Mrs Eastwood, 51 Station Road: Mrs Eastwood attended the Town Council meeting on 17 th July 2008 (Minute 6479). Her complaint culminated in an Ombudsman enquiry, which found that KBC had no case to answer. A copy of the letter received by the Town Council from KBC has been sent to Mrs Eastwood.
6510.3	The making and enforcement of byelaws: A paper copy of the consultation paper has been received which was published on the Communities and Local Government website (www.communities.gov.uk) on 27 th August 2008. The Chairman has delegated Cllr Durward to comment on this paper.
6510.4	Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Development Framework (MWDF): A letter and supporting documentation has been received on MWDF. The Chairman has reviewed the documentation and commented that he felt the recommendations from the Planning Policy Committee on the Framework should be followed.
6510.5	New Peaslands Site Development: Following the Town Council meeting in September 2008 (Minute 6493) the Clerk has contacted Katie Graham, Housing Strategy Officer (Enabling) at KBC. Katie requested that we provide her with some potential dates and times so that she can liaise with Orbit to finalise a visit. Councillors suggested either Saturday 25 th October or Saturday 1 November 2008
6510.6	at 10.00am.
6510.7	Westmoorland Drive/Hereford Close: A follow-up letter was sent to NCC Highways. The Clerk was contacted by a member of the Street Doctor Team who has now passed the letter to the Casualty Reduction Team.
	E-mail agenda, minutes and Clerk's report: The Clerk requested Council members to consider whether they would prefer to receive the above-detailed documents by e-mail prior to future meetings. It was <u>AGREED</u> that the Clerk should action individual requests from Cllrs.

6511	Community reports
6511.1	<p>Town Centre Partnership: Cllr Goodman reported back from the Town Meeting held on Friday 10th October 2008 which had been instigated by the Town Centre Partnership to clarify and then bring to the attention of the Borough Council the strength of feeling that is running in the town due to perceived inaction to revitalise and regenerate Desborough. Organisations represented were the Town Centre Partnership, Desborough Town & Borough Councils, the Business Club, Rothwell & Desborough Futures Ltd, the Civic Society and many local business people. A letter has been sent to Cllr J Hakewell, Leader, KBC copied to the Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executives, Head of Development Services and Chris Bentley.</p> <p>Cllr Coe expressed concern that it had been an anti co-op meeting and that there had been inaccuracies at the meeting and within the letter that has been sent. Cllr Goodman confirmed that the Co-op were not to blame for everything. She explained that the sole reason for the meeting was to highlight to KBC that members of the town had joined together as they have had enough inactivity.</p> <p>The next meeting of the Town Centre Partnership is to be held on 5th November 2008. Cllr Goodman said that the Partnership needed more Councillors.</p> <p>The Carnival Committee are undertaking a firework display on Sunday 2 November 2008. Councillors are requested to act as marshals again this year. Cllr Goodman to confirm time and supply safety vests.</p> <p>Cllr Goodman confirmed that the majority of the entertainment for Gala Night, Friday 28th November 2008, has been booked. Volunteers from the Town Council are needed to help set up the stalls on the morning.</p> <p>Cllr Coe raised a concern about housing allocations. He has been dealing with a specific family for 3 years who have not yet been allocated a home. Cllr Tebbutt explained that it is not a question of time but a question of need. In November 2008 housing allocations are to change which will enable people to put in a bid for a specific house.</p>
6511.2	<p>Civic Society : Cllr Hollinshead reported that the Society had received a donation from the Carnival Committee. English Heritage funding is still being sought for various projects. Monies have also been received to employ advisors and consultants to better the Society.</p>
6511.3	<p>Market Towns Initiative: Cllr Goodman confirmed that Market Towns Initiative was now Rothwell & Desborough Futures Ltd. It was agreed to take this item off the agenda unless specifically requested.</p>
6511.4	<p>Twining: The AGM is to be held on 18th October 2008 at St. Giles Community</p>

6512	Financial report																								
6512.1	<p>External Audit Report: The External Audit has been completed on the accounts for year ending 31 March 2008 and has been accepted and approved by the council. The Auditor noted that the Internal Auditor had entered ‘Not covered’ to the tests on Section 4 of the Annual Return. It is recommended that in future these tests are carried out by the Internal Auditor. The ‘Notice of completed Audit’ and supporting documentation will now be displayed in the notice board</p>																								
6512.2	<p>Management of Accounts: The Clerk gave a report on the Town Council’s accounts as at 30th September 2008 for information.</p>																								
6512.3	<p>Accounts for payment:-</p> <p>The following were <u>APPROVED</u> for payment:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="320 846 1390 1086"> <thead> <tr> <th>Cheque No.</th> <th>Amount</th> <th>Payee</th> <th>Reason for Payment</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>100977</td> <td>£407.58</td> <td>Mrs L Parkin</td> <td>Salary (Oct)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>100978</td> <td>£103.41</td> <td>HM Revenue & Customs</td> <td>PAYE & NI (Oct)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>100979</td> <td>£35.00</td> <td>Vine Community Trust</td> <td>Hall Hire</td> </tr> <tr> <td>100980</td> <td>£158.63</td> <td>BDO Stoy Hayward LLP</td> <td>External Audit Fee</td> </tr> <tr> <td>100981</td> <td>£17.00</td> <td>Desborough RBL Poppy Appeal</td> <td>Poppy Wreath</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Cheque No.	Amount	Payee	Reason for Payment	100977	£407.58	Mrs L Parkin	Salary (Oct)	100978	£103.41	HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE & NI (Oct)	100979	£35.00	Vine Community Trust	Hall Hire	100980	£158.63	BDO Stoy Hayward LLP	External Audit Fee	100981	£17.00	Desborough RBL Poppy Appeal	Poppy Wreath
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6512.4	<p>The new Clerk has undertaken a review of the bank accounts. It has been identified that cheque numbers from May – Sept 08 were reported incorrectly in the September Clerk’s report. This has been amended in the minutes for September 2008 (Minute 6499) in agreement with the Chairman.</p> <p><u>Insurance:</u></p> <p>The Town Council’s insurance is due for renewal on 15th November 2008, which is prior to the next meeting in November. The insurance company are unable to provide details of the renewal premium this far in advance. The Company has therefore granted a 21 day grace period to allow approval for payment at the next meeting.</p>																								
6512.5	<p><u>CALC:</u></p> <p>The Clerk requested the Council to consider whether or not it wished to join CALC with effect from 1 November 2008. Strong concerns were raised as to the benefits CALC would bring to the Town Council. It was <u>AGREED</u> to ask Mr D Moody, Principal Officer, CALC, to attend a future meeting</p>																								

<p>6513</p> <p>6513.1</p> <p>6513.2</p>	<p>Planning Applications:</p> <p>The following applications have been received and comments made under delegated procedures or to be made at the meeting:</p> <p>KET/2008/0767 - 24 Harrington Road, Desborough – Full Application: Two bedroom dwelling. Although this is a backland development there is separate access from Addison Road, however, there is concern about the closeness of this access to the junction. It appears to be within 25 yards of a busy T junction which is too close for good exit safety. The Council is against further backland development.</p> <p>An appeal has been lodged to the Secretary of State regarding Kettering Borough Council’s decision on planning application KET/2008/0472 – 28-30 Breakleys Road (Land to rear of), Desborough – Full Application: Single storey dwelling.</p> <p>The council originally commented on the application in the meeting held on 19th June 2008, minute 6475 as follows:</p> <p>“The proposed development is located deep within the application site which is out of character with the pattern of existing development that is linear and addresses/fronts the street. It is questionable whether it provides sufficient rear garden for new proposal and existing. Removal of large part of no 28 of questionable sustainability. Use of non-sustainable uPVC windows & doors is questionable. Use of non-permeable vehicle access/hard standing is not sustainable. Totally opposed to further unwarranted backland development. The access not suitable.”</p>
	<p>THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.46 PM</p> <p>..... CHAIRMAN</p>