

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

**PRESENT**

**Councillors:** Cllr M Tebbutt, Chairman, Cllr P Goodman (Vice Chairman) (7.05pm), Cllr D Coe, Cllr J Derbyshire, Cllr D Bindley, Cllr I Hollinshead, Cllr P Malin, Cllr G Durward, Cllr M Dearing, Cllr G Dixon

**Clerk:** Leigh Parkin

**Also in attendance:** Cllr B Humfrey - County Councillor, Mr R Matthews – Programme Manager, Rothwell & Desborough Futures Ltd, Sgt T Hopkins 494

<p><b>6528</b></p>	<p><b>Chairman’s Announcements</b></p> <p>Cllr Tebbutt attended Desborough’s Gala Night on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2008 and also Rothwell’s Christmas Gala on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2008.</p> <p>The NCC Parish Highways Meeting was cancelled. Cllr Tebbutt is Desborough Town Council’s representative. The meeting will be re-arranged in the near future.</p> <p>On 12<sup>th</sup> December 2008 Cllr Tebbutt attended the Mayor’s Christmas Concert at the Lighthouse Theatre Kettering where The Masquerade Choir as well as other youthful members of the community sang.</p> <p>Cllr Tebbutt attended both Havelock Infant and Junior Schools’ Christmas concerts.</p> <p>Cllr Tebbutt reminded everyone of the Youth Concert he had attended in November which is being broadcast by Radio Northampton on Boxing Day from 11am until 12 midday.</p> <p>Cllr Tebbutt wished everybody a Happy Christmas and a prosperous and safe New Year.</p>
<p><b>6529</b></p>	<p><b>Apologies for absence</b></p> <p>Cllr R Parker</p>
<p><b>6530</b></p>	<p><b>Declarations of Interest by Councillors</b></p> <p>None.</p>

Chairman .....

**6531**

**Police report**

PS Hopkins talked through November's Parish Crime Report. Unfortunately a copy was not available as the figures are currently being re-formatted. It was reported that November had been a better month compared to October 2008 and also November 2007. There has been an increase in crimes linked to the credit crunch. The priorities at present are speeding along Harborough Road and theft from motor vehicles. A mobile police station will be visiting the Co-op car-park to fit number plate anti-theft screws.

Two new Police Officers have joined the Broughton, Rothwell, Desborough and Rural West Safer Community Team.

Northants Police have issued a Policing Pledge which identifies what they are going to do over the next 12 months.

The Northants Police website ([www.northantspolice.co.uk](http://www.northantspolice.co.uk)) has a Local Crime Mapping section where if you input your postcode it will report the crimes in your area, with a comparison to last year.

Cllr Coe asked whether there had been any further problems at Neuville Way. Apart from a report on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December when a group of youths had been sitting on a wooden beam that had broken no reports have been received recently.

Cllr Tebbutt highlighted that there is a continuing problem of motorbikes being ridden along Straight Furlong Way. PC Cotterell has investigated this situation and reported back to the Clerk (Minute 6537.13).

Cllr Humfrey raised the concern about lorries continuing to travel along the Braybrooke Road over 7.5tonnes when they are going to the Great Bear site. NCC are aware that the signage needs to be changed. They are mainly foreign drivers who use satellite navigation systems which have not been up-dated to include the by-pass. Sgt Hopkins confirmed that the Police will need to do some strong enforcement of weight and speed limits on both the Harborough and Braybrooke Roads.

Cllr Goodman and Cllr Dearing also highlighted the problem of lorry drivers parking at the side of the road to sleep. Sgt Hopkins noted this.

<b>6532</b>	<b>Representations from members of the public</b>  Mr R Matthews informed the meeting that the Ritz has closed. All pre-bookings have been cancelled and deposits returned. There is a buyer interested in both the Fox's Lodge and the Ritz. There is a complication however that KBC are trying to recover a charge for the roof on one of the Fox's Lodge properties.  Cllr Humfrey had understood from Ms Julia Beckett, Deputy Chief Executive, KBC that KBC would retain Fox's Lodge and 'do it up'.
<b>6533</b>	<b>Mr Norman Grey – Practice Manager, Desborough Surgery</b>  Mr Grey was unable to attend the meeting and has re-arranged to attend the next Town Council meeting on 15 <sup>th</sup> January 2009. A letter has been received from Dr P Aspinall, Head of Practice, with regard to the provision of blood tests at the Desborough Surgery. The letter was circulated for Councillors to read.

<b>6534</b>	<b>Minutes of Town Council meeting held on 20 November 2008</b>
<b>6534.1</b>	<p>The Minutes of the Town Council meeting on the above date were <b>unanimously approved</b> and signed as a true record of the meeting with the following amendment:</p> <p>Minute 6514 - item 4 – Cllr Soans and not Cllr Coe attended the Borough of Kettering Mayor’s Charity Ball 2008.</p> <p><b>Matters Arising:</b></p> <p>Minute 6519.1 – Cllr Goodman has received an acknowledgement of her letter to Cllr Hakewell, Leader, KBC. It is hoped that Ms J Beckett, Deputy Chief Executive, KBC will attend January’s meeting with some further information.</p> <p>Minute 6524.4 – Bollards and Planters on High Street/Station Road in Desborough - Cllr Coe confirmed that he was not in total support of Mr Donagher putting bollards on the pavement outside his home. He feels that Mr Donagher is also causing a problem himself when he backs his vehicle into his driveway he swings it onto the pavement on the opposite side of the road potentially causing a hazard.</p> <p>Minute 6526.5 – Christmas Lights 2008/09 - It was <b>AGREED</b> to investigate the purchase of new lights for the trees at the top of Havelock Street and the trees around the Church area in Lower Street. It was noted that NCC have received a report confirming that the majority of lampposts, which the star Christmas lights are attached to, are corroding. The lampposts are due to be replaced as part of a programme starting within the next 12 months. KBC are waiting to hear whether NCC will allow the lampposts to be used for the erection of Christmas lights next season.</p> <p>Minute 6527.9 – KET/2008/0697 – Eckland Lodge Business Centre - Cllr Goodman stated that the majority of the Town Council had been in favour of this development. She asked whether there was anything further we could do to support the application if it goes to appeal.</p>

6535

**County Councillor's Report**

Cllr Humfrey reported that she has spent the remainder of her Empowering Councillor's fund (£2,500) towards the costs of second hand bus for Marlow House. Cllr Humfrey had put the Chairman of the Marlow House Trustees in touch with NCC who had identified a suitable bus costing £5,000.

Cllr Goodman stated that this was fantastic news and that she had agreed with Cllr Derbyshire, Cllr Dearing, Cllr Soans and Cllr Tebbutt to raise the remaining £2,500 from their Ward Initiative Funds.

Cllr Humfrey reported that she had today attended the Full Council meeting at NCC. The main points to highlight are:

- **William Knibb Centre** – there is currently a petition for a full-time Youth Worker for the Centre. Cllr Tebbutt raised the issue that there is currently no transport to the Centre from Desborough. It was **AGREED** to contact the YMCA with regard to the possibility of transport being provided. Cllr Humfrey remarked that there is a Desborough Community Transport minibus available.
- **Provision of Out of Hours Primary Medical Services in Northamptonshire** – Copies of the presentation were circulated to the Councillors. It was **AGREED** that Cllr Durward will complete the questionnaire.
- **Communication** – A major focus of NCC is to be able to improve communication with the public. They have just completed 3 day long meetings between Councillors and Officers on the means to effect this.

Cllr Humfrey highlighted a number of proposed changes under the Road Traffic Regulations within Desborough:

**Rothwell Road, Desborough** – improvements to the cycle/footpath to Rothwell and moving the 30mph speed limit. Cllr Tebbutt raised the concern that the Town Council had been asked to comment on the proposed change however he had subsequently received documents showing the change prior to the consultation being completed. He felt therefore that the consultation had been a waste of time and was just paying lip service to the views of the Town Council. In addition the consultation documents had stated the changes being made came under the 'Safer Routes to School' however in response to Cllr Tebutt's comments NCC had said that the police had requested the change. There is concern that NCC are looking to take away the School bus service.

Cllr Humfrey assured the meeting that this was not the intention of NCC and that the school bus service between Rothwell and Desborough is not under threat. Cllr

6536

**Borough Councillors' Reports**

Cllr Dearing reported that he had attended the KBC Executive meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2008. It had been identified that further consultation is needed with regards to residents parking for certain roads. All Service Level Agreements were signed off. The medium term financial planning and changes in VAT were discussed.

There are to be some minimal charge parking bays in two car parks in Kettering.

Cllr Dearing also attended the KBC full Council Meeting where the Sustainable Community Strategy was discussed.

Cllr Derbyshire wished to congratulate all of the organisers of Desborough's Gala night.

Cllr Derbyshire has received an invitation to the Burton Latimer Town Mayors Charity Ball. The invitation is to be copied and sent to all Councillors.

Cllr Tebbutt said that it is hoped a report will be submitted to the next Planning Policy meeting at KBC in relation to the proposed development of a further 700 residential homes within Desborough. The developers have had to include in their submissions how they will improve the Town Centre. It was noted that CJC had committed to building a Leisure facility at the Grange however work on this has not yet started. It was **AGREED** to write to Ms Cath Harvey, Head of Planning, KBC to seek clarification as to how many houses need to be sold before Section 106 money is activated and the timescale for the commencement of building the leisure facility at the Grange.

Cllr Coe reported that he had been in touch with the Chairman of Desborough's Football Club following the fire earlier this week. The Chairman has already approached KBC to request a business rate free period.

Cllr Coe stated that he had received reports that there is damp in the Bungalows on the corner of Victoria Street opposite the Doctor's surgery. In addition it is thought that the kitchens are in very poor condition. It was **AGREED** to write to Mr J Conway, Head of Housing, KBC, to ask a Neighbourhood Manager to visit and report back.

6537	<p><b>Clerk’s report</b></p> <p>The Clerk’s report had been circulated and gave details of:</p>
6537.1	<p>The Clerk had sent all correspondence required after the last Council meeting.</p>
6537.2	<p><b>Pocket Park (Minute 6524.2):</b> A meeting was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2008 involving volunteers, Countryside Services NCC, Community Services KBC and the County Councillor. Members of the group looked at a draft Constitution, draft risk assessment and the 5 year plan. A discussion was held around promoting the park and holding a practical work session on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2009 to involve and encourage new members to join. The Clerk and Mrs Ruth Rolls, Pocket Parks Officer, NCC will be applying for Grassroots and Access to Nature funding for the Park. The next volunteer meeting will be held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2008.</p>
6537.3	<p><b>Replacement Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) for the town of Kettering:</b> A letter has been received from Waste Management at NCC informing us of their plans to build a replacement HWRC in Kettering. They hope to apply for planning permission by the end of the year and if successful the new Kettering HWRC is planned to be built and ready to open to the public by April 2010. The Chairman has commented on the plans.</p>
6537.4	<p><b>Freedom of Information Act:</b> Under the Freedom of Information Act (“the Act”) it is the duty of every public authority to adopt and maintain a publication scheme. The Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO) is changing the emphasis in the approval and operation of publication schemes to a generic model which should be adopted and operated by all public authorities from 1 January 2009.</p> <p>The model commits a public authority to ‘produce and publish the method by which specific information will be available so that it can be easily identified and accessed by members of the public’. The model scheme document has been produced for all public authorities and must be adopted in full, unedited and promoted alongside the guide to information.</p> <p>The guide to information is a working document that needs to be reviewed on a regular basis. It identifies a list of information the Town Council will make routinely available, explain how it can be accessed and whether or not a charge will be made for it.</p> <p>It was <b>unanimously AGREED</b> to adopt the model publication scheme and ‘The Guide to Information’. The ‘Guide to Information’ will be reviewed on a quarterly basis. Both documents will be referred to in the Noticeboards; however, full copies will be made available in the Town Council’s public folder held in the Desborough Library.</p>
6537.5	

<b>6538</b>	<b>Community reports</b>
<b>6538.1</b>	<p><b>Town Centre Partnership:</b> Cllr Goodman reported that there had not been a meeting since the Gala Night and the next meeting is to be held in January. Cllr Goodman wished to thank all of the Councillors who supported the set up and running of the Gala evening, which went very well. There was a problem with the road closure that did not arrive. It was noted that a number of the stall holders did not attend as Burton Latimer held their Gala on the same evening. It was <b>AGREED</b> that the Clerk will contact Burton Latimer’s Clerk to discuss how both events ended up on the same evening.</p>
<b>6538.2</b>	<p><b>Civic Society :</b> Councillor Hollinshead reported that:</p> <p>There had been an excellent lecture by the speaker John Lee, Desborough Historian.</p> <p>The Heritage Centre wishes to apply for museum status however it cannot do so unless it is housed in permanent accommodation. There is a petition to sign in the Heritage Centre to support this.</p>
<b>6538.3</b>	<p>Mr R Matthews raised a concern as to the recent plans submitted by the Midlands Co-op to KBC for shutters on the Co-op and Heritage Centre. If the shutters are inside it may cause difficulty for the Heritage Centre with their displays. It was <b>AGREED</b> that the Clerk will check whether the plans are for internal or external shutters.</p>
<b>6538.4</b>	<p><b>Twinning:</b> Cllr Goodman reminded everyone about the murder mystery evening to be held on New Years Eve, trips to France and Belgium are to be scheduled for 2009.</p> <p><b>Youth:</b> There was no report given</p>



6539	<p><b>Financial report</b></p>																								
6539.1	<p><b><u>Insurance – Pocket Park:</u></b></p> <p>Following the Town Council meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> November (Minute 6524.2) the Clerk has identified that the Council is insured under its Public Liability Insurance for members of the public to use the Pocket Park. The Council’s insurance company have quoted £100 plus insurance premium tax to hold four volunteer events in the Park during 2009. It was <b>AGREED</b> that the Town Council will pay this premium.</p>																								
6539.2	<p><b><u>Internal Auditor:</u></b></p> <p>The Clerk has met with Mr Colin Barnard, Internal Auditor. Mr Barnard has been appointed Internal Auditor to Rothwell Town Council and completed their internal audit for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008. Mr Barnard has considerable local government experience and currently works as a freelance consultant/ internal auditor. The cost of the internal audit will be £125. It was <b>AGREED</b> to appoint Mr Barnard as Desborough Town Council’s Internal Auditor for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009.</p>																								
6539.3	<p><b><u>Christmas Lights:</u></b></p> <p>This item was discussed in minute 6534.1. The Clerk reported she has been in contact with Mr Chris Underwood, KBC as to how much they are to charge the Town Council for the set-up, take-down and maintenance of the Town’s Christmas lights for this season. Mr Underwood will be unable to provide this information until the New Year.</p>																								
6539.4	<p><b><u>Accounts for Payment:</u></b></p> <p><b>The Clerk recommends that</b> the following payments be approved:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="336 1563 1394 1921"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>Cheque No.</b></th> <th><b>Amount</b></th> <th><b>Payee</b></th> <th><b>Reason for Payment</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>100987</td> <td>£454.89</td> <td>Mrs L Parkin</td> <td>Salary (Dec) inc. back pay Oct 08 – Nov 08 (Minute: 6526.2 )&amp; Expenses (Nov/Dec)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>100988</td> <td>£134.24</td> <td>HM Revenue &amp; Customs</td> <td>PAYE &amp; NI (Dec)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>100989</td> <td>£35.00</td> <td>Vine Community Trust</td> <td>Hall Hire</td> </tr> <tr> <td>100990</td> <td>£61.10</td> <td>Mr Matthew Smith</td> <td>Back pay April 08 – Sept 08 inc. (Minute: 6526.2)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>100991</td> <td>£3,000</td> <td>Mr R Martin</td> <td>Empowering Councillors Fund – Hedge Laying, Ise Valley</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>It was noted that the Town Council had received and paid in a cheque for £3,000 from NCC in respect of Cllr Humfrey’s Empowering Councillor’s fund for</p>	<b>Cheque No.</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Reason for Payment</b>	100987	£454.89	Mrs L Parkin	Salary (Dec) inc. back pay Oct 08 – Nov 08 (Minute: 6526.2 )& Expenses (Nov/Dec)	100988	£134.24	HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE & NI (Dec)	100989	£35.00	Vine Community Trust	Hall Hire	100990	£61.10	Mr Matthew Smith	Back pay April 08 – Sept 08 inc. (Minute: 6526.2)	100991	£3,000	Mr R Martin	Empowering Councillors Fund – Hedge Laying, Ise Valley
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<b>6540</b>	<p><b>Planning Applications:</b></p> <p>The following applications have been received and comments made under delegated procedures or to be made at the meeting:</p>
<b>6540.1</b>	<p><b>KET/2008/0886 – 23a Station Road, Desborough – Full Application: New shop front.</b></p> <p>No objection, but should match the next door application (Ket/2008/0887) which converts to shop from dwelling. Signage should in both cases be tasteful and enhance street scene.</p>
<b>6540.2</b>	<p><b>KET/2008/0949 – 49 Pioneer Avenue, Desborough – Full Application: Single storey rear extension.</b></p> <p>No Objection. Rather lengthy rear extension but if neighbours have no objection then nor does the Town Council.</p>
<b>6540.3</b>	<p><b>KET/2008/0953 – O. Kay Engineering Services Ltd, Magnetic Business Park, Beaver Avenue, Desborough – Advertisement Application: 2 no. illuminated fascia signs</b></p> <p>No objection</p>
<b>6540.4</b>	<p><b>KET/2008/0958 – 42 Braybrooke Road, Desborough – Full Application: Dropped kerb and pavement crossing to front.</b></p> <p>No objection.</p>
<p><b><u>Notices of Approval received:</u></b></p>	
<b>6540.5</b>	<p><b>KET/2008/0188 – David Wilson Homes (East Midlands) - Area 8, The Grange, Harborough Road, Desborough – Erection of 50 dwellings.</b></p> <p>KBC have granted permission for the above development.</p>
<b>6540.6</b>	<p><b>KET/2008/0799 – West Lodge Rural Centre, Back Lane, Desborough – change of use from storage barn to A1 farm shop/butchery with food storage area.</b></p> <p>KBC have granted permission for the above development.</p>
<b>6540.7</b>	<p><b>KET/2008/0841 (Minute 6527.2) – Midland Co-op Society – 74 Station Road, Desborough - alteration to shop front and inclusion of roller shutters.</b></p> <p>KBC have granted permission for the above development.</p>
<b>6540.8</b>	<p><b>KET/2008/0848 (Minute 6527.3) – Mr G Percival – Linden Rise, 3 Rothwell Road, Desborough – Dwelling House and Garage.</b></p> <p>KBC have granted outline permission for the above development.</p>
<b>6540.9</b>	<p><b>KET/2008/0910 – 21 Kenmore Drive, Desborough – New block paved driveway to front, side and rear.</b></p>

**THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.00 PM**

..... **CHAIRMAN**

Chairman .....