

The Meeting of the Desborough Town Council held at Marlow House, Gold Street, Desborough on Thursday 15 January 2009.

**PRESENT**

**Councillors:** Cllr M Tebbutt, Chairman (7.17pm), Cllr P Goodman (Vice Chairman) (7.55pm), Cllr D Coe, Cllr J Derbyshire, Cllr D Bindley (7.07pm), Cllr I Hollinshead, Cllr P Malin, Cllr G Dixon, Cllr D Soans

**Clerk:** Leigh Parkin

**Also in attendance:** Mr D Moody, Principal Officer, Northamptonshire County Association of Local Councils, PCSO Peter Firth, Mr S Richards, member of the public.

<b>6541</b>	<p><b>Apologies for absence</b></p> <p>At the start of the meeting Cllr Tebbutt (Chairman) and Cllr Goodman (Vice-Chairman) were not in attendance due to unforeseen circumstances. Members of the Town Council present at the meeting appointed Cllr Dixon as temporary Chairman (proposed by Cllr Derbyshire and seconded by Cllr Soans). Cllr Tebbutt took over Chairing the meeting after the completion of the Police Report (Minute 6543).</p> <p>Cllr Tebbutt, Cllr Goodman and Cllr Bindley apologised for their late arrival.</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Cllr R Parker, Cllr M Dearing, Cllr B Humfrey and Cllr G Durward</p>
<b>6542</b>	<p><b>Declarations of Interest by Councillors</b></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>

Chairman .....

**6543**

**Police report**

PCSO Firth talked through the crime figures for December. He highlighted that it had been a quiet month and that there was no particular pattern to the crimes that had been committed.

Cllr Derbyshire highlighted that on her way home one evening she had noted 5 cars with their wing mirrors snapped off around the Cheaney's Factory area. PCSO Firth commented that some people may not be reporting crimes and that there is no pattern always to criminal damage.

Cllr Dixon asked what the trend had been in other local towns. PCSO Firth stated that he could only comment for the rural area however Rothwell had also been quiet over the Christmas period. The weather may have played a part in this as it has been particularly cold.

Cllr Hollinshead commented that he felt the policing of the area is very good and this may also be contributing to the low crime figures.

Cllr Coe reported that he had received a letter from Mr Richards, member of the public, who had raised concerns about the worsening problem of youths kicking his front door on a Friday and Saturday night. Mr Richards was invited to speak to the meeting as he was in attendance. Mr Richards has reported the incidents to a Community Police Officer but felt that the Officer was powerless to do anything. The door is kicked between 7.00 – 7.30 pm and also 10 -11pm. On New Year's Eve he had thought the door had been kicked in. Mr Richards had taken a photograph of the footmarks left on his door. Cllr Coe noted that PC Cotterell has been made aware of the situation. PCSO Firth took Mr Richards' letter and photograph and confirmed that he will speak to PC Cotterell and Sgt Hopkins. The police may be able to install a camera to monitor the situation.

Cllr Tebbutt highlighted that in the same area there were 2 bags of plaster which had been damaged and opened. These had been spread and trodden in.

It was reported that a metal fence has been installed in Neuville Way. The wooden fence is still there. It is hoped that that the access to the Pocket Park can be cleared and made good so that people can get through rather than breakdown the fence.

Cllr Derbyshire noted that she thinks there is a person sleeping rough in a metal shed behind the weighbridge on the Pipewell Road. PCSO Firth stated that there used to be a security person living there prior to the caravan being burnt down. He will investigate the situation.

<p><b>6544</b></p>	<p><b>Chairman’s Announcements</b></p> <p>KBC will be holding a Budget Consultation meeting at 7.00pm on 22 January 2009. The meeting will provide an opportunity to be briefed on the Council’s budget position, key issues and timescales.</p> <p>NCC has a new standard planning application form.</p> <p>A Planning Policy meeting is to be held at KBC on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2009. The meeting will include an up-dated position statement for the Desborough/Rothwell Urban Extension Area Action Plan. It is proposed that this document will be sent out for consultation during February 2009. Cllr Tebutt highlighted that it looks as if the document embraces previous concerns. All Councillors who attend the meeting will be given a copy of the document.</p> <p>Julia Beckett, Deputy Chief Executive at KBC has set up a meeting for all stakeholders within Desborough to discuss progress of the Town Centre Regeneration. The meeting will be held on 2 February at 10.30am in the Council Chamber KBC. All Town Councillors are invited to attend. Borough Councillors have been asked to attend from 10.00am.</p> <p>The cycleway between Desborough and Rothwell has been started.</p> <p>The 20mph speed limits for Harrington Road and Victoria/Union Street have been approved. Improvements will also be made to the crossing between Havelock Street and Victoria/Union Street.</p> <p>The Civic Service is to be held at St. Giles, Church, Desborough on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2009. All Councillors are asked to meet in the Community Centre at 9.50am to welcome our guests.</p>
<p><b>6545</b></p>	<p><b>Representations from members of the public</b></p> <p>Mr Richards was invited to speak to the meeting during the Police Report (Minute 6543) due to the nature of his concerns.</p>
<p><b>6546</b></p>	<p><b>Mr Norman Gray – Practice Manager, Desborough Surgery</b></p> <p>Mr Gray did not attend the meeting. It was <b><u>AGREED</u></b> that the Clerk will write to Mr Gray inviting him to attend the next meeting.</p>

6547

**Mr D Moody, Principal Officer, Northamptonshire County Association of Local Councils (CALC)**

Mr Moody attended the meeting to discuss the benefits to Desborough Town Council of becoming a member of Northants CALC. Mr Moody circulated and talked through a paper to Councillors which highlighted the three major benefits of joining CALC, the cost of membership and data on precepts/grants of larger Councils in Northamptonshire.

A discussion was held in respect of precepting. KBC are the only principal authority in the Country that has a grant system. It was acknowledged that at present Desborough Town Councillors do not support precepting as there are concerns that electors will have to pay more, if KBC's taxes are not reduced. In addition it is felt that Desborough has not received the services it should especially in respect to the regeneration of the Town Centre. Cllr Tebbutt highlighted that 2009/10 is the last year of the three year grant agreement Desborough Town Council has with KBC. It was noted that other Councils of a similar size who precept in Northamptonshire have considerably larger budgets however it is not known what services they contract for and how many employees etc. they have.

Cllr Coe raised concerns about joining CALC at the Town Council meeting in October 2008. Cllr Coe stated that he is totally against precepting and believes that KBC should be able to provide legal advice to the Town Council. Cllr Coe had written to Mr Hammond at KBC who had replied to say KBC cannot provide legal advice and that the Town Council should look to other organisations, such as, CALC for advice and support.

Cllr Tebbutt asked about the benefits of becoming a Quality Council. Mr Moody explained that he was an advocate of Council's going for Quality Status and that it is a valuable process to go through which, if achieved, recognises a well managed and well run Council. Mr Moody highlighted that Cllr E Franklin, Thrapston Town Council is Northants CALC's Quality Champion and that he would be happy to arrange for Cllr Franklin to attend a Desborough Town Council meeting if required. Mr Moody talked through how Northants CALC support Councils who wish to apply for Quality status.

Both Cllr Tebbutt and Cllr Goodman expressed their thanks to Mr Moody for the help and support he has given to them over the past few months especially in respect to the appointment of a new Clerk.

Cllr Tebbutt thanked Mr Moody for attending the meeting. It was **AGREED** to discuss whether Desborough Town Council wishes to joining CALC from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009 at February's meeting.

6548

**Minutes of Town Council meeting held on 18 December 2008**

The Minutes of the Town Council meeting on the above date were **unanimously approved** and signed as a true record of the meeting with the following amendments:

- Minute 6529 - Apologies – Cllr Soans had sent his apologies
- Minute 6534.1 – Matters Arising, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph – The spelling of Cllr Hakewell was changed to Cllr Hakewill.

6548.1

**Matters Arising:**

Minute 6535 – The Clerk had received a reply from Mr M Freeman, Youth Development Manager at the Northamptonshire YMCA with regard to the provision of transport to the William Knibb Centre. Mr Freeman has offered to meet interested parties to discuss a way forward. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk will contact Mr J Putt, Chairman of the DYC Management Committee to request him to convene a meeting to discuss the provision of Youth Services in Desborough and access to the William Knibb Centre. Cllr Dixon and Cllr Derbyshire will represent the Town Council.

Minute 6536 – The Section 106 Officer at KBC has confirmed that the Leisure Facility at the Grange was due to commence upon occupation of the 350<sup>th</sup> dwelling. KBC do not have details of the properties sold, 552 dwellings had been constructed at the last count. KBC are expecting the planning application for the Leisure Centre to be submitted within the next couple of months. The Clerk has also been contacted by Mr M Cowland, Leisure & Cultural Services Manager at KBC who has requested to attend the next meeting of Desborough Town Council in order to present the final designs for the new Leisure Facility. It was **AGREED** to invite Mr Cowland to February’s meeting.

Minute 6538.1 – It has been confirmed that Burton Latimer’s Chamber of Trade arranges the Christmas Gala Night. Desborough Town Council’s concerns about both Desborough and Burton Latimer’s Gala Nights being held on the same evening in 2008 are being passed to the Chamber of Trade. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk will contact St. Giles Church to confirm the dates for the Christmas Tree Festival in 2009 so that the date for Desborough’s Gala Night can be confirmed with Rothwell and Burton Latimer.

Minute 6538.2 – The Planning Department at KBC have confirmed that the shutters for the Midland Co-op Homestore and Heritage Centre are to be placed on the outside of the windows.

Cllr Tebbutt wished to thank the Clerk for the excellent minutes being provided and the Town Council expressed their satisfaction as to the work being undertaken by the Clerk.

6549

**County Councillor's Report**

Cllr Humfrey had sent written comments with regard to the Transport & Highways – Top 10 priorities – December update distributed to Councillors following December's meeting. There are a number of pedestrian footpaths, roads still awaiting resurfacing – Princes Avenue and Lower King Street, a barrier on the Harborough Road railway bridge, slow-down chicanes on the Braybrooke Road and a new footpath on the Pipewell Road from the balancing pond, end of the Plens, down to join the existing footpath by the Warren.

Cllr Soans stated that he had brought to Cllr Humfrey's attention the state of Mayfield Road, off Rushton Road. This is a concrete road which has been tarmaced over. As a result it keeps breaking up with potholes underneath.

Cllr Tebbutt explained that he is the Parish Highways Representative for Desborough and he had been due to attend a meeting in November 2008 which was cancelled. At the meeting he was going to raise the questions as to the treatment of potholes, the criteria for cleaning road drains and the trimming of trees. It was **AGREED** to write to Cllr R Seery, the County Councillors Portfolio Holder for Highways to raise these questions and to ask when the Parish Highways meeting is to be reconvened.

Cllr Derbyshire raised the issue of cars parking on the pavement which in some cases leaves only a very narrow gap for pedestrians to get through. Cllr Tebbutt identified that the Police have warning cards they can place on vehicles in these circumstances. It was **AGREED** that Cllr Derbyshire will raise this in the Police section of the next meeting.

6550

**Borough Councillors' Reports**

Cllr Soans reported that he had attended a number of planning meetings and the full council meeting.

Cllr Soans has made a payment through his Ward Initiative Fund for £1,000 towards the cost of purchasing a second hand bus for Marlow House.

Cllr Soans has received a letter from Desborough Town Football Club requesting funding through his Ward Initiative Fund for repairs to the Club following the fire in December. It was **AGREED** to write to Mr J Lee, Secretary to the Football Club to request further information as to what work they need to undertake and their current financial situation.

Cllr Derbyshire has spoken with Mr Lee at the Football Club and is visiting on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2009.

Cllr Soans reported that 2009/10 is the final year of the approved three-year settlement for the Town Council grant from KBC. Full consultation on funding for subsequent years will be undertaken during 2009. The 'form of consultation' will be announced at the next A6 Towns Forum to be held on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2009.

Cllr Derbyshire reported that she is going on patrol with the Police in Kettering on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2009, 9pm until 2am.

Cllr Tebbutt reported that he had undertaken a tour of Desborough with Mr D Wilkinson, Head of Environmental Care at KBC to look at some of Desborough's problem areas. These had included the provision of appropriately sited litter bins, particularly on the Grange where roads and paths have not yet been adopted. Cllr Tebbutt has asked Cath Harvey to liaise with the developer at the Grange as to what can be done in the interim with regard to the bins. Concerns were raised as to the length of time it will take to adopt the roads/paths at the Grange.

Cllr Goodman stated that she had seen some possible asbestos fly tipping in a gateway on the A6 between Desborough and Rothwell. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk would report this to the KBC Response Centre located at Desborough Library.

Cllr Dixon said that there is also some fly tipping behind the old Travel Lodge.

<b>6551</b>	<b>Clerk's report</b>
	The Clerk's report had been circulated and gave details of:
<b>6551.1</b>	The Clerk had sent all correspondence required after the last Council meeting.
<b>6551.2</b>	<b>Pocket Park (Minute 6537.2):</b> A copy of the Volunteer Group's Constitution was circulated to Councillors. The next meeting of the Volunteer Group to finalise arrangements for the Volunteer Day on 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2009 will be held at 9.30am on Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2009 at 8 Rothwell Road. It was <b><u>AGREED</u></b> that Cllr Goodman will be the Town Council's representative at the Volunteer Group meetings. Cllr Dixon suggested that the Volunteer Group look for funding from local companies.
<b>6551.3</b>	
<b>6551.4</b>	<b>Civic Service, Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2009, St Giles Anglican and Methodist Church, Desborough:</b> Councillors are requested to meet in the Community Centre by 9.50am.
<b>6551.5</b>	<b>Mr &amp; Mrs Thornett, 9 Upper Dane, Desborough (Minute 6537.12):</b> Cllr Coe reported that he had arranged for a Highways Engineer, NCC to visit the site. The Engineer is to contact BT as the water is coming down the pathway.
<b>6551.6</b>	<b>Review of Council Policies:</b> Each year the Council is required to review its policies. For 2008/09 this needs to be completed by 31 <sup>st</sup> March 09. It was <b><u>AGREED</u></b> that Cllr Tebbutt, Cllr Goodman and the Clerk will meet to review the policies and report back to the Town Council.
<b>6551.7</b>	<b>NCC 'Concern About Crime and Anti Social Behaviour Strategy':</b> It was <b><u>AGREED</u></b> to invite Mr A Mould and Mr J Kemp, Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators to a future meeting to discuss the Strategy.
<b>6551.8</b>	<b>Rothwell &amp; Desborough Futures Ltd. Annual General Meeting:</b> The meeting is to be held on Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> January 2009 at 7.30pm at the Trinity Centre, Red Lion Square, Rothwell.
<b>6551.9</b>	<b>NCC Draft Council Plan and Budget consultation:</b> It was <b><u>AGREED</u></b> that Cllr Goodman will provisionally book to attend the stakeholder meeting to be held on Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2009 at the Council Chamber, Corby.
<b>6551.10</b>	<b>KBC Budget Consultation Meeting:</b> KBC will be holding a budget Consultation meeting at 7.00pm on 22 January 2009 in the Council Chamber, Kettering.
<b>6551.11</b>	<b>Provision of a park at the edge of the Grange Estate, Desborough (Minute 6522):</b> An e-mail had been received from Pia Bellamy, Community Services

<p><b>6552</b></p> <p><b>6552.1</b></p> <p><b>6552.2</b></p> <p><b>6552.3</b></p> <p><b>6552.4</b></p>	<p><b>Community reports</b></p> <p><b>Town Centre Partnership:</b> Cllr Goodman reported that no meeting had been held to date this year.</p> <p><b>Civic Society:</b> Cllr Hollinshead stated that there was nothing to report this month.</p> <p><b>Twinning:</b> A copy of the Twinning Newsletter was circulated to Councillors. In respect of the Belgian visit in May Councillors are requested to contact Jill Freeman (tel: 01536 760770) if they are able to offer a bed for two nights or work experience as detailed in the newsletter.</p> <p><b>Youth:</b> A written report was circulated to Councillors from Mr James Putt, Chairman of the DYC Management Committee.</p>																
<p><b>6553</b></p> <p><b>6553.1</b></p> <p><b>6553.2</b></p> <p><b>6553.3</b></p>	<p><b>Financial report</b></p> <p><b><u>Town &amp; Parish Council Funding 2009/10:</u></b></p> <p>It was <b><u>unanimously agreed</u></b> that Desborough Town Council will not levy a precept for 2009/10.</p> <p><b><u>Quarterly Report:</u></b></p> <p>The Clerk gave a report on the Town Council’s accounts as at 31st December 2008 for information.</p> <p>It was <b><u>AGREED</u></b> that the Clerk will look into whether the Town Council can sell a number of its Christmas lights. The Clerk will also try to establish where the ‘Merry Christmas’ sign is that used to be displayed on the side of the Co-op Drapery Store.</p> <p><b><u>Accounts for Payment:</u></b></p> <p>The following payments were <b><u>APPROVED</u></b> for payment:</p> <table border="1"> <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>100992</td> <td>£452.55</td> <td>Mrs L Parkin</td> <td>Salary (Jan 09) &amp; Expenses (Dec 08)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>100993</td> <td>£108.60</td> <td>HM Revenue &amp; Customs</td> <td>PAYE &amp; NI (Jan 09)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>100994</td> <td>£35.00</td> <td>Vine Community Trust</td> <td>Hall Hire</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<b>Cheque No.</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Reason for Payment</b>	100992	£452.55	Mrs L Parkin	Salary (Jan 09) & Expenses (Dec 08)	100993	£108.60	HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE & NI (Jan 09)	100994	£35.00	Vine Community Trust	Hall Hire
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6554	<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>
6554.1	<p><b>KET/2008/0834 – 79 High Street, Desborough – Advertisement Application: Illuminated shop front sign.</b></p> <p>No objection, however, back through light above the sign may be obtrusive. Green matching paintwork or brass matching lettering colours would be more tasteful and in keeping.</p>
6554.2	<p><b>KET/2008/0992 – Desborough Youth Centre, Paddock Lane, Desborough – Full Application: Replace existing flat roof with pitched.</b></p> <p>Fully support the application. Since access will not be possible once roof in place, should consideration be given to increase the amount of insulation?</p>
6554.3	<p><b>KET/2008/0945 – 56 Union Street (land adj to), Desborough – Outline Application: 1 no. detached dwelling and associated vehicular access.</b></p> <p>No objection in principle, has potential to tidy the area. Reserve judgement re: design aspects and proposals as to how to cope with levels and off road parking.</p>
<p><b><u>Notices of Approval received:</u></b></p>	
6554.4	<p><b>(Minute 6527.5) KET/2008/0913 – 41A, 43 &amp; 45 (land to the rear of) Pioneer Avenue, Desborough – Erection of detached dwelling.</b></p> <p>KBC have granted permission for the above development.</p>
6554.5	<p><b>(Minute 6527.6) KET/2008/0887 – 23A Station Road, Desborough – Change of use from residential to shop. New shop front and single storey rear extension.</b></p> <p>KBC have granted permission for the above development.</p>
6554.6	<p><b>(Minute 6540.1) KET/2008/0886 – 23A Station Road, Desborough – New Shop Front.</b></p> <p>KBC have granted permission for the above development.</p>
6554.7	<p><b>(Minute 6540.2) KET/2008/0949 – 49 Pioneer Avenue, Desborough – Single storey rear extension.</b></p> <p>KBC have granted permission for the above development.</p>
6554.8	<p><b>(Minute 6540.3) KET/2008/0953 – O. Kay Engineering Services Ltd, Magnetic Business Park, Beaver Avenue, Desborough – Advertisement Application: 2 no. illuminated fascia signs</b></p> <p>KBC have granted permission for the above development.</p>
<p>It was <b><u>AGREED</u></b> to write to O.Kay Engineering to welcome them as a new</p>	

**THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.15 PM**

..... **CHAIRMAN**

Chairman .....