

The Meeting of the Desborough Town Council held at Marlow House, Gold Street, Desborough on Thursday 19th November 2009.

PRESENT

Councillors: Cllr M Tebbutt (Chairman), Cllr P Goodman (Vice Chairman), Cllr G Durward, Cllr D Soans, Cllr D Bindley, Cllr G Dixon, Cllr I Hollinshead, Cllr D Coe, Cllr P Malin

Clerk: Leigh Parkin

Also in attendance: PCSO J Parish, PCSO S Strong, Mr T Bellamy – Community Services
KBC

6680	<p>Chairman's announcements</p> <p>Cllr Tebbutt reported that he had attended the following meetings/events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 17th October – presentation of cheque to Marlow House following the Chairman's Charity Lunch held in July;• 18th October – Rushden's Civic Service;• 23rd October – Joint Action Group meeting;• 25th October – Irthlingborough's Civic Service. Cllr Goodman attended the Corby Mayor's Civic Service;• 1st November – Desborough Town Council's Civic Service;• 8th November – Remembrance Service at St. Giles Anglican & Methodist Church;• 11th November – Remembrance Day at the War Memorial with the local primary schools;• 13th November – CCTV Follow-up meeting (minute 6689);• 15th November – Youth in Concert at the Derngate Theatre. Cllr Tebbutt said that this had been a superb evening. The Concert will be broadcast on Radio Northampton near to Christmas;• 18th November – Neighbourhood Watch;• 21st November – Cllr Tebbutt will be opening The Royal British Legion Women's Section, Northamptonshire County Annual County Conference being held at St. Giles Community Centre;• 5th December – Cllr Tebbutt will be opening the URC fete. <p>Cllr Tebbutt highlighted that Desborough's Gala Night will be held on Friday 27th November 2009 starting at 6pm. The Gala is organised by the Town Centre Partnership to run concurrently with the Christmas Tree Festival held at St. Giles Anglican & Methodist Church also on 27th, 28th and 29th November.</p>
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6681	Apologies for absence Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Derbyshire and Cllr Dearing. It was <u>RESOLVED</u> to approve the apologies for absence received. Cllr B Humfrey, County Councillor also gave her apologies.
6682	Declarations of Interest by Councillors Cllr Soans would not take part in any consideration of planning matters as he is on the Planning Committee at the Borough Council.

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Police Report

PCSO Strong went through the crime figures for October 2009 and reported a reduction compared to the same time last year. There has also been a 50% detection rate which is good.

Cllr Tebbutt reported that he had purchased some SMART Water through Neighbourhood Watch at the cost of £20.50 which is a significant reduction in price. The SMART water has a unique DNA code which when registered refers to any items marked with it . It will mark up to 100 objects and is generally used for high value items. Cllr Hollinshead asked if you have to inform the police if you sell any items that are marked with the Smart Water? PCSO Strong said that you do not. If anybody steals the marked items the SMART Water stays on the hands for a good while and shows up under a UV light.

A discussion was held concerning a local family who are prolific shoplifters. PCSO Strong reported that the whole family is being closely monitored.

Cllr Tebbutt reported that he had recently completed a St. Giles Walkabout with Cllr Soans and representatives from the Borough Council. Cllr Dearing and Cllr Derbyshire will be undertaking a Loatlands Walkabout at a date to be confirmed. PC Cotterell will need to be informed of this date when it is agreed.

Cllr Tebbutt reported that he had attended the Northants CALC Larger Councils meeting where the development of a Community Policing Scheme for Local Councils was discussed. It is proposed that Town/Parish Councils should appoint a single point of contact for Northamptonshire Police. This has been proposed due to concerns about a variety of issues including poor communications between the Police and local councils. The Town Council do not feel that a single point of contact will be beneficial to them as they have an excellent working relationship with the local Police and a number of Councillors take on roles with Police involvement:

- Cllr Coe represents the Town Council at the Community Panel;
- Cllr Tebbutt and Cllr Goodman attend the Joint Action Group meetings;
- A number of the Borough Councillors are part of the A6 Towns Forum;
- The Police attend monthly Town Council meetings;
- Each Councillor has signed to say they can be e-mailed/telephoned by the Police if required.

The Town Council **AGREED** that a letter should be sent to NCALC expressing concern that moving to a single point of contact would not be beneficial to Desborough Town Council in the current circumstances.

Cllr Tebbutt also reported that the new non-emergency number for the Police (03000 111 222) was discussed at the meeting. This number is unique to Northamptonshire and is a free phone number. Other counties including Leicestershire use the telephone number 101 which is a charged number.

Cllr Goodman explained that a road closure notice has been applied for, for Gala

6684	Representations from members of the public There were no representations from members of the public.
6685	Minutes of Town Council meeting held on 15 October 2009 The Minutes of the Town Council meeting on the above date were <u>unanimously approved</u> and signed as a true record of the meeting.

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Matters Arising:

Minute 6671: Cllr Tebbutt has been forwarded an e-mail from a member of the public who has complained that there are no dog bins on the Plens. It was reported that there is a green bin which can be used for dog waste at the entrance to the first part of the walk. Cllr Tebbutt is to investigate further and reply to the e-mail.

Minute 6672: Planning Application KET/2009/0500 (New Leisure Centre) – The Clerk confirmed that the comments from Desborough Town Council which included the Town Council’s endorsement of the suggestions made by the Desborough Town Junior Football Club and Cllr D Coe had been sent to KBC. A copy of the comments has been sent to each Cllr with a copy placed on the Desborough Town Council file held in the Library.

Cllr Tebbutt reported that he had met with the Planners at KBC in respect of the new leisure centre planning application and they had taken on board the concerns raised, for example, the timing of Phases 1 and 2. Cllr Tebbutt has been assured that the Desborough Town Junior Football Club will continue to play at the Hawthorns Leisure Centre until replacement facilities are provided. Cllr Tebbutt is also going to talk to the squash club as the new squash courts are included in Phase 2. Cllr Goodman referred to KBC’s recent comments in the Evening Telegraph that the old leisure centre will close when the new one opens. Cllr Tebbutt has received a request from the St. Giles Church for facilities for outreach activities.

Cllr Coe raised concern about the 13 social houses that have been included in the planning application. The area in which they are proposed had previously been designated as the pub/restaurant facility. Cllr Tebbutt explained that the layout of the houses has been changed to overlook the games area. The Town Council has requested that the houses are dealt with through a separate planning application.

Cllr Coe thanked Cllr Tebbutt for his efforts. He stated that he felt that Desborough will end up with much less with the new Leisure Facility. Cllr Tebbutt commented that the section 106 agreement had been written in such away that it did not guarantee the same facilities but a building which is the same area as the existing facility. Cllr Tebbutt stated that The Monitoring and Audit Committee, KBC, have been requested to look in detail at the writing and enforcement of Section 106 agreements in general for the future.

A detailed discussion was held as to the provision of leisure facilities and open space within Desborough. Cllr Tebbutt stated that there is a legal requirement for the provision of a certain level of sports facilities vs. population. The document outlining this requirement is awaited and when received will be looked at carefully with regard to Desborough.

Minute 6674: Cllr Humfrey had provided a type written report for the meeting.

The Clerk has written again to Cllr H Smith, Cabinet Member for Highways and

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Play Builder Opportunities

Mr T Bellamy, Community Services, KBC attended the meeting and gave an overview of the Play Builder opportunities to access funding for the provision of play equipment for 8-13 year olds. The grant, if successful, will be a minimum of £20,000 to a maximum of £50,000. The Community Services Department has to date been successful with two out of the three applications they have submitted. The pre-application needs to be completed by 10th January 2010 which is a tight deadline.

The only feasible area that KBC can submit an application for is the current play area along Rushton Road as KBC owns this area of land. Mr Bellamy said that if the Town Council agree to proceed then he will attend December's Town Council meeting to give an update and that some initial consultation will need to take place prior to the pre application being submitted.

The Town Council **AGREED** to support KBC in applying for the Play Builder funding. The Town Council thanked Mr Bellamy for attending the meeting.

Cllr Tebbutt said that the Loatlands Ward had no play equipment for children. There had been an area of land designated but it had turned out that it was not owned by the developer.

Concerns had been raised previously by a member of the public in respect of children playing on the area of land between Buxton Drive and Eyam Close. The policy is not to erect signs stating 'no ball games' but to put up signs that say 'beware children playing'.

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County Councillor's Report

Cllr Humfrey sent her apologies for absence as she was representing NCC at a meeting of the CPRE (Council for the Protection of Rural England).

Cllr Humfrey has contributed to a range of meetings this month from the NCC Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee to the KBC A6 Towns Forum. The most dramatic was the NCC Financial Training, held on 28th October 2009, which showed in detail what NCC is up against with future Government cuts and continued Government funding of NCC based on population figures many years out of date. As reported in the Evening Telegraph, NCC must make £100m 'efficiencies' over the next 4 years. Against this background Cllr Humfrey is asking for money, for example, for road and pavement resurfacing.

In respect of Desborough matters:

1. 8th October – Cllr Humfrey looked at town signs/finger posts with a Traffic Engineer from NCC to see where new signs might be placed for the URC Church Hall, the Heritage Centre and the Pocket Park. This meeting was followed-up by Rose Little, the new Pocket Parks Officer at NCC, who joined the Pocket Park Volunteer Group at their meeting held on 10th November. The other signs have been ordered. Cllr Humfrey also noted that some finger posts at the top of the High Street are wrongly directed. It was **AGREED** that the Councillors helping to set-up the Gala Night will check the signs and correct them.
2. 9th October - Cllr Humfrey attended a Green Infrastructure Workshop at Top Lodge, Fineshade with various Environmental officers, NNDC and KBC. As the only Desborough representative Cllr Humfrey indicated Desborough's need for a broad green walkway around the whole town, the preservation of the Ise Valley and various wooded gulleys. These areas were marked on maps for protection from future development.
3. 11th November – Cllr Humfrey was visited by Mr N Gore, NCC Community Engineer, to look at the following:
 - A possible one-way system for Gladstone Street. Mr Gore was not hopeful because of the length of the street but he will re-look at this with other officers. Mr Gore suggested that Desborough Town Council might also write in support of this proposal. The Town Council **AGREED** that before writing to Mr Gore they would like to fully understand Cllr Humfrey's proposal.
 - Cllr Humfrey also requested that the footpath be resurfaced on the houses side of Gladstone Street, together with her frequent recent requests for resurfacing of the carriage ways in Lower King Street and Princes Avenue.
 - Cllr Humfrey and Mr Gore also met with a local resident who has asked for another VOS (Vehicle Operated Sign: 30 mph Slow Down) on the Harborough Road at the approach to Gold Street and High Street junctions (Oak Tree Pub Side). Cllr Humfrey requested that the Town Council write to NCC Transport and Highways Department. The Town Council raised

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Borough Councillors' Reports

Cllr Soans reported that as he had been unwell he had not managed to attend all meetings this month. He had attended:

- 10th November - Planning Committee at KBC – nothing relevant to Desborough was discussed at this meeting;
- 17th November – Monitoring and Audit Committee, KBC – considerable discussion was held around the monitoring and enforcement of Section 106 agreements;
- 20th November – Cllr Soans will be visiting the proposed Albion Wind Farm site.

Cllr Soans also attends the meetings of the Old Kettering Grammar School Foundation who have agreed to spend £3/4million rebuilding the outward bound centre owned by the Foundation based in Govillan, South Wales.

Cllr Soans reported that KBC has won a prestigious award of best town regeneration project for the new Market Place in Kettering. At the same awards Desborough Travellers' Site won the equality and diversity category.

Cllr Tebbutt reported that he had attended the following meetings:

- 3 November – Joint Planning Meeting, KBC;
- 11 November – NCALC Larger Councils Meeting (reported minute: 6683);
- 12 November – A6 Towns Forum
- 13 November – CCTV Follow up meeting with the Deputy Chief Executive of KBC following the report submitted by PC I Cotterell. KBC confirmed that they would take on board and implement the recommendations from the report. The possibility of a high definition digital camera was discussed.
- 17 November – Monitoring and Audit Committee, KBC – as reported by Cllr Soans.

Cllr Tebbutt stated that the Rothwell & Desborough Urban Extension Area Action Plan – Proposed Submission is being presented to the Planning Policy Committee at KBC on Tuesday 24th November. Providing Members of this Committee endorse the Proposed Submission version of the plan then KBC will be conducting a public consultation into the 'soundness' of the plan during December and January. This is the final version of the Area Action Plan prior to submission to the Secretary of State. Ms R Collins, Senior Development Officer at KBC, has offered to attend a Town Council meeting to explain the final version of the Area Action Plan and what 'soundness' means. The Town Council **AGREED** to invite Ms Collins to December's meeting.

6690	<p>Clerk's report</p> <p>The Clerk has sent all correspondence required after the last Council Meeting.</p>
6690.1	<p><u>Pocket Park (Minute 6676.5):</u> The next Volunteer Work Day to start to clear the pond and continue work around the stream will be held on Saturday 6th February 2009. The Town Council <u>APPROVED</u> that this Volunteer event go ahead.</p> <p>A complaint has been received from a member of the public whose property backs onto the Park along Prince Rupert Avenue. The Clerk is currently investigating the complaint.</p>
6690.2	<p>The location of a number of road signs for the Pocket Park was discussed. These are to be funded through the grassroots funding received by the Pocket Park Volunteer Group. It was <u>AGREED</u> by the Town Council that these should be placed at the bottom of Federation Avenue and opposite the alleyway that leads from the B576 to Prince Rupert Avenue. The signs at both entrances to the Park will also be replaced as they have been damaged.</p> <p><u>Parish Enhancement Gangs:</u> The Town Council <u>AGREED</u> that they would like to utilise this new resource as detailed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tidy the areas around the 30mph signs; • Removing/cutting back growing trees which are obscuring road signs; • Clearing around the Desborough signs; • Replacement of damaged road signs; • Verge maintenance within the Town boundaries; • Roundabout maintenance; • Dropped kerb, to enable disabled access, adjacent to the Ruston Road Co-Op. • Repair of the 'trench' across the B576 road near the Travel Plaza Hotel; • Repair of potholes along the Braybrooke Road near the 30mph signs; • Replace the drain cover along the Braybrooke Road, just before Buxton Drive, which has sunk; • Re-instatement of the footpath next to the zebra crossing along Station Road where the tree has been taken out. <p>The Clerk will write to the MGWSP Area Manager with the above requests and Cllr Tebbutt will report to the 'roads' meeting in December.</p> <p>It has been requested that when the Parish Enhancement Gang arrives to complete the agreed work to be undertaken a Councillor will meet them and show them the work and locations.</p>
6690.3	<p><u>Consultation on the proposal by Northamptonshire County Council to operate a permit scheme in accordance with the traffic management permit scheme (England) Regulations 2007 on its highway network:</u> The Town Council <u>AGREED</u> the draft response as detailed in the Clerk's report subject to a</p>
6690.4	<p>number of amendments.</p>

6691	Community reports
6691.1	<p>Town Centre Partnership: Cllr Goodman talked through the plans for the Gala Night to be held on Friday 27th November 2009 starting at 6pm. Leaflets have been distributed throughout Desborough. Town Councillors have been asked to help set up the stalls etc. on the Friday morning and to help marshal during the evening.</p>
6691.2	<p>Cllr Goodman announced that Desborough has two late night shopping events planned for Thursday 10th December and Thursday 17th December between 5.30pm and 7.30pm. Customers will receive a free raffle ticket if they shop between these times.</p> <p>The Town Council wished to pass on its good wishes to the Town Centre Partnership and Desborough Retailers for a successful Gala Night and Late Night Shopping Events.</p> <p>Civic Society: Cllr Hollinshead gave the following report:</p> <p>On Saturday 7th November, the British Legion held a Coffee Morning with extracts and exhibits on World War I, with a book signing by Steve Vincent.</p> <p>Desborough & District Wildlife Trust (WLT) will be holding an open exhibition (celebrating 25 years work in Desborough) at the Heritage Centre to be held on Saturday 21st November at 11.00am. The WLT runs 3 reserves in Desborough which they physically maintain – pruning, cutting back etc. Mr N Lingley, a past Chairman for 21 years will open the exhibition. All are welcome.</p> <p>New display boards and cases have been bought and fitted with a £7,000 museum funding grant. More funding has been applied for, for such things as a Children’s Play Area (using old fashioned toys) e.g. when schools visit.</p> <p>The Civic Society has been working with local primary schools on a ‘Digging for Victory’ campaign. Children will write projects on the theme.</p> <p>A two year project of cataloguing all documents and artefacts has started. The Society has received first class advice on how to accomplish this. Eventually, Website access will be available for interested parties worldwide.</p> <p>Lectures are continuing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In October, Mr D Yeomans spoke about the ‘History of Desborough Yards’, e.g. Tailby’s Yard; • On Monday, 30th November there will be an audio visual presentation by Rushden Audio Visual Society; • On Monday 21st December Mr J Lee will give an illustrated talk on ‘old Desborough’.
6691.3	<p>The Society usually holds meetings/lectures on the last Monday of every month at</p>

6692	Financial report
6692.1	<u>Town and Parish Council Funding Review:</u> A copy of the letter from KBC which confirms the outcome of the consultation on Town & Parish Funding, and the decision of the Executive on the 14 th October 2009 had been distributed to Councillors. A copy of the letter has also been placed in the Town Council file at Desborough Library.
6692.2	<u>Internal Auditor:</u> The Town Council <u>AGREED</u> that Mr Colin Barnard should be re-appointed as Desborough Town Council's Internal Auditor for year ending 31 st March 2010. The cost of the internal audit will be £125.
6692.3	<p><u>Insurance:</u> The Town Council <u>APPROVED</u> the current levels of insurance cover and that the Policy should be renewed.</p> <p><u>Insurance cover for the Pocket Park:</u> The Clerk confirmed that she is awaiting further information from Zurich as she had established that both Burton Latimer and Raunds Town Councils cover their Pocket Parks under their Town Council insurance. Until the situation is resolved all volunteer activity on the Pocket Park has been suspended. The Clerk confirmed that Desborough Town Council's Public Liability Insurance covers members of the public using the Park.</p>
6692.4	<u>2009/10 National Final Salary Award for Local Council Clerks:</u> The Town Council <u>APPROVED</u> the pay award, with appropriate back pay.
6692.5	<u>Proposed increase in the Clerk's hours of employment:</u> This is to be discussed at December's Town Council meeting when the proposed budget for 2010/11 and the alternative budget presented by Cllr Coe will be considered.
6692.6	<u>Proposed retrospective payment:</u> The Town Council <u>APPROVED</u> the proposed retrospective payment to the Clerk in recognition of the additional hours she has worked since her employment commenced on 1 st October 2008.
6692.7	<p><u>Proposed Budget 2010/11:</u> Cllr Coe presented an alternative budget to Councillors that will allow the Town Council to operate in 2010/11 within the grant to be received from Kettering Borough Council. The proposed budget prepared by the Clerk highlighted a negative budget which is not permissible unless the Town Council wish to precept for the proposed shortfall in income.</p> <p>The Chairman requested all Councillors to consider both budget proposals presented in preparation for December's Town Council meeting when the budget for 2010/11 will be discussed again.</p>
6692.8	<p>Cllr Coe is to investigate why the Council have both Business Premium and Business Reserve Accounts.</p> <p><u>Accounts for Payment:</u></p>

<p>6693</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>6693.1</p>	<p>KET/2009/0589 – 157 Pioneer Avenue, Desborough – Full Application: Single storey rear extension No objections.</p>
<p>6693.2</p>	<p>KET/2009/0595 – Cockerel Rise (land off), Magnetic Park, Desborough – Environmental Statement Scoping Opinion: Erection of foodstore The provision of a Sainsbury's Store with petrol station in Desborough is most welcome; however, in agreement with the aim of new development needing to contribute to improving the Town Centre it must be located in the Centre (i.e. Lawrence's Site) as agreed by KBC Executive. A scoping opinion has been issued by KBC for KET/2009/0595 and is available to view on the KBC website www.kettering.gov.uk/planning applications.</p>
<p>6693.3</p>	<p>KET/2009/0609 – 33 Neuville Way, Desborough – Full Application: Single storey rear extension No objections.</p>
<p>6693.4</p>	<p>KET/2009/0614 – 73 Breakleys Road, Desborough – Full Application: Single storey rear extension – conservatory No objection unless due to level (ground) difference between 73 and 75 invades privacy of no.75.</p>
<p>6693.5</p>	<p>KET/2009/0612 – 19 Prince Rupert Avenue, Desborough – Full Application: Single storey rear extension: Conservatory Desborough Town Council objected previously to the scale of the extension, the mass now created by the additional conservatory could be overwhelming on the site, also interfering with the amenity of no.21 and no.7 Cromwell Close.</p>
<p>6693.6</p>	<p>KET/2009/0623 – 5 Rothwell Road, Desborough – Full Application: Single storey rear extension No adverse comments providing scale does not cause neighbour loss of amenity.</p>
<p>6693.7</p>	<p>KET/2009/0500 – Ironwood Avenue (Land off), Desborough – Full Application: Leisure Centre with associated car parking, external games, play areas and sports pitches. 13 no. new build social houses A copy of the comments made by Desborough Town Council in respect of the new Leisure Centre has been placed in the Town Council's file held in Desborough Library. Included in the comments are those made by Mr S Perry, Chairman of the Desborough Town Junior Football Club and Cllr D Coe, Desborough Town Councillor. The comments from both Mr Perry and Cllr Coe were discussed at the Desborough Town Council meeting held on 15th October 2009 and are fully endorsed by the Town Council.</p>

	<p>THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10.03 PM</p> <p>..... CHAIRMAN</p>
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Chairman

Date