

The Meeting of the Desborough Town Council held at Marlow House, Gold Street, Desborough on Thursday 22nd November 2012.

PRESENT

Councillors: Cllr A Matthews, Cllr D Coe, Cllr J Watson, Cllr M Tebbutt, Cllr B King, Cllr J Pearce, Cllr J Derbyshire

Clerk: Leigh Parkin

Also in attendance: Cllr B Humfrey, Northamptonshire County Councillor, PC I Cotterell and PCSO L Mitchell – Kettering Rural Safer Community Team, Members of the Public

<p>1</p>	<p>Chairman’s announcements Cllr Matthews confirmed the health and safety issues for the building.</p> <p>Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) Development Control Committee held on 20th November 2012 approved planning application 12/00043/WASFUL – Energy Centre, Magnetic Park, Desborough. Cllr Matthews and Cllr Sawford spoke in objection to this application on behalf of Desborough Town Council.</p> <p>More use needs to be made of the Town Council website to pass information on to members of the public.</p> <p>Desborough Town Council is to offer to host a future meeting of the A6 Towns Forum.</p>
<p>2</p>	<p>Apologies for absence – Apologies were received from Cllr M Watson, Cllr P Malin, Cllr D Soans, Cllr R Sawford and Cllr M Dearing. The Town Council RESOLVED to approve the apologies for absence.</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>Requests for dispensations Written requests had been received by the Clerk from Cllr Matthews, Cllr Coe, Cllr J Watson, Cllr M Watson, Cllr Tebbutt, Cllr King, Cllr Pearce, Cllr Derbyshire, Cllr Malin, Cllr Sawford and Cllr Dearing to request to be able to debate and vote on the Desborough Town Council precept for a maximum period of three years. The Town Council AGREED to these requests for a dispensation (proposed Cllr Tebbutt and seconded by Cllr Derbyshire – Agreed).</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>Declarations of Interest by Councillors Cllr King declared an interest in Agenda Item 10 as an employee of Northamptonshire County Council working for the Department that commissions Northamptonshire LINK. Cllr King also noted that he provides administration support for social care and health services, which the agenda item may refer to.</p>
<p>5 5.1</p>	<p>Police Report Monthly Report & Crime Figures – PC Cotterell went through the police figures for October 2012. It was noted that there had been a ‘spike’ in crimes. Historically there is on average about 20 crimes during October however 41 crimes were recorded last month. There is no one issue causing this increase in crimes. The following was noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There have been a number of county wide burglaries which are being managed by a multi force operation; • One domestic burglary has been resolved with the stolen vehicle from the property being found in Dover; • Theft of hubcaps from motor vehicles continues to be a problem in Desborough,

Chairman

Date

<p>5.2</p>	<p>Rothwell and surrounding areas;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assaults are high but most are known offenders with quite a few being domestic related; • The Co-op accounts for five of the thefts related to shop lifting; • The Police have been actively dealing with the parking issues along Rushton Road reported by the Town Council which has included letters being delivered to all addresses in the area. <p>Cllr J Watson raised the issue of street lights that have been turned off along Harrington Road at Loatlands School which is resulting in children leaving school at 4.30pm in the pitch black. An incident was highlighted of a child who had fallen off the pavement in the dark behind a reversing car and could not be seen. It was recommended that Loatlands School make representations to NCC Street Doctor about this issue in relation to ‘Safer Routes to School’. Cllr Tebbutt will also raise the issue separately. Loatlands School has also requested road safety talks from the Police.</p> <p>Cllr Pearce reported that the street light situated in the alleyway between Gold Street and Prince Rupert Avenue is not working. Cllr Pearce will report this to NCC Street Doctor.</p> <p>Letter from the District Commander Kettering & Corby – The Clerk is to reply to a letter received to say the Inspector is welcome to attend a Town Council meeting in the New Year.</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>Representations from members of the public</p> <p>Mrs Paula Holmes spoke on behalf of Desborough Community Development Trust (DCDT):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Town Council was thanked for confirming their representation on the Community Right to Build ‘Hawthorns’ Forum meetings. A written report on the first Forum meeting had been circulated to Councillors which was noted. Mrs Holmes will forward the Clerk a copy of the submission made to Kettering Borough Council (KBC); • The new doctor’s surgery appointment system and parking is being raised by members of the public in the DCDT shop; • Concern is being expressed by members of the public about the proposal to raise a precept for the provision of a community centre in the Littlestones building on Victoria Street: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The area does not provide green space as identified as being important by respondents to the questionnaire; ➤ There is inadequate parking at this location; ➤ Members of the public are asking how much the precept will be and how the removal of grant funding to Desborough Town Council from KBC will affect Council Tax; ➤ There has been no opportunity to review the draft business case/budget for the proposed community facility on Victoria Street; ➤ A precept could have been raised to help support the Hawthorns bid; ➤ There is concern about KBC’s motives to push the Victoria Street site; ➤ The opinion of the residents of Desborough needs to be sought as many people do not want to pay a precept for a Community Centre; ➤ People do not just want to be informed they want to contribute to this decision.

7	<p>Minutes of Town Council meetings held on 18th October 2012</p> <p>The Minutes of the Town Council meeting on the above date were <u>unanimously approved</u> and signed as a true record (Proposed by Cllr Pearce and seconded by Cllr King) with the following amendment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minute 11/first paragraph/last sentence – Rushton Road was amended to Harborough Road/Rothwell Road.
8	<p>Matters Arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minute 4.1/Oct 12 – Police Report – Following concerns raised by the Town Council about the increase in sexual offences reported in July 2012 PCSO Mitchell has confirmed that ten of these incidents were the same victim and offender. Initially the offences were recorded as one incident but during the course of the investigation the number of actual offences was determined which allowed officers to record each individual offence. The offender is currently serving a lengthy prison sentence. • Minute 5.1/Oct 12 – Cllr Derbyshire has reported that a meeting is to take place next week between the Indoor Bowls Club, Conservative Club and the Doctor’s Surgery to consider four quotes to repair the road surface of the access way. The Doctor’s Surgery has stated that when the work has been completed no parking will be allowed along the side of the surgery.
9 9.1	<p>Update from existing Working Parties</p> <p>Community Facilities – Councillors had been provided with a copy of the first draft business case and budget proposal.</p> <p>Cllr Matthews summarised the meeting held with KBC to discuss the draft business case/budget. External sources of funding are also being investigated which, if successful, will impact on the proposed level of precept required. Cllr Matthews noted the earlier comments made by a member of the public about the provision of green space but highlighted that there are limited available locations that would accommodate a community centre within the town. It was agreed that the first draft business case and budget will be placed on the Town Council website.</p> <p>A member of the public raised the issue that in 2008/09 at a meeting about the Lawrence Factory Site the Deputy Chief Executive of KBC stated that the money for a community centre was available. The question was raised as to what has happened to this money. Cllr Tebbutt stated that the minutes of the meeting referred to will confirm the comments made.</p> <p>Cllr Watson emphasised that agreement to a precept for a community centre should not go ahead until further consultation has been undertaken with members of the public. Cllr King stated that he would want to argue for better consultation with members of the public as he is concerned about the precept.</p> <p>Reference was made to how public bodies can effectively consult with members of the public to gather quantitative and qualitative information using other forms of communication as well as meetings. A discussion was held about KBC meetings and the attendance of the public at these meetings.</p>
10	<p>GP Appointment System Update</p> <p>Following October’s meeting the Town Council had invited the Practice Manager to attend November’s Town Council meeting so that the concerns raised could be discussed. A letter had been received from the Practice Manager stating that as she is a</p>

	<p>locum and lives out of the area she would be unable to attend. It was AGREED that the concerns raised at October’s meeting will be sent by letter to the Practice Manager copied to Dr Aspinall. It was noted that the Doctor’s Surgery is to undertake a review of the new appointment system in December, therefore, Dr Aspinall is to be invited to attend January’s Town Council meeting to discuss the results of this review.</p> <p>Cllr Coe is a member of the Patient Participation Group of which a meeting has been called on Tuesday 27th November. Cllr Coe is to attend the meeting having noted the concerns about the new GP appointment system and parking at the surgery.</p> <p>A representative from Northamptonshire Link has offered to attend a Town Council meeting. Cllr King provided an overview to Councillors on the role of Northamptonshire LINK. It was Agreed to invite the representative to January’s Town Council meeting.</p>
<p>11 11.1 11.2 11.3 11.4 11.5 11.6</p>	<p>Planning Applications</p> <p>KET/2012/0628 – R J Jones Haulage Ltd – Pipewell Road Industrial Estate, Pipewell Road, Desborough – s.73A Retrospective Application: Change of use from pallet storage to haulage yard. Comments to be reported to December’s Town Council meeting.</p> <p>KET/2012/0617 (Minute 5.2/Extraordinary meeting Nov 12) – Westleigh Developments Ltd & CJC Developments – Ironwood Avenue (Land off), Desborough – Full Application: 19 no. dwellings and associated road (Amended plans). It was Agreed that this amended planning application will be circulated to the relevant Councillors for comment which will be reported back to the next Town Council meeting.</p> <p>KET/2012/0643 (Minute 5.5/Extraordinary Meeting Nov 12_ – Mr Richards – HBH Building Contractors Ltd, Harrington Road, Desborough – Full Application: Demolition of builder’s yard. 5 no. dwellings. This planning application has been withdrawn and KBC will take no further action; no formal decision will be made.</p> <p>Notices of Approval received: KBC has approved permission for the following application: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KET/2012/0609 (Minute 9.8/Oct 12) – Mr Hubeaux – 9 Millholm Road, Desborough – Full Application: Increase fence height at front. </p> <p>North Northamptonshire Authorities consultation on their Community Infrastructure Levy Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule for Kettering. The consultation closes on Friday 21st December 2012. It was Agreed that comments by Cllrs on this consultation should be forwarded to Cllr King who will draft a response from the Town Council to be presented to December’s Town Council meeting for agreement. Cllr Tebbutt noted that he cannot comment on this document as a member of the KBC Planning Policy Committee.</p> <p>North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit – Emerging Policies for the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Update. The content of the email received was noted.</p>

12	<p>Northamptonshire Licencing Partnership – Consultation re: The George, 79 High Street, Desborough – Application to Vary Premises Licence</p> <p>An application has been made to vary the Premises Licence for the George Public House to 00:30 Sunday to Thursday and 02:00 on Friday and Saturday. It is highlighted that the George Public House is positioned near to a number of older peoples’ bungalows and other residential properties. It is therefore requested that the existing licensing hours for the George are kept and not extended for live music, recorded music and the sale of alcohol. The Town Council does not have any concerns about the activities to be added to the licence.</p>
13	<p>Request for a Byelaw re: Energy Centre</p> <p>Cllr Matthews confirmed that background research needs to be undertaken into this request which will be reported to a future Town Council meeting.</p>
14	<p>County Councillor</p> <p>Cllr Humfrey reported that she had presented the petition at the NCC Planning Development Committee held on 20th November in respect of planning application 12/00043/WASFUL – Energy Centre, Magnetic Park, Desborough.</p> <p>Cllr Tebbutt thanked Cllr Humfrey for arranging for NCC to remove the basal growth from the trees along Rothwell Road and around Federation and Pioneer Avenues. This is also requested for the trees along Dunkirk Avenue as well as the reinstatement of alternate year pollarding of the trees which seems to have stopped. An issue was raised by a member of the public regarding the weed treating of pavements. Cllr Tebbutt stated that he understood this had been completed for this year.</p>
15 15.1	<p>Borough Councillors</p> <p>Cllr Derbyshire had provided a written report which was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting highlighting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16th September 2012 - Attended the A6 Town Forum Burton Latimer Civic Centre. • 20/21st October - Birchfield Springs, Ruston Road. Desborough. Photographs taken early in the morning while the fires were burning and smoke that caused the tunnel effect near Peacock Farm down to Ruston Hall. The fires appear to be dampened down 9 30 a.m. <p>On exit from Birchfield Springs the mud on the road is like a skid patch, add this to the entering and leaving of lorries that are going over a narrow railway bridge causing cars to drive on the grass verges. One lady told Cllr Derbyshire that a lorry had caused two thousand pounds damage to her car and he did not stop. The lorry was travelling towards Pipewell from Ruston Road.</p> <p>Cllr Derbyshire has spoken to the Environment Officer who assured her that the site was visited. Cllr Derbyshire has suggested that he should visit the site evenings and weekends when the fires have been rekindled which happens every evening to burn overnight. A copy of letter from Mr M Shipley has been sent to the Clerk along with photos.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25th October - Meeting at KBC to discuss draft plan for Desborough Community Centre. • 1st November - Attended employment committee. Discussed topics were employment and long term employment. Loss of work through sickness has

	<p>improved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6th November - KET/2011/0235. Outline application for 700 dwellings including provision for Local Centre, Primary School, green infrastructure and creation of accesses. Cllr Derbyshire attended this meeting as member of the public. • 16th November - Extraordinary Meeting at St Giles Community Centre to discuss The Magnetic Park Energy Centre. • 19th November - Meeting held at Cllr Watsons home. • 20th November - Planning Policy Meeting as a member of the public. <p>15.2 Cllr Soans had provided a written report which was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting highlighting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended numerous meetings etc. with no relevance to Desborough Town Council. • 25th October attended, with Cllrs Derbyshire and Matthews, private meeting at KBC with Borough Cllrs Roberts, Jelly and Zanger to present and discuss draft Business plan for proposed new Desborough community centre. • 29th October - Special planning meeting to accept Planning officers recommendation in respect of Environmental Improvement works (EIW) in association with development of Lawrence site. Officer's recommendation to accept option 7 with EIW in the sum of £480,000 was agreed. The alternative option 2, which showed an additional £350,000 to be spent on removing the existing paving bricks to Station Road/ High Street and replacing them with traditional pavements was neither recommended nor accepted. • 6th November – Planning meeting – outline only application for a maximum of 700 houses on Grange phase 2. Application granted, all other items, including 7.8 million pounds in S106 payments, all to be spent in Desborough, to be discussed and agreed under “reserved matters”
<p>15.3</p>	<p>Cllr Tebbutt had provided a written report which was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting highlighting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtained action from NCC to remove basal growth from trees on Rothwell Rd, around Federation and Pioneer Avenue which were a safety hazard restricting visibility. Unsuccessful so far in similar request for Dunkirk Avenue-pursuing. • Agreed comments from KBC to the draft North Northants Core Spatial strategy document at Planning Policy. • Comments produced and submitted to NCC on aspects of the Northamptonshire Transportation plan. • Rushden Lakes massive retail plan passed by East Northants Council, this is against the existing North Northants Core spatial retail strategy. The decision is being examined at ministerial level, dependant on the result it could seriously delay agreement on the revised NN Core Spatial Strategy and endanger the progress of submission to Government. • Preliminary draft Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) charging schedule, which will partially replace aspects of 106 agreements, has been agreed for consultation which began on Nov 9th, for all authorities across North Northants. • The Kettering Town Centre Area Action Plan, which was adopted on 6 July 2011, was examined by officers and following debate unanimously agreed by Councillors at Planning Policy to be closely consistent with the new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

17.2	Town Centre Partnership (TCP): No report was received.																								
17.3	Twinning: No report was received.																								
17.4	Youth: No report was received.																								
17.5	European Charter: No report was received.																								
17.6	Pocket Park: The Town Council Agreed to write a letter to KBC to confirm that KBC have maintained the Prince Rupert Avenue access to the Pocket Park since 1995.																								
18	Financial report																								
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18.3	<p>Appointment of an Internal Auditor: The Town Council confirmed that Northants CALC Internal Audit Services should be contracted to undertake the Internal Audit for Desborough Town Council for the financial year ending 31st March 2013 (Proposed by Cllr Coe and seconded by Cllr Tebbutt – Agreed). A letter is to be sent to Mr C Barnard to thank him for his service to the Town Council.</p>																								
18.4	<p>Desborough Town Council Office: Kettering Borough Council has provided the Town Council with a Heads of Terms – Lease relating to the first floor office (currently occupied by the Town Council) at 47 Station Road, Desborough. In addition an estimate has been provided for the cost of a utilities recharge.</p> <p>Concern was raised by the Town Council about the proposed rent and utilities charges in light of the withdrawal of the KBC grant. The Chairman and Clerk are to arrange to meet with KBC to discuss the terms of the agreement and the potential for a disabled access to be provided so that the old Council Chamber can be used for Town Council meetings.</p> <p>It was noted that the Clerk has been sent a Valuation Office Agency form requesting information for Non-Domestic Rating relating to the Town Council office at 47 Station Road.</p>																								

<p>18.5</p>	<p>Christmas Lights 2012-13 – KBC Grant Offer Letter: A Christmas Lights Grant offer letter has been received from KBC. The Town Council CONFIRMED that it will undertake to meet the qualifying conditions and authorised the Clerk to sign and return the KBC Grant Offer form.</p> <p>KBC has confirmed that the rope lights on the ‘stars’ have broken and cannot be used. KBC has purchased, on behalf of the Town Council, lights that can be used on the star frames. The cost to purchase these lights was £1,000. The Town Council CONFIRMED payment will be made for these new lights through the 2012 Christmas Lights Grant and the £500 ‘rolled over’ for the purchase of new lights from the 2011 Christmas Lights Grant. Desborough Community Development Trust confirmed that they will make a donation to the Town Council towards the payment of the new lights.</p>
<p>18.6</p>	<p>KBC Town & Parish Council Funding Review 2012 Update: Cllr Matthews reported that at the KBC Executive meeting held on Wednesday 7th November 2012 it was unanimously voted (of the four members eligible to vote) that Town & Parish Councils be given notice that the current system of providing revenue grants to individual Town & Parish Councils will cease, with 2013/14 being the last year that payments will be made. At a previous Executive meeting held on 18 July 2012 it was agreed not to explore an investigation into special expenses for Kettering town.</p> <p>Cllr J Watson noted that she had been asked by Cllr Sawford to comment on the fact that the Councillors that left the Executive meeting in November and did not take part in the discussion and decision did not leave the meeting in July.</p> <p>It was noted that KBC has not replied to the Town Council’s letter of response with regard to the Town & Parish Council funding review.</p> <p>Concern was raised that members of the public may not support an additional precept from 2014.</p>
<p>18.7</p>	<p><i>Under Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (as amended), the press and public were excluded for the following item of business:</i></p> <p>First draft budget 2013/14: It was agreed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Tebbutt will liaise with Rothwell and Burton Latimer Town Councils to arrange to meet with Northants CALC to discuss membership fees for 2013/14; • The Clerk is to seek further clarification as to the payment of rates on the Town Council office and, if payment is required, whether this will be backdated; • The budget will be placed on the agenda for December’s Town Council meeting for further discussion. <p><i>The Clerk left the meeting room for the period of time that Councillors discussed the budget relating to the Clerk’s salary. Press and public were re-admitted to the meeting. No press or public were present.</i></p>
<p>19</p>	<p>Date of next meeting and items for the agenda: Thursday 20th December 2012 - budget</p>
	<p>THE MEETING CLOSED AT 09.50 PM</p>