

The Meeting of the Desborough Town Council held at Marlow House, Gold Street, Desborough on Thursday 18th July 2013.

PRESENT

Councillors: Cllr D Coe, Cllr A Matthews, Cllr M Watson, Cllr M Tebbutt, Cllr D Soans, Cllr B King, Cllr R Sawford

Clerk: Leigh Parkin

Also in attendance: Cllr A Matthews, Northamptonshire County Councillor, PCSO A Sillince, Members of the Public

<p>1</p>	<p>Chairman’s announcements Cllr Coe noted the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Coe spoke to Cllr Phil Malin earlier this evening as he has been in hospital but is now home. A Get Well card will be delivered on behalf of all members of the Town Council; • Cllr Coe visited the new Bistro in Desborough to see how it is doing; • Complaints have been received from residents of Dunkirk Avenue about lorries from the Birchfield Springs development travelling along the road until 2.30am. Cllr Coe has visited the developer to express concern however Kettering Borough Council (KBC) did not restrict lorry movements when granting planning permission. <p>Cllr Coe has attended the following events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crowning of the Carnival Queen at Loatlands School; • Desborough Carnival. <p>Cllr Coe has received a DVD from Mr Brian Manton, who is a former resident of Desborough, which illustrates a ‘Walk around Desborough’. The DVD is to be circulated between Councillors.</p>
<p>2</p>	<p>Apologies for absence – Apologies were received from Cllr J Watson (work commitment), Cllr M Dearing, Cllr J Derbyshire (ill health) and Cllr P Malin (ill health). It was RESOLVED to agree the apologies for absence.</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>Declarations of Interest by Councillors Cllr Soans stated that he would not vote or express a decision on any planning matters as he is on the Planning Committee at KBC. He can however take part in discussions on planning issues.</p>
<p>4</p> <p>4.1</p>	<p>Police Report Monthly Report & Crime Figures –PCSO Sillince went through the crime figures for June 2013. It was reported that during the hot weather people throughout the Kettering Area have been leaving their car and house doors and windows open making their property insecure. Members of the public are being reminded to ensure doors and windows are locked when they go out.</p> <p>Teenager Hut – Sgt E McDonald has approached the Town Council about the possibility of erecting a Teenager Hut in the Dunkirk Avenue recreation ground which will allow teenagers somewhere to go under cover. This type of structure has proven successful elsewhere especially if covered by CCTV. It was noted that Desborough</p>

Chairman

Date

4.2	<p>Town Council had previously suggested to KBC that there should be a specific area designed for youth within the Recreation Ground. Ms Pia Bellamy, Infrastructure and Asset Development Manager at KBC, has commented that this issue was raised some time ago however at the time agreement could not be reached as to where to locate the shelter. The Town Council supported the idea principle. A meeting is to be set up involving PC I Cotterell, Ms P Bellamy and representatives from Desborough Town Council. Cllr Sawford stated that she is happy to be part of a working party to discuss this issue. Cllr Tebbutt said that he would contact Ms Bellamy to discuss the cost of providing a freestanding hut, required consultation with local residents, additional CCTV/lighting requirements and a multi-use games area. Possible funding sources were discussed.</p> <p>Request to fund 10 cycle lights – Kettering Rural Safer Community Team is holding a Tack & Cycle Property Marking Event at Desborough Police Station on 17th August 2013. PCSO J Breeze has requested funding to purchase ten sets of cycle lights for the event. Cllr Tebbutt and Cllr Soans stated that they are happy to fund the lights through their Borough Councillor Ward Initiative Funds.</p> <p>Cllr Coe thanked PCSO Sillince for attending the meeting.</p>
5	<p>Representations from members of the public Members of the public spoke on the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A resident of Queen Street, Desborough addressed the Council about the three derelict properties (24, 26 and 28) in Queen Street. Following June's Town Council meeting a letter was sent to Mr J Conway, Head of Housing at KBC about the concerns raised (Minute 5/Bullet pt. 3). The member of the public stated that somebody had visited the properties and carried out some work to address the concerns raised but that it was not very satisfactory. It was noted that a letter had been received by the Town Council from Mr Conway which stated that the properties are now in such a poor state that refurbishment is not a financially viable option. KBC has concluded that, subject to the necessary building and planning consents, demolition and re-build will be the best option for the site. KBC has opened a dialogue with one of the owners of the properties who they have not previously had contact. This person appears to be keen to work with KBC to find a solution for the properties. This owner was contacted about the health & safety concerns raised by the Council. It was Agreed that Cllr Tebbutt will speak to Mr Conway to thank him for his letter and to ask if KBC can inspect the recent work undertaken. ➤ A resident of Queen Street raised concern about 34 Queen Street which is covered in ivy which is causing structural damage to the house as it is being held up inside by scaffolding. Concern was raised about the health & safety risk of this house on neighbouring properties. Cllr Tebbutt is to also raise this property with Mr Conway.
6	<p>Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 20th June 2013 The Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the above date were <u>unanimously approved</u> and signed as a true record (Proposed by Cllr Matthews and seconded by Cllr Tebbutt).</p>
7	<p>Matters Arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minute 5/1st arrow/June 13 – Request for residents parking, Harrington Road – Cllr Dearing has spoken to the KBC Portfolio holder, Cllr D Zanger, who confirmed he would speak to Mr C Stopford, Environmental Service Manager. The thirty letters of

	<p>support received from residents of Harrington Road have been forwarded to Mr Stopford. In June 2012 the Town Council supported the request for a parking restriction at the junction of Gold Street and Harrington Road. This was forwarded to the Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) Parking Regulations Team. Mr Whiting, NCC Highways Senior Traffic Engineer, has stated in July 2013 that due to budgetary constraints NCC has not been able to progress a waiting restriction review for Kettering District this year. Mr Whiting is currently in discussions with Senior Management to see how this can be progressed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minute 5/3rd arrow/June 13 – Queen Street houses – A letter has been received from Mr J Conway, Head of Housing at KBC. This was reported and discussed in Minute 5/1st bullet pt. • Minute 5/4th arrow/June 13 - The Town Council wrote to KBC to request that any further decision on the Hawthorns Site is to be deferred pending the outcome of Desborough Town Council Neighbourhood Plan. Ms S Lyons, Head of Democratic & Legal Services at KBC, has replied stating that a decision was taken by the KBC Executive Committee in July 2012 to sell the site for housing development. KBC is, however, prepared to consider the Town Council’s request and will work towards a report on the options to the Executive Committee in the autumn for a formal decision. • Minute 9.4/last paragraph/June 13 – Cllr Derbyshire has spoken to Mr B Coleman, Head of Environmental Care at KBC, about the email received from a member of the public about replacing a number of the roadside seats in Desborough. Mr Coleman is to look into the matter and contact the member of the public directly. • Minute 12.2 (June 2013) – Nomination of the former Hawthorns Leisure Centre Site, Desborough – The Town Council wrote to Ms V Hitchman, Head of Community Services at KBC, in support of Desborough Community Development Trust’s (DCDT) nomination for the former Hawthorns Leisure Centre site to be included on a list of assets of community value. Mrs Hitchman has confirmed that a decision will be made by KBC on whether to list the asset by 3rd August. It was Agreed that the Town Council will write to Ms Hitchman to ask: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who makes the decision whether the asset should be listed or not? • Is the decision delegated to officers or will it be considered by a KBC Committee? • If it is a KBC Committee, which one, and the date it is to be considered. <p>A copy of the list of the criteria that the nominated asset must meet to be listed will also be requested.</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>County Councillor</p> <p>Cllr Matthews reported that apart from on-going training modules and information sessions at Northamptonshire County Council (NCC), there have been many requests for assistance to resolve problems in Desborough and the villages in the Welland Valley.</p> <p>Reports of overgrown trees affecting properties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 Prince Rupert Avenue, Desborough; • 24/26 Gold Street, Desborough; • School at Wilbarston. <p>These have been reported to the Highways Maintenance Department at Brixworth. The responsibility for trees and bushes on highways land can be difficult to determine between the Borough Council, the County Council, developers and private individuals.</p>

	<p>An inspection cover outside 29/31 Braybrooke Road, Desborough rattles at night and day with passing traffic. When Cllr Matthews visited the site he witnessed the noise problem and reported it to the Highways Maintenance Team.</p> <p>There are on-going issues with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centre Bus route 67 serving villages from Wilbarston to Market Harborough; • Roll out of Superfast Broadband service to this part of the county, especially the Welland Valley villages; • The area outside Desborough Library where a request has been made to replace the grass with paving; • Many grumbles about road maintenance and parking issues. <p>The Highways Seminar on 17th July 2013 is on the NCC website and YouTube. It enables Councillors and the public to understand how the road maintenance programme is changing from ‘splash and dash’ to ‘get it right first time’. What this means is that it will take longer to execute the repairs but they should last a lot longer. The recent surface repair at Gold Street/Harborough Road junction will be ‘fixed’ in early Autumn on this new programme.</p> <p>Cllr Matthews has agreed to support the following local activities, so far, from his Empowering County Councillor Fund:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desborough Pocket Park signage; • Desborough in Bloom; • Desborough Cricket Club; • Pipewell Parish – transfer ownership of telephone box to the Parish Council.
<p>9 9.1</p>	<p>Borough Councillors</p> <p>Cllr Tebbutt provided a written report which was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting highlighting:</p> <p>North Northants Core Spatial Strategy update:- the Rushden Lakes planning decision inquiry has now finished, with the Inspector having taken all the evidence in public. His report is expected to go to the Secretary of State for his decision to be made public in December. It is still planned that a Draft Joint Core Strategy will be available in February 2014 which will enable consultation in February/March allowing a Submission Plan to be agreed in May 2014. The Inspectors report is anticipated for February 2015 following the examination in public. April 2015 would hopefully enable the Joint Planning Committee to adopt the replacement plan.</p> <p>The Interim North Northamptonshire Housing Policy statement has now been prepared and will be brought to the North Northants Joint Planning (JPC) committee on 25th July. It uses the growth projections provided by the Govt. Office – this identifies a need for North Northants to provide for 17862 homes for the period 2011 to 2021 as compared with 31255 included in the Core Spatial Strategy. Once ratified by the JPC it will be subjected to an extended period of consultation during the summer.</p> <p>Now awaiting KBC to move forward with the first consultation phase of the Neighbourhood Plan for Desborough , with the Parish Boundary designating the area. The Planning Policy meeting on May 21st agreed the programme for consultation on the identified need for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation required through to 2031 aligning with the Core Spatial Strategy needs for traditional housing, the consultation period has now ended and comments are being evaluated, 1600 people attended the</p>

<p>9.2</p>	<p>exhibitions and 1375 comments were received.</p> <p>Dunkirk Avenue traffic has taken a turn for the worse this week with significant movements taking place overnight, until 2.30 am. Cllr Tebbutt has reported concerns raised by members of the public to both the KBC Planning Office and the Police for further investigation, following Cllr Coe’s visit to the site on Tuesday.</p> <p>Cllr Tebbutt highlighted that a concern has been raised by a member of the public about the poor condition of the railing around the Princess Diana Rose Garden in Havelock Street. Cllr Tebbutt undertook an inspection of the railing this week and has been in contact with Mr B Coleman, Head of Environmental Services at KBC, to ask whether this could be a project for the Community Pay Back Team. Cllr Tebbutt is happy to fund the cost of the paint through his Ward Initiative Fund.</p> <p>Cllr Sawford raised the question that as the level of housing need has been reduced by one third in the Interim North Northamptonshire Housing Policy statement whether the projected housing allocation for Desborough will also be reduced by the same amount. If so, who will make the decision as to where the revised housing allocation will be positioned in Desborough? Cllr Tebbutt confirmed that a revised document will be sent out for comment as part of the Core Spacial Strategy and Local Development Document.</p> <p>It was reported that KBC has considered three bids for the new traveller caravan park, Stoke Albany Road (land at), and that one of the bids has been accepted and work will now go ahead.</p> <p>Cllr Soans provided a written report which was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting highlighting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Soans has applied for a grant to fund plants and bulbs for Desborough In Bloom (DiB) from his ward initiative fund; • Further to the recent closure of the Hawthorns skate park Cllr Soans reminded Councillors of last year’s report that KBC is prepared to build, equip, maintain and manage a new skate park in Desborough. In the report Desborough Town Council was requested to recommend a suitable site in Desborough for the new skate park. If the Town Council is prepared to recommend a site, Cllr Soans will use his best endeavours to see that the skate park is built and available for use by next summer. <p>Cllr Tebbutt highlighted that the Town Council had recommended in response to planning application KET/2012/0617 (amended plans Nov 12) – Westleigh Developments Ltd & CJC Developments – Ironwood Avenue (Land off), Desborough – Full Application: 19 no. dwellings and associated road. The objections/observations sent by the Town Council in respect of the original application still apply. The land would be better used for the extension of facilities re: leisure centre. The space between the NEAP and site could be levelled, drained and surfaced to enable the skate park, currently located at the Hawthorns, to be accommodated as part of a section 106 agreement.</p> <p>Cllr Sawford stated that Desborough Community Development Trust (DCDT) has nominated for the former Hawthorns Leisure Centre site to be included on a list of community value and with the development of a Neighbourhood Plan the relocation of the Skate Park should be considered in this area.</p> <p>9.3 Cllr Derbyshire provided a written report which was circulated to Councillors prior to</p>
------------	---

	<p>the meeting highlighting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24/6/13 - Attended KBC Employment Committee; • 25/6/13 - Attended a wonderful evening hosted by the Police and young members of The Jam receiving certificates and awards for their achievements on the course; • 26/6/13 - Attended the A6 Towns Forum; • 2/7/13 - KBC Planning Committee; • 3/7/13 - Complaint from families regarding the safety of the children’s play area on Rushton Road in respect of the speed of the traffic including buses, lorries and cars that travel along this road. This road is now seen as rat run to avoid the A14. Two of the complaints have been received from families whose gardens back onto the park. In one instance a young boy was just missed being run over by a car as he darted off from his mother out of their back garden. Cllr Derbyshire reported the incident and contacted Mr D Lane, Community Services at KBC, to explain the parents’ concerns. Mr Lane confirmed he would look in to it. • 5/7/13 - Attended a Reception. • 6/7/13 - Ward Surgery held at Marlow house: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ A member of the public has lived in Desborough for 12 years. He wanted to know where all the stores are, when is Desborough going to have another store? ➢ Another complaint received was that Desborough is used as a rat run to avoid the A14. Vehicles ignore weight and speed limits. The member of the public would like to see weight limit signs on Dunkirk Avenue. He also suggested that perhaps local retired people should be trained to use speed camera and mobile phones to report speeding traffic; ➢ A resident of Sycamore Drive highlighted a number of complaints. He wanted to know what right he has and where are the rights of the people? He stated that KBC do not own the rights of the people; ➢ Mr Donald Arthur Marlow, aged 95, came in for a chat as he was a Councillor for 22 years. He showed Cllr Derbyshire a photograph of the very last meeting before KBC took over, when he was the Chairman of the Council; ➢ All of the other people Cllr Derbyshire spoke to wanted to know more about the Incinerator in respect of filter/pollution and the long term effects on health. • 8/7/13 - Attended Gypsy & Travellers Meeting at the Village Hall, Braybrooke. Compliments were made in respect to KBC for all its’ good work; • Cllr Derbyshire has asked Cllr Allan Matthews, County Councillor to try and sort out the inspection cover outside 29 and 31 Braybrooke Road as it makes a dreadful noise when cars drive over it; • 9/7/13 - Cllr Derbyshire telephoned Mr D Lane, Community Services KBC, to ascertain his progress and assessment of risk on the Rushton Road play area. Cllr Derbyshire also told him that she had witnessed a similar incident in another park, the children laughing screaming running away from their mothers, however, these two children where in a safe area not like the Ruston Road with heavy traffic. Mr Lane is going to do a Risk Assessment on the safety of the entrance and the very low fence. Cllr Derbyshire has requested a site visit as soon as possible. <p>9.4 Cllr Dearing provided a written report which was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting highlighting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Dearing has reported to Portfolio holder the request for residents parking. Cllr Dearing will be following this up; • A complaint has been received about the boardings at the gateway to the Grange. The resident would like to see these removed now. Cllr Dearing has taken this up with enforcement at KBC to see what if anything can be done;
--	--

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A request has been received for benches to be put along the plens. Cllr Dearing is looking at Ward money to see if he can help on this. <p>Cllr Sawford raised the issue that the KBC Work Programme identifies that the KBC Executive Committee is due to consider 'Land at Desborough – Community Facilities' on 11th September 2013. At present it is unknown if this item is to be held in private.</p>
10	Clerk's Report
10.1	<p>Northamptonshire Police Community Speed Watch: Cllr King reported that limited response has been received to the recent communications. The following action was Agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Coe/Cllr King to door knock Dunkirk Avenue; • Cllr Sawford/ Cllr M Watson to door knock Braybrooke Road; • Cllr King/Clerk to visit Desborough Library – Saturday 20th July; • Cllr M Tebbutt to visit Desborough Library (subject to availability) – Thursday 25th July 2013; • Mr A Brooks, member of the public, to collect signatures from his local area; • A copy of the pledge sheets are to be placed in Marlow House.
10.2	<p>Queen Elizabeth II Commemorative Plaque: The replacement plaque is awaited (Minute 10.2/June 13). On receipt Cllr Tebbutt will liaise with Mr Mills, Stone Mason, for a quote to fit the plaque to one of the large stones in the children's play area. Cllr M Watson confirmed that the KBC small grant for Desborough Carnival Committee for 2013 has been approved and will include an additional £100 to help towards the cost of fitting the plaque. On receipt of the money Cllr M Watson will organise for the Carnival Committee to pay £100 to Desborough Town Council.</p>
10.3	<p>New Proceeds of Crime Act Fund Launched: The Police and Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire has launched a small grants programme aimed at preventing crime and supporting victims of crime. Grants of 1 x £5,000, 10 x £1,000 and 10 x £500 are available to community groups in Northamptonshire. Further to the discussion by the Town Council with regard to the Teenager Hut (Minute 4.1) it was Agreed that Cllr Tebbutt will look at the additional costs of CCTV/Lighting required for a hut and to work with the Clerk to submit an application for funding.</p>
10.4	<p>Request to use the Town Crest: It was Agreed that Neuville du Poitou Twinning can use the Town Crest on their new logo.</p>
10.5	<p>NCALC Member Enquiry Service: This is an email response service for generic routine enquiries that are not council specific. Any Clerk or Chairman of a Council with membership of Northants CALC can send a routine enquiry – Noted.</p>
10.6	<p>Energy saving presentations from Warm Homes project: NCC has won a bid from the Department of Health to deliver the Warm Homes Partnership in 2013. The Northants Warm Homes programme is a partnership between the seven district and borough councils and provides help and advice to residents of Northamptonshire who are seeking to lower their fuel bills through insulation and other energy efficient improvements. The Northamptonshire Energy Saving Service (N.E.S.S.) project aims to reduce death and ill health due to cold housing, with particular attention to the most vulnerable in society. The project is to be delivered through a number of dedicated events around the county including workshops, community events, dedicated energy</p>

<p>10.7</p>	<p>weeks as well as working with people on an individual basis. It was Agreed to contact the project to suggest that they seek permission to use the Co-op car park if they have a display vehicle.</p> <p>Correspondence File: This month's file contained:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desborough Town Council Standing Orders • Central & East Northamptonshire Citizens Advice Bureau Summer 2013 Newsletter • Superfast Northamptonshire – Next Generation Strategy • Road closures in Wilbarston/Desborough • Twilight Walk for Marie Curie • NCALC Training Calendar July to October 2013 • Postcode Trust – Small Grants Programme • Adult Learning brochure Autumn 2013 – Spring 2014 • kghtogether Summer 2013 – Issue 20 • Clerks & Councils Direct July 2013 • Petition for Amendment of the National Planning Policy Framework • NNRAid Newsletter • NNRAid Newsletter – Consultation response • NNRAid Newsletter • CPRE Northants Summer Event • Northamptonshire Association for the Blind – The Mobile Site Centre visit to Desborough • Invitation by the Mayor of Burton Latimer to Bosworths Garden Centre • Marlow House Golf Day poster • KBC Work Programme published 19th June 2013
<p>11 11.1 11.2 11.3 11.4 11.5 11.6</p>	<p>Community Reports</p> <p>Civic Society: No report was received.</p> <p>Town Centre Partnership (TCP): Cllr Soans confirmed the 1940's day is to take place in Station Road, Desborough on Saturday 21st September between 12 midday and 5.30pm.</p> <p>Twinning: Cllr M Watson thanked the Town Council for agreeing to Neuville du Poitou Twinning using the Town Crest on their new logo. A number of representatives are visiting Neuville at the end of July for a week.</p> <p>Youth: No report was received.</p> <p>European Charter: Cllr M Watson stated that they are still short of representatives to attend the Portugal meeting at the end of July, because of this, it is expected that Desborough may not in future be a part of the Charter.</p> <p>Pocket Park: Cllr Sawford reported that a Work Morning is scheduled to take place on Saturday 20th July which will involve a bonfire. It was Agreed by the Town Council that the Work Morning can go ahead.</p> <p>Cllr Tebbutt is to raise the issue of antisocial behaviour in the Pocket Park at the next JAG meeting. The new waste bin and remaining picnic bench have been spray painted. There is continued shouting and screaming past midnight and stones have been thrown at houses and cars. PC Cotterell has confirmed that the Pocket Park is on the tasking list to</p>

	<p>be visited every night at least once.</p> <p>Ms P Bellamy, Infrastructure and Asset Development Manager at KBC, has approached the Co-op with regard to the Federation Avenue access with a view to discussing the Pocket Park Volunteer Committee's aspirations to improve this access.</p> <p>Ms R Little, NCC Pocket Parks Officer is leaving in September. It is uncertain at present how this post will be replaced.</p>
12	Update from existing Working Parties
12.1	Community Facilities: Cllr Matthews reported that a decision on the application for funding through the Maud Elkington Trust is anticipated towards the end of July.
12.2	Community Right to Build 'Hawthorns Forum': Mr R Orr was invited to up-date the Town Council. A decision as to whether KBC has accepted the Bid is still awaited.
12.3	<p>Fresh Air Desborough: An up-date was given by Mr Malcolm MacDonald, a member of Fresh Air Desborough. There was an excellent attendance at the recent fundraising event on the evening of Desborough Carnival which will be repeated. It has been agreed to hold another public meeting, date to be agreed. Concern has been raised about how much consideration was given to the Trout Lake development in relation to a document produced by AMEC about the susceptibility of fish if there is an emissions breach. There are currently over 40 houses on the Grange housing estate for sale within half a mile radius. The Judicial Review is going ahead as planned. It is hoped that the case will be transferred from London to Birmingham and is due to be heard in late autumn. Both parties have returned with their comments.</p> <p>Cllr King asked whether Origin has applied for the Environment Agency permit yet. An application cannot be made until the Judicial Review is resolved.</p>
13	<p>Neighbourhood Plan for Desborough Update</p> <p>Cllr Soans reported that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The statutory notice was published on 24th June and consultation on the Neighbourhood Area Designation for the Desborough Town Plan ends on 19th August. • A meeting of the 'Initial' Working Group is to be held on Thursday 25th July 2013. Cllr Sawford stated that she would also like to attend these meetings along with Cllr J Watson, Cllr Soans and Cllr Matthews. It has been confirmed that Mrs P Holmes, Secretary to DCDT, Mr D Larmour, Chairman of Desborough TCP and Mr M MacDonald will also attend the meeting.
14	Future priorities for Desborough Town Council
14.1	<p>The role of the Town Council and what services it should provide / Precepting</p> <p>A discussion was held about the future priorities of the Town Council and precepting. Cllr Coe stated that he felt the Town Council's priorities were no different to what they have been in the past. To listen to comments made by members of the public and to pass these on. The Town Council is not in a financial position to provide facilities. Capital items should be provided for by the Borough and County Councils.</p> <p>Cllr Matthews referred to the end of the current KBC Town & Parish Council grant scheme and highlighted that the concept of precepting has not been well received. He</p>

<p>14.2</p>	<p>stated that if the Town Council does not increase its' precept from April 2014 then it will eventually run out of money.</p> <p>Cllr King supported the Chairman's comments. He stated that he is not happy about precepting but does support generating income in other ways, such as, grant funding. More pressure needs to be placed on the Borough and County Councils to provide things.</p> <p>Cllr Soans stated that if the Town Council is to continue then it needs to precept for funds to run the Town Council. Cllr Soans suggested that the first draft 2014/15 Town Council budget is prepared and presented to October's meeting which will allow Councillors time to put forward suggestions for an alternative budget if they wish.</p> <p>Cllr Sawford stated that the Town Council is in a difficult position as a precept is needed to run the Town Council which is not consulted upon with members of public. Cllr Sawford emphasised that any additional facilities in the Town which it is proposed to be paid for by a precept will need full consultation with the people of Desborough.</p> <p>Cllr Matthews highlighted precepts raised by other Town & Parish Councils within Northamptonshire. Cllr Sawford stated that this information is relevant for Town & Parish Councils in certain areas, such as, Wellingborough and Daventry where the residents of the town also pay a precept which is not the case in Kettering.</p> <p>Ward boundaries within Desborough</p> <p>Cllr Sawford raised the issue that the Desborough Loatlands Ward polling station is the largest in the Borough and whether consideration could be given to having a separate polling station on the Grange which is part of the Loatlands Ward.</p> <p>In addition the Desborough St. Giles Ward polling station is currently situated on the outskirts of the Ward in St. Giles community centre. Cllr Sawford raised the question as to whether the polling station for this Ward could located more centrally.</p> <p>Cllr Sawford also raised the issue that with the development of a further 700 houses proposed for phase II of the Grange housing estate this may lead to consideration of a third Ward within Desborough.</p> <p>Cllr Soans understands that the Boundary Commission is not looking at Ward Boundaries until 2018. However he will discuss the possibility of a polling station on the Grange and also the relocation of the St. Giles polling station with the KBC Research and Development Committee and Mr I White, KBC Electoral Services Manager.</p>
<p>15 15.1</p>	<p>Financial report</p> <p>Business Rates Demand Notice: A Business Rates Demand Notice has been received from KBC in respect of the Town Council Office (Minute 18.4/Nov 12 & Finance Report Jan 13). The rateable value for the office is £4,300. The calculation period is from 17th June 2013 to 31st March 2014 at a total cost of £1,567.51 to be paid monthly from 1st August 2013. An application has been made for Small Business Rate Relief. Payment is required until a decision is made in respect of this application. Cllr Tebbutt is to look into the issue of Desborough Town Council becoming a 'Trust'. It is understood that Trusts are exempt from paying business rates.</p>

15.2

Accounts for Payment: The following payments were **APPROVED:**

Cheque No.	Amount	Payee	Reason for Payment
101341	£807.24	Mrs L Parkin	Salary & Expenses (July 13)
101342	£34.13	HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE & NI (July 13)
101343	£35.00	Vine Community Trust	Hall Hire July 13 TC meeting
101344	£41.77	Talk Talk Business	Telephone Line Rental /Broadband + calls (July 13)
101345	£195.51	Kettering Borough Council	Business Rates due 01/08/13
101346	£40.00	Northants CALC	Major Planning Applications Training – Cllr R Sawford
101347	£196.00	Kettering Borough Council	Business Rates due 01/09/13
101348	£760.06	Mrs L Parkin	Salary (August 13)*
101349	£34.13	HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE & NI (August 13)*
101350	To be confirmed	Talk Talk Business	Telephone Line Rental /Broadband + calls (August 13)**

- ** The Salary for the Clerk & HM Revenue & Customs cheques relating to August are dated 15th August 2013 (3rd Thursday of the month).*
- ***The Town Council **Agreed** for a cheque to be signed (Chq. No. 101350) in August when the Talk Talk Business bill for August is received.*

15.3

Receipts:

Paid into Barclays	Amount	Received from	Reason for Payment
03/06/13	£2.32	Interest	Interest – Business Saver Account

15.4

Monthly Bank Reconciliation: Noted.

15.5

Quarter 1 Financial Analysis: Noted.

15.6

Christmas Lights Report: A report was presented to the Town Council highlighting some examples of the types of lights that can be considered for the side of Marlow House. Town Councillors liked option 2, the stars and also the Merry Christmas sign. The report is to be sent to Marlow House for their opinion on the preferred style of light. A meeting has been set up with a third lighting company at the beginning of August and a final report will be presented to the Town Council in September.

15.7

General Power of Competence: Confirmation has been received that the Clerk has passed the new Section 7 of the Certificate in Local Council Administration – General Power of Competence.

The Government as part of the Localism Act 2011 has introduced a new ‘General Power of Competence’ which allows councils to do anything that an individual can do unless specifically prohibited by law. In order to use the power, councils will need to demonstrate that they have:

- An electoral mandate (two thirds of the council must be elected);
- A qualified clerk.

<p>15.8</p>	<p>The Town Council RESOLVED that it meets the criteria for eligibility to use the power (proposed by Cllr Coe and seconded by Cllr M Watson – Agreed). This resolution will need to be renewed by the Town Council at the next ‘relevant’ annual meeting (the annual meeting of the Council after the ordinary election that normally takes place every four years).</p> <p>BDO LLP Outstanding Audit points: A letter has been received from the external auditor requesting clarification as to the Town Council’s reserves. An acceptable level of reserves is twice the annual precept. A letter of response has been drafted outlining that as well as the precept, consideration also needs to be taken into account of the KBC grant currently provided to the Town Council towards its’ operation costs. In the case of Desborough Town Council an acceptable level of reserves would be £38,900, taking the Parish Grant into consideration. At 31st March 2013 Desborough Town Council brought a balance forward of £23,660 and the following should be noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £1,250 was ring-fenced for the purchase of new Christmas lights; • £90 was ring-fenced for the Civic Ball following the transfer of funds from the Civic Ball Account to the Business Saver Account. <p>Reference has also been made to considering the impact on the level of the Town Council’s reserves if the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government introduces the ‘capping’ of precepts for Town & Parish Councils for 2014/15.</p> <p>The letter of response was Agreed by the Town Council.</p>
<p>16 16.1</p>	<p>Planning Applications</p> <p>The following applications have been received and comments made under delegated procedures:</p> <p>KET/2013/0383 – Mr Marlow – 7 Hereford Close, Desborough – Full Application: First floor balcony to rear. No objection. This planning application does not appear to overlook neighbouring properties as the house stands on its own.</p> <p>KET/2013/0390 – Mr Kilsby – 5 Ironwood Avenue, Desborough – Full Application: Three storey rear extension. No objection. This planning application does not appear to affect neighbouring properties.</p> <p>KET/2013/0384 – Mr & Mrs Hughes – 135 Rothwell Road (land at), Desborough - Outline Application: 4 no. houses with new access. Desborough Town Council objects to this planning application on the grounds of the safety of an extra access on the very busy Rothwell Road. (This road has been down-graded to a 'B' road but vehicles still travel at high speeds on the hill).The proposed access is too close to the 30mph limit signs which could be a real danger to motorists.</p> <p>In addition, the pathway at this point is of insufficient width and needs to become a combined cycle/footpath to the same design as that which commences at the Ise Bridge and goes through to Rothwell. This should replace the existing s.106 agreement as 30mph signs are now much further down the road.</p>

<p>16.2</p>	<p>KET/2013/0426 – Mr Sharman Willjammer Consulting Ltd – s.73 Application: Variation of Condition 4 of KET/2013/0086 in respect of windows. Awaiting comments.</p> <p>KET/2013/0452 – Mrs Holland – 39 Alexandra Road, Desborough – Full Application: Two storey and single storey rear and side extensions. Awaiting comments.</p> <p>KBC Local Development Framework Public Consultation – Site Specific Proposals Local Development Document – Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Options Paper – The comments made by Desborough Town Council were noted. Cllr Coe confirmed that he had visited the Pastures Site on behalf of the Town Council and spoken with Mr & Mrs Smith.</p>
<p>16.3</p>	<p>Postal Naming and Numbering – Site N, Land off Ironwood Avenue, Desborough – The Town Council suggested the name Plens View (proposed by Cllr M Watson and seconded by Cllr Matthews – Agreed).</p>
<p>17</p>	<p>Date of next meeting and items for the agenda: Thursday 19th September 2013 commencing at 7pm, the Lower Lounge, Marlow House, Gold Street, Desborough.</p>
<p>THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.15 PM</p>	