

The Meeting of the Desborough Town Council held at the Library, High Street, Desborough on Thursday 15th January 2015.

PRESENT

Councillors: Cllr A Matthews, Cllr Tebbutt, Cllr B King, Cllr D Soans, Cllr J Watson, Cllr J Pearce, Cllr M Dearing, Cllr D Coe.

Clerk: James McKechnie

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

1	<p>Chairman’s announcements The Chairman welcomed all those present and confirmed the health and safety/housekeeping issues for the building and asked for mobile phones to be put on silent. Chairman’s announcements included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civic Service will take place at St Giles Church on Sunday 8th February 2015 at 10am • Street Lighting has commenced, with electrical sockets being fitted and paid for out of my County Councillors Empowering Fund.
2	<p>Apologies for absence – Cllr. M Watson, Cllr R Sawford, Cllr D Howes, Cllr J Derbyshire.</p>
3	<p>Declarations of Interest by Councillors Cllr Soans stated that he would not vote or express an opinion on any planning matters as he is on the Planning Committee at Kettering Borough Council (KBC). He can however take part in discussions on planning issues.</p>
4	<p>Police Report – PC Johnson present the crime statistics for December, highlighting a year on year overall decline in crime. Cllr J Watson asked if PCSOs were still being allocated to schools given the recent changes in Northamptonshire Police. PC Johnson stated that these changes were part of the Futures Programme relating to the reduction in the budget. PCSOs were still allocated to schools, however more schools were being covered by fewer PCSOs. PCSO Greens is responsible for Desborough Schools. Cllr J Watson expressed concern that there was no male PCSO to assist in supporting pupils who don’t have a male figurehead. PC Johnson stated that a male PCSO could be called upon when required to support in this area. Cllr Tebbutt spoke about the great work being done with the youth on Drug Education and suggested that the Drug Box could be brought to a Town Council meeting for Councillors to see how this supports in education the young on Drugs. Cllr Matthews asked how abandoned cars should be reported. PC Johnson stated that they should be reported by phoning 101.</p>
5	<p>Representations from members of the public Mrs Belinda Humfrey spoke about the War Memorial and the desire to accurately record the names who lost their lives in the First World War, asking if the Clerk could investigate with Kettering Borough Council regarding who’s responsible for the War Memorial and how this could be progressed.</p> <p>Mr Richard Hill Good evening Councillors.</p>

	<p>I would like to raise some safety concerns regarding Rothwell Road, Desborough, in particular the section between the end of the current housing and the town boundary near to the River Ise Bridge.</p> <p>The road is subject to a 30 mph speed limit but many vehicles drive down the hill from Rothwell at high speed and pass the section at speeds much faster than 30 mph. Vehicles travelling in the opposite direction from Desborough accelerate long before the de-restriction sign and also pass at speeds well above the limit.</p> <p>You will probably have noticed that work on the new Green Bean Development commenced this week, where the access road joins Rothwell Road in this section. I see from the minutes of your meeting on 16 Oct 14 that you recorded that you had a “major concern for a potential accident black spot at the access point”. I have the same concerns and I have recently been in contact with Northamptonshire County Council (NCC). It appears that no formal risk assessment was carried out by them before they approved the planning application.</p> <p>1. My first request is that Desborough Town Council (DTC) ask NCC to carry out a formal risk assessment for this section of road.</p> <p>In addition, this section is not lit at night. Lighting would help to illuminate any vehicles turning in and out of the access road and improve safety. Lighting would also provide a better indication of the start of the built up area at night. Even by day, the existence of lighting columns is a good indication and helps to slow down traffic. I know that you are already aware that Balfour Beatty will shortly commence a major upgrade of the street lighting in the town and it would be an ideal opportunity for a couple of extra lighting columns to be added at the same time. I’m sure that two extra columns would be of minimal expense compared with the rest of the work.</p> <p>2. My second request is that DTC ask NCC to authorise lighting for this section of road.</p> <p>Finally, may I point out the poor state of the footpath along this same stretch of road. It is very narrow, forcing pedestrians to have to walk very close to the fast moving traffic. Due to lack of maintenance over many years, the grass turf from the verge is covering substantial areas of the available tarmac with only about two feet of walkway showing in places. It would be a help to safety if the overlapping turf was removed and more tarmac was exposed, in order to create a wider walkway. As you know, it is well used, in particular during the summer months by schoolchildren travelling to and from Montsaye Academy, and would help to improve pedestrian safety.</p> <p>3. My third request is that DTC ask NCC to carry out maintenance on the footpath to expose as much of the tarmac walkway as possible.</p> <p>Thank you for listening. Richard Hill</p> <p>The Clerk is to contact Northampton County Council regarding these matters. Cllr Matthews said that the matter of additional lighting may be quite challenging. Cllr J Watson stated that if Northamptonshire County Council didn’t carry out a formal Risk Assessment in the first place they should do so and pay for the work suggested. Cllr Coe thanked Mr Hill for bringing these to the Councils attention raising concerns why this wasn’t dealt with at the time of the Planning Application.</p>
6	<p>Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 18th December 2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 King and seconded by Cllr Coe).
7	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>Minute 7/December 14 Outdoor Gym Cllr Soans expressed his thanks and gratitude to the Clerk for the hard work he’d put into this and securing the funding.</p>

	<p>Cllr Soans asked if a letter of thanks could be sent to Kettering Borough Council thanking them for the third party contribution.</p> <p>Cllr Tebbutt stated that the Bowls Club had been contacted regarding their views on the location of the Outdoor Gym. The clerk would hear from them after their next committee meeting.</p> <p>Minute 8/December 14 Website Upgrade Cllr King asked if there was an update. The Clerk reported that the hosting company were working on the new website presently and that an update would be brought to Council as soon as it was available.</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>Neighbourhood Plan Update</p> <p>Cllr Soans stated that the website was now fully up and running with all meeting dates and papers available.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The group secretary, Mrs Hilary Connolly has reluctantly resigned for family reasons, we will miss her considerable contribution to the group. Terry James has agreed to carry out the secretary’s duties for the time being. KBC Planning Officer Carrie Murphy was welcomed to the meeting. 2) <u>Finance</u> – The £7000 grant received from planning aid, has now been almost fully spent by the end of December 2014, as per the conditions of the grant. 3) <u>Project plan</u> - This is mainly up to date although we are behind the plan in terms of contacting statutory bodies. Work is now taking place to bring this item forward. The project plan is now available on the website and will be monitored and upgraded as necessary. 4) <u>Lawrence site working group</u> – Awaiting conclusion d results of KBC marketing exercise in order to move forward. It was agreed to request KBC for permission to have surveys carried out on the site. The steering group have co-opted 2 members of the public to be part of the LSWG as agreed within the steering group terms of reference, 5) <u>Hawthorns site</u> – A community land trust is being investigated. The report from the Hawthorns forum is a separate item on the DTC agenda. 6) <u>Consultation events</u> – Public engagement events were carried out in November. Great interest was shown and public awareness increased but only about 1% of leaflets issued were returned. Future public events will be discussed at the next steering group meeting. 7) <u>Planning consultants</u> – the sites review and Envirocheck has been fully accomplished as per the steering group brief to the consultant. The full report will be presented to the steering group at its next meeting on January 22nd. KBC has agreed the minimum number of houses to be built in Desborough, between 2011 to 2031, as a total of 1350. A total of 1000 houses have either been granted planning permission or have been built since 2011, leaving a minimum balance of 350 houses to be allocated. 8) <u>Steering group vacancies</u> – there are 2 vacancies on the steering group which require to be filled without delay. 2 volunteers have come forward:- Ruth Wakelin and Rod Adams. The town councils approval is therefore required for the appointment of these individuals. <p>It was <u>AGREED</u> that Ruth Wakelin and Rod Adams would join the group (proposed by Cllr Soans and seconded by Cllr Tebbutt)</p> <p>Cllr Soans thanked Mrs Paula Holmes for all the hard work which had been put into this.</p> <p>Cllr Soans thanked Cllr J Watson for the hard work done with the Public Engagement. Cllr Tebbutt asked if the Desborough Town Council website had the link to the Neighbourhood Plan website.</p>

	The clerk confirmed that it did.
9 9.1	<p>To receive reports from: County Councillor Matthews Three Counties Alliance</p> <p>The Leaders of Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire County Councils agreed in December to a tri-county council economic alliance [the first in the country] to focus on common economies of innovation, science, technology and creative industries. This alliance is referred to as The Creative Counties and will collectively have a GVA of around £45bn, which is roughly equivalent to Greater Manchester. Acting as a Combined Authority the three counties will request Central Government to devolve to it additional powers and resources in: transport, skills, economic development and strategic and spatial planning. Clearly with such a step change in governance, much needs to be done to develop a robust governance model. More information will be released in due course.</p> <p>County Council Budget Proposals 2015/16</p> <p>The Budget Scrutiny Working Group has been reviewing the County's Draft Budget Proposals for 2015/16 since January 5th. Focusing on the planning assumptions, the risks involved and how the proposals reflect local/national priorities and challenges, the Scrutiny Review will result in a report to the Cabinet on 10th February setting out its recommendations on the budget items scrutinised. Savings are planned in every [projected] Revenue Budget until 2020 – the usual five year forward planning objective.</p> <p>Update re: Empowerment Funding for 2015/16</p> <p>Despite my initial concern that the Empowerment Fund might be withdrawn completely, it transpires that the County is only looking to reduce the amount available to each County Councillor from the current £7,000 per year to £5,000 for 2015/16, with the [curious] demand that this year's fund must be spent by 31st March or it will be "lost".</p> <p>New Street Lighting in Town Centre</p> <p>As the installation of the new street lights in High Street and Station Road has been moved forward to this week [from March] a decision had to be made [very urgently last week] about fitting additional sockets to 17 columns to allow the Town to enjoy the Christmas Lights in future. I agreed to fund this cost [£2884] from my current Empowerment Fund to ensure that the Town continues its fine traditions at Christmas. We must however be prepared to liaise with Balfour Beatty / NCC regarding all future lighting displays and new purchases as the new lamp standards have different stress levels to the old units.</p> <p>Cllr Tebbutt asked if the County Council had a public consultation meeting. It was stated that the County Council are consulting the public with their Public Consultation document which closes on 20th January 2015.</p> <p>Cllr J Watson asked that everyone to get their comments in as this is about vulnerable adults and children.</p> <p>Cllr Matthews stated that the public were concerned about the County Councils future format.</p> <p>Cllr J Watson raised concerns regarding the future management structure with an additional tier of management could be in place.</p>
9.2	<p>Borough Councillors Cllr Tebbutt activity report to Desborough Town Council North Northants Core Spatial Strategy update:-</p>

The Joint Planning Committee at its December 18th meeting; reviewed and endorsed, subject to taking on board comments made, the Pre-Submission Plan of the Joint Core Strategy 2011-2031. This document will be published for consultation for 6 weeks from 26th January to 9th March and will be available on line at the JPU website: www.nnjpu.org.uk hard copies will be available to view at Libraries and one will be sent to our clerk.

Plan Submission is scheduled for March 2015

Examination for April-November 2015

And Adoption for December 2015 Housing requirements 2011-2031 for Kettering Borough were confirmed as 10,400 Total, however changes have been made reducing the Rural and importantly the Market Towns numbers these are now as follows, previous numbers are shown in brackets.

Kettering 6190 (5340): Burton Latimer 1180 (1380), Desborough 1360 (1590), Rothwell 1190 (1390) and Rural housing 480 (700). After discussion some minor amendment to policies will be included prior to publication, a particularly important one related to house sizes and the 'London Standard', changing the word should into must in Policy 30 items b) and c) .

These now read:-

b) The internal floor area of new dwellings must meet the proposed National Space Standards as a minimum in order to provide residents with adequate space for basic furnishings, storage and activities;

c) New dwellings must meet Category 2 of the proposed National Accessibility Standards as a minimum and the planning authority will negotiate for a proportion of Category 3 (wheel-chair accessible) housing based on evidence of local needs;

Delivery of Green Infrastructure; Policy 20 – The Nene and Ise Valley, has also been further strengthened. I will give a verbal update at our January meeting if there are any changes.

Cllr Tebbutt stated that the meeting planned for 22nd January 15 had been cancelled as all the outstanding matters had be resolved.

Cllr Dearing activity report to Desborough Town Council included:

Highlights

Town Centre Developments:

- o Market Square Yards are showing lots of interest from retailers.
- o Delivery managed growth, proposals for garden communities and the establishment of a Joint Delivery Committee to cover North Northants.
- o Public Spaces Protection Order
- o Budget Proposals for 2015/16

Cllr Coe expressed concerns regarding the number of empty shops in Kettering Town Centre.

Cllr Dearing agreed to email Councillors the actual vacant shops, stating that this was well below the national average.

Cllr Tebbutt stated that the pedestrianisation should be completed by the spring.

9.3

Clerk's Report

Spare Furniture

Kettering Borough Council have agreed that the spare furniture held in the old Council Chambers at Station Road, Desborough, may be donated to needy community organisations.

It was **agreed** to donate furniture to needy community organisations (proposed by Cllr Matthews and seconded by Cllr Soans).

Description	Quantity	Donated to
Baby Changing table	1	Desborough Town Council
Boxes of Glasses - various	4 boxes	Desborough Town Council
Rectangular timber tables	6	Desborough Town Council
Round timber tables	5	Desborough Town Council
Stage fitting	6	Desborough Town Council
Timber Chairs - Upholstered seat	10	Desborough Town Council
Timber Chairs with arms	4	Desborough Town Council
Timber chairs Without Arms	3	Desborough Town Council
Upholstered Chairs	16	Desborough Town Council

Outdoor Gym Update

A Site visit with the HACS the contractor took place on 7th January 2015. We now await Wren to confirm the registration of the project before we can commence the work. It's anticipated that this will be confirmed very shortly.

Road Adoption by Northamptonshire County Council

Northamptonshire County Council, Highways Act, 1980 (Adoption of Private Streets) From 11th December 2014

Section 38 Agreement - Oak Tree Close, Desborough

Agreement Dated 7th July 2011

Developer – Persimmon Homes Limited

Trout Farm

The Temporary Road Traffic Order relieving the Heavy Goods Vehicle movements on Rushden Road and Dunkirk Avenue. Northamptonshire County Council have agreed to pay the fee for the Order and that Lyndon Thomas Ltd have agreed to pay for the traffic signs. It will take upto 3 months for the due process in obtaining the Temporary Traffic Order.

Correspondence File: This month's file contains:

- KBC Highlights Magazine information request (emailed to Cllrs 19/12/14)
- NCC Household Waste Update (emailed to Cllrs 19/12/14)
- NCC Public Health Campaigns (emailed to Cllrs 19/12/14)

Cllr Tebbutt asked if there was any news from the Traffic Commissioner regarding the application for a Heavy Goods Vehicles Operators License.

The clerk stated that he'd not received any news.

Cllr Tebbutt asked if the clerk could contact Kettering Borough Council for an update.

Cllr Soans thanked the clerk for all the hard work put in on this matter.

Cllr Matthews expressed his gratitude to both the clerk and Northamptonshire County Council.

Cllr Matthews thanked the clerk and the previous clerk for all the hard work done in supporting him and Desborough Town Council.

**10
10.1**

**Community Reports
Civic Society – None available**

<p>10.2</p>	<p>Town Centre Partnership Flag Flying Dates St David's Day 1st March 15 (up 27/02/15 down 02/03/15) St Patrick's Day 17th March 15 (up 16/03/15 down 18/03/15) St George's Day 23rd April 15 (up 22/04/15 down 23/04/15) St Andrew's Day 30th November 15 (up 27/11/15 down 01/12/15) Commonwealth Day 9th March 15 (up 08/03/15 down 10/03/15) Carnival 28th June 15 (up 19/06/15 down 29/06/15) Dates to be confirmed for Visit from France & Belgium Women's Cycle Race These dates were <u>AGREED</u> (proposed by Cllr Tebbutt and seconded by Cllr Soans)</p>
<p>10.3</p>	<p>Twinning – Cllr J Watson Newsletter distributed and placed in the correspondents file Murder Mystery Night being held on Saturday 14th February 15 at 7.30pm</p>
<p>10.4</p>	<p>Youth Cllr King An electrical inspection took place recently, a report is awaited. Energy Saving Event taking place on Tuesday 20th January 15 at the Library. The Town Council are asked if they are willing to make contribution to the cost of the event of £35. It was <u>AGREED</u> that Desborough Town Council would contribute £35 (proposed by Cllr J Watson and seconded by Cllr Soans).</p>
<p>10.5</p>	<p>European Charter Cllr J Watson Desborough Town will be hosting a visit all the European Charter Countries in 2016</p>
<p>10.6</p>	<p>Pocket Park Cllr King Next meeting will be taking place at 8 Rothwell Road, Desborough on 23rd February 15 7.30pm.</p>
<p>10.7</p>	<p>Community Speed Watch Cllr King circulated a report The purpose of Speed Watch is to promote Safer Driving in Desborough. Cllr King stated that he agreed to be the Speed Watch Coordinator after Kevin O'Brian had stepped down. A number of volunteers had agreed to take part in the next Speed Watch event. Training would be provided for any new volunteers on 7th February 15 in Northampton. The Town Council <u>AGREED</u> (proposed by Cllr Tebbutt and seconded by Cllr Coe) the Speed Watch dates for 2015 of 14th February 15 to 28th March 15 The Town Council <u>AGREED</u> (proposed by Cllr Dearing and seconded by Cllr J Watson) to purchase 2 VAS Speed Signs, Batteries, Brackets and Section 50 License funded by County Cllr Matthews Empowering Fund.</p>
<p>11 11.1</p>	<p>Update from existing Working Parties Community Right to Build 'Hawthorns Forum': Mrs Paula Holmes reported that a Grant of £10,000 had been successful from Awards for All (The Big Lottery Fund). A visit to a town in Cambridgeshire had been arranged to a Community Right to Build in action. The Hawthorns was still very much part of the Neighbourhood Plan.</p>

11.2	<p>Fresh Air Desborough (FAD): Cllr King referred to an email he'd received in December from Fresh Air Desborough stating thankfully there'd not been any further development.</p>																																
<p>12 12.1</p>	<p>Financial report Accounts for Payment: The following payments were APPROVED (Proposed by Cllr Pearce and seconded by Cllr Coe):</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="296 398 1393 813"> <thead> <tr> <th>Cheque No.</th> <th>Amount</th> <th>Payee</th> <th>Reason for Payment</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>101457</td> <td>£1,098.87</td> <td>Mr J McKechnie</td> <td>Salary, Back Pay & Expenses (Jan 15)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>101458</td> <td>£420.55</td> <td>HM Revenue & Customs</td> <td>PAYE & NI (Jan 15)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>101459</td> <td>£35.58</td> <td>Talk Talk Business</td> <td>Telephone Line Rental / Broadband + calls (Jan15)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>101460</td> <td>£33.60</td> <td>NCC Library</td> <td>Room Hire Town Council Meeting (Jan 15)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>101461</td> <td>£7,815.36</td> <td>Derek Latham & Company Limited</td> <td>Neighbourhood Plan – Technical & Evidence Report</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>12.2 Receipts:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="296 882 1442 958"> <thead> <tr> <th>Paid into Barclays</th> <th>Amount</th> <th>Received from</th> <th>Reason for Receipt</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>08/12/14</td> <td>£2.38</td> <td>Barclays Bank</td> <td>Interest</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>12.3 Monthly Bank Reconciliation: Noted</p> <p>12.4 Quarter 32 Financial Analysis: Noted</p> <p>12.5 Asset Register: Reviewed in line with the updated insurance values from the insurance renewal and Approved (proposed by Cllr Matthews and seconded by Cllr Pearce – Agreed).</p>	Cheque No.	Amount	Payee	Reason for Payment	101457	£1,098.87	Mr J McKechnie	Salary, Back Pay & Expenses (Jan 15)	101458	£420.55	HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE & NI (Jan 15)	101459	£35.58	Talk Talk Business	Telephone Line Rental / Broadband + calls (Jan15)	101460	£33.60	NCC Library	Room Hire Town Council Meeting (Jan 15)	101461	£7,815.36	Derek Latham & Company Limited	Neighbourhood Plan – Technical & Evidence Report	Paid into Barclays	Amount	Received from	Reason for Receipt	08/12/14	£2.38	Barclays Bank	Interest
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<p>13 13.1 13.2</p>	<p>The following applications have been received and comments made under delegated procedures or to be made at the meeting:</p> <p>KET/2014/0830 - Miss S Arm - 91 Federation Avenue, Desborough - s.73A Retrospective Application: Detached garage and boundary fence with inward opening access gates. No objection – in principle but it is not clear what the original layout was, despite the assurances that vehicle and pedestrian access not compromised (from original) with this development.</p> <p>KET/20114/0854 – Mr & Mrs Tahim – 27 Ise Vale Avenue, Desborough – Full Application: Demolition of side extension. 1 no. detached dwelling. No objection subject to – The visual appearance of the street scene will be significantly changed, no garaging for cars appears included in either building. Provision for waste storage and collection must be included. Neighbours must be in agreement with proposal. Plans have wrong road name.</p> <p>KET/2014/0873 – Mr Aran Mulberry Property Development Ltd – Wildacre, Furlong Road, Desborough – Full Application: Demolition of garage and utility area and construction of two storey side extension. No objection with comments – As it does not affect neighbours in Chestnut Drive and will not interfere with the five new houses being constructed in the original garden.</p> <p>Re-notification This is a re-notification, as you should have been notified that it is accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment.</p>																																

<p>13.3</p>	<p>KET/2014/0688 – Persimmon Homes – Harrington Road (land off), Desborough – Approval of Reserved Matters: Access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale in respect of KET/2012/0780, residential development of up to 75 dwellings with associated open space, landscaping, highways and utility infrastructure. No objection subject to: More clarity from Northamptonshire County Council Highways about any concerns regarding big increase of traffic along Harrington Road as a result of the development. Visual appearances of 1B 2P Apartments still looks bland and uninspiring. Please with local play provision and wild meadow planting - maintenance plan essential. Please ensure room sizes etc. comply with Core Spacial Strategy requirements of approved draft Dec18/14. Great concern regarding traffic flow with regards to Loatland School for instance.</p> <p><u>Notices of Approval received:</u> KBC has approved permission for the following applications:</p> <p>KET/2014/0735 – Mr Canham – 100 Harborough Road, Desborough – Fulll Application: Loft conversion, first floor rear extension and porch to front.</p> <p>KET/2014/0678 – Mr Miller – 22 Ise View Road, Desborough – Full Application: Demolition of garage and lean-to, Dwelling and garage.</p>
<p>13.4</p>	<p><u>Notices of Refusal received:</u> KBC has refused permission for the following applications: KET/2014/0697 – Mr Bugg – Mansfield Close (land at), Desborough – Full Application: Conversion of shop unit to 2 no. dwellings. The proposal would result in the creation of two cramped units with no access to outdoor amenity space and insufficient bin storage provision. The resultant properties would suffer from single aspect living with only North-East facing windows, allowing very little light through the only windows to habitable rooms, to the detriment of future occupant’s amenity. On the basis the proposal would be single aspect and would not create an acceptable living arrangement for future occupants it is considered contrary to Policy 13(l) of the North Northamptonshire Core Spatial Strategy and Paragraph 17 of the NPPF.</p>
<p>14</p>	<p>Date of next meeting and items for the agenda: Thursday 19th February 2015 commencing at 7pm, Desborough Library, High Street, Desborough.</p>
<p>THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8:46 PM</p>	