

**Minutes of the meeting of Desborough Town Council
held in the library on Thursday 15 July 2021**

(meeting streamed live on Zoom on which members of the public could contribute)

Councillors present: L Burnham, A Coleman, D Cornwall, J French, J Gardiner, T Healy, D Larmour, B Murphy-Ryan, P Sawford, and, A Window
Councillors not present: S Roberts, and H Wood
Also present: G Thomson (Town Clerk), and five members of the community (by Zoom).

38./21 CHAIR'S WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair welcomed those present in person and viewing online to the meeting and outlined the Covid precautions and requirements. He explained that as the meeting was being broadcast on Zoom, all and any participants may be heard, seen, or recorded.

The Chair commended the achievements of the football teams from England, Scotland, and Wales in the recently held Euro 2020 competition. He said however that like many others he had been disgusted by the racist abuse aimed at certain players. Councillors joined the Chair in condemning the views which they said had no pace in society in general and Desborough in particular.

39./21 TO CONSIDER AND IF SO RESOLVED TO APPROVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Town Clerk reported that apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Roberts and Wood.

**RESOLVED that:-
the information be noted.**

40./21 TO NOTE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM COUNCILLORS

Extracted from the report of the Town Clerk:-

Any Councillor who has an interest in any item to be discussed at the meeting should declare that interest in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

Councillor Murphy-Ryan declared an interest in item 56./21 "To consider recommendations on community grant applications received" insofar as it related to 56.1/21 "Desborough & District Twinning Association (incorporating European Charter)".

Councillor Burnham declared an interest in item 57.1/21 "To receive and note the Planning and Licensing Report" insofar as it related to application [NK/2021/0511](#) - 69 Union Street, Desborough.

**RESOLVED that:-
the information be noted.**

41./21 TO CONSIDER ANY REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

Extracted from the report of the Town Clerk:-

To consider any requests for dispensation for Councillors with an interest to be allowed to speak in accordance with the Localism Act 2011.

The Town Clerk reported that no requests had been received.

**RESOLVED that:-
the information be noted.**

42./21 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17 JUNE 2021

Extracted from the report of the Town Clerk:-

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 June 2021 have been circulated.

**RESOLVED that:-
the minutes be confirmed and signed by the Chair.**

43./21 TO HEAR REPRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Extracted from the report of the Town Clerk:-

Note: no decisions can be made in response to matters raised under this item.

The Town Clerk reported that no requests to make representations had been received.

**RESOLVED that:-
the information be noted.**

Initialled by Chair: _____

44./21 TO CONSIDER IDEAS FOR THE COUNCIL'S ENGAGEMENT WITH YOUNG PEOPLE
Councillor Murphy-Ryan reported that insufficient progress had been made on this item and requested that consideration be deferred until the September meeting.

RESOLVED that:-
consideration of the matter be deferred.

45./21 TO DISCUSS SOCIAL MEDIA

It was noted that the Council had no social media presence and it was suggested that it might be beneficial in communicating Council information to the local community. It was suggested that a broadcast only FaceBook channel could be used with comments disabled and linked to posts on the Council's website. It was further suggested that in future a channel or hub might be formed to allow local groups and organisations to share publicity and information under close moderation. It was noted that any posts would have to comply with Local Government publicity rules. Councillors Burnham, Coleman, Cornwall, Murphy-Ryan, and Window volunteered to be involved in the process.

It was also noted that the Coronavirus regulations no longer required meetings to be held virtually but that broadcasting meetings online had provided greater opportunities for community engagement. It was also noted that the current arrangements for broadcasting meetings would not suffice in the longer term. The Town Clerk reported that the estimated cost of adequate camera, microphone, and ancillary equipment would be in the order of £750 (excluding VAT) which could be accommodated from the Office Equipment budget. It was stated that the cost of broadcasting North Northamptonshire Council meetings had been reported as £14,000 per meeting.

RESOLVED that:-

- i) **the Social Media Policy be amended to provide for a FaceBook presence broadcasting Council posts only;**
- ii) **arrangements be made to create a FaceBook presence broadcasting Council posts only; and,**
- iii) **the Town Clerk be authorised to purchase a camera, microphone, and ancillary equipment to improve the broadcasting of meetings up to a cost of £750 excluding VAT.**

46./21 TO CONSIDER YOUTH SERVICES / YOUTH PROVISION IN DESBOROUGH

Councillor Coleman reported that insufficient progress had been made on this item and requested that consideration be deferred until the September meeting.

RESOLVED that:-
consideration of the matter be deferred.

47./21 TO NOTE THE INSPECTOR'S REPORT INTO THE KETTERING SITE SPECIFIC PART 2 LOCAL PLAN

Extracted from the report of the Town Clerk:-

The Council has been informed that the Inspector's Report into the Kettering Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan has been issued. The Inspector's Report and the recommended Main Modifications to make the Plan 'sound' can be viewed below (links to external websites):

- [Inspector's Report](#)
- [Appendix 1 – Schedule of Main Modifications](#)
- [Appendix 2 – Extracts from EXAM17](#)
- [Appendix 3 – Extracts from EXAM19](#)
- [Appendix 4 – Extracts from EXAM 19 and 19b](#)

The Council is REQUESTED to note the information.

The Town Clerk reported that he had been informed that no change was possible in the Plan. It was stated that the document contained internal contradictions and anomalies and it was noted that much of the document had been overtaken and superseded. It was stated that the Inspector had been critical of the Council for overlooking matters demonstrably special to the local community. Unitary Councillor Howes expressed concerns about the document and undertook to work with the Town Council to establish which parts of the Plan were able to be

changed.

RESOLVED that:-

information on what can be changed be awaited.

48.A/21

TO NOTE REPORTS ON ACTIVITY FROM NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCILLORS, LOCAL GROUPS, AND VOLUNTEERS

Extracted from the report of the Town Clerk:-

Any reports received will be circulated to Councillors.

a) North Northamptonshire Councillors

Unitary Councillor Howes reported on recent activity including a meeting with Bellway Homes about the proposed development in which Unitary Councillors had stressed the community opposition to it. It was noted that the developers were seeking meetings with the Council and community. A member of the Protect the Ise Valley expressed concern at any meetings with the developer. Questions were asked as to the current ownership of the land in question and Unitary Councillor Howes stated that he thought the land had been sold to the developer but undertook to try to find out the situation.

In response to a question about the access to Grange 2, Unitary Councillor Howes stated that Unitary Councillors were trying to establish the exact course of events and what can be done to restrict the access from Rowan Close to be pedestrian only.

b) Desborough In Bloom (DiB)

A request was made to members of the community to water tubs during the hot weather, and it was reported that the Harborough Road roundabout at the entrance to the Grange was being adopted by DiB and would be set to attract wildlife.

c) Rothwell North

It was reported that construction at the development was ahead of schedule.

RESOLVED that:-

the information contained in the reports be noted.

48.B/21

TO RECEIVE AN ANY UPDATE ON NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL'S PROPOSALS AND CONSULTATION IN RELATION TO THE LAWRENCE FACTORY SITE

Extracted from the report of the Town Clerk:-

An oral report will be given.

The Town Clerk reported that the NNC had delayed a decision on the consultation pending any changes to the Covid-19 restrictions. It was noted that there was a discrepancy between the NNC and Town Councillors about the interest in the site from supermarkets.

Following a full discussion during which it was suggested that it would be better for the site to remain undeveloped for a further short period to ensure every opportunity for a mixed or retail use is explored.

RESOLVED that:-

the NNC be requested to clarify the situation with regard to alternative uses.

49./21

TO RECEIVE AN ANY UPDATE ON THE PROPOSED SALE OF 47 STATION ROAD AND THE OLD FIRE STATION

Extracted from the report of the Town Clerk:-

An oral report will be given.

It was reported that the exact cartilage of the sale area had not yet been established.

RESOLVED that:-

the area of land for sale be established.

50./21

TO RECEIVE AN ANY UPDATE ON THE BRAYBROOKE ROAD PLAY AREA

Extracted from the report of the Town Clerk:-

The construction work has been completed.

The Town Clerk reported that the works were complete and that a sign was to be erected.

RESOLVED that:-

arrangements be made for an official opening to include former Councillor Watson.

- 51./21 TO RECEIVE AN ANY UPDATE ON THE CCTV INSTALLATION AND UPGRADE**
 Extracted from the report of the Town Clerk:-
The purchase orders have been issued as have the works orders. Works on site should commence in the week commencing 19 July 2021 and the expectation is for completion within a month.
 The Town Clerk reported that NNC was chasing BT to alter the link to allow the switch over to happen and that contractors should be on site within weeks of the action by BT.
RESOLVED that:-
the information be noted.
- 52./21 TO RECEIVE AN ANY UPDATE ON TRAFFIC MOVEMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE ROTHWELL NORTH HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AND ALLIED ISSUES**
 Extracted from the report of the Town Clerk:-
The most recent information received relating to violations of the approved route for the site are on the Council's website.
RESOLVED that:-
the information be noted.
- 53./21 TO RECEIVE AN ANY UPDATE ON THE TRAFFIC SPEEDS IN DESBOROUGH (DATA FROM THE TVAS SPEED SIGNS)**
 Extracted from the report of the Town Clerk:-
Data from the speed indicator signs has been posted on the Council's website.
 The Town Clerk reported that average speeds past the signs remained in the low 30s, but almost 80% of vehicles heading towards Rothwell were diving above the speed limit. He added that one device had been moved to Pipewell Road and showed that although overall average speeds were just over 30mph, over 60% of drivers going either way were exceeding the 30mph limit.
RESOLVED that:-
the information be noted.
- 54./21 PROPOSED ONE-WAY SYSTEM AND PARKING RESTRICTIONS GLADSTONE STREET / NICHOLS STREET**
 Extracted from the report of the Town Clerk:-
An oral report will be given and the Council may be asked to approve a payment towards the total estimated cost of £85,052.18 to allow the initial phase of consultation to commence.
 The Town Clerk reported that an invoice had been received for £85,052.18 (which is the total estimated cost of the work). However, the engineers had still not clarified how the visibility splay on Harborough Road would be protected from parking of vehicles, and until that issue was clarified it could not be confirmed that the scheme proposed met the requirements set by the Council. He added that it was not clear if the invoice amount included the cost of the legal consultation.
 The Town Clerk stated that once the scheme was as the Council specified, the next process would be for Northamptonshire Highways to formally advertise and process the legal orders required for the one way system and for the revisions to the parking restrictions in the area. This process, he said, generally takes between 3 – 4 months to complete and on the successful completion of the legal orders, the works would be programmed and contractors appointed. He confirmed that once the scheme was as the Council intended, the Town Council could pay for the consultation element, with a guarantee to Northamptonshire Highways that subject to the outcome of the public consultation, the Town Council would pay the remaining balance of the works as set out.
RESOLVED that:-
the Town Clerk be authorised to secure an appropriate resolution to the protection of the visibility splay and pay any invoice relating to the preparatory and consultative legal works as set out.

55./21 TO CONSIDER THE APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES AND TO APPOINT TO COMMITTEES, ADVISORY PANELS, AND AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

Extracted from the report of the Town Clerk:-

The Council has been informed of the resignation of Mr Hill from the posts of Volunteer CCTV Warden and Volunteer Road Safety Warden. The Council previously agreed to keep the posts under review. The Council is REQUESTED to consider the matter.

RESOLVED that:-

- i) the resignation be noted;**
- ii) the need for the posts be reviewed in future; and,**
- iii) the Council's thanks be passed on to Mr Hill.**

56./21 TO CONSIDER RECOMMENDATIONS ON COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

Extracted from the report of the Town Clerk:-

The Community Grants Advisory Panel met on 14 July 2021 and elected Cllr Alan Window as Chair. The Panel received information in relation to the undermentioned applications which would be funded from the Council's budget of £15,000 and in accordance with S137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

56.1./21 DESBOROUGH & DISTRICT TWINNING ASSOCIATION (INCORPORATING EUROPEAN CHARTER)

Councillor Murphy-Ryan, having declared an interest in this application, left the meeting and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

Extracted from the report of the Town Clerk:-

The request was for £350 out of a total of £350 for a contribution towards the membership subscription to the international organisation. In-person fundraising activities have been curtailed during the pandemic. The national organisation's costs have not reduced and the onus is on groups to fund the subscriptions.

Without a grant from the Council, or with a smaller grant, the remaining funds will be raised from existing balances, which would reduce the funds available for activities when they are able to restart. Exchange visits cost in the region of £3,000 per year.

Under normal circumstances the Council would not fund expenditure which has already been made (the fee was due by 01 May 2021) but the delay caused by the election and the Council deferring the formation of the Panel means that it is reasonable for the Council to consider the application.

*The Advisory Panel **RECOMMENDED** that the Council awards a grant of £350.*

RESOLVED that:-

the recommendation be accepted.

Councillor Murphy-Ryan returned to the meeting at this point.

56.2./21 NORTH NORTHANTS FIRST RESPONDERS

Extracted from the report of the Town Clerk:-

This charity is a group of qualified volunteers trained to a high standard by East Midlands Ambulance Service to provide an emergency response to 999 / 111 calls in our community. In 2020, the local responder spent over 663 hours on call and attended 110 patients.

The request was for £995 out of a total of £995 for a contribution towards the cost of an AED (defibrillator) for the only Desborough based first responder. If another responder is recruited it would be shared between them. The current unit is no longer supported by the ambulance service and the battery is in urgent need of replacement.

Without a grant from the Council, or with a smaller grant, the defibrillator would not be bought, although fundraising may make this possible in future.

*The Advisory Panel **RECOMMENDED** that the Council awards a grant of £995.*

RESOLVED that:-

the recommendation be accepted.

**57./21 PLANNING AND LICENSING ISSUES
57.1./21 TO RECEIVE AND NOTE THE PLANNING AND LICENSING REPORT**

Extracted from the report of the Town Clerk:-

The Council is REQUESTED to consider making comment on any planning or licensing matter set out in the report attached at Appendix B.

57.1.1./21 [NK/2021/0511](#) - 69 UNION STREET, DESBOROUGH

Councillor Burnham, having declared an interest in this application, left the meeting and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

Councillors considered that the access was not adequate.

Councillor Burnham returned to the meeting at this point.

57.1.2./21 [NK/2021/0514](#) - 44 RUSHTON ROAD (LAND TO REAR), DESBOROUGH

A view was expressed that the proposal would result in an overdevelopment of the site.

57.1.3./21 [NK/2021/0532](#) - 5 SWIFT CLOSE, DESBOROUGH

The view was held that the land in question was public amenity land and should remain so and enclosing the land would not remove the antisocial behaviour complained of in relation to access to the land.

57.1.4./21 [NK/2021/0538](#) - 69 BROADLANDS, DESBOROUGH

Concern was expressed that if consent was granted then further young people might be introduced with concomitant numbers of staff, and that parking provision was insufficient.

RESOLVED that:-

- i) **the comments set out be submitted; and,**
- ii) **the information contained in the report be otherwise noted..**

58./21 FINANCE MATTERS**58.1./21 TO APPROVE THE FINANCE REPORT**

Extracted from the report of the Town Clerk:-

The Council is RECOMMENDED to approve the report (Appendix B).

RESOLVED that:-

the report be approved.

58.2./21 TO CONSIDER AND IF SO RESOLVED TO APPROVE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Extracted from the report of the Town Clerk:-

The report set out at Appendix C details those invoices and payments for payment, those authorised in accordance with the scheme of delegation, and those where payment is by continuous authority. Details in the report may be updated before the meeting as information is received. The Council is RECOMMENDED to approve payments.

RESOLVED that:-

the payments listed in the report be approved.

58.3./21 TO RECEIVE AND NOTE THE INTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT

Extracted from the report of the Town Clerk:-

The Council is RECOMMENDED to receive and consider any response to the report (circulated separately).

RESOLVED that:-

the information contained in the report be noted.

The meeting closed at 21:17

Signed: _____
Chair of meeting

Date: _____

Appendix A

Desborough Town Council
15 July 2021

Planning and Licensing Matters

Click the underlined text to go to details of the application on the Planning Portal of North Northamptonshire Council (link is outside the Town Council's control).

Planning Applications

[NK/2021/0517](#) - 31 Copelands Road, Desborough
Replacement garage

[NK/2021/0448](#) - 66 Station Road, Desborough
Extension to workshop

[NK/2021/0511](#) - 69 Union Street, Desborough
Erection of garage and workshop in the rear garden

[NK/2021/0514](#) - 44 Rushton Road (land to rear), Desborough
Erection of three detached dwellings

[NK/2021/0532](#) - 5 Swift Close, Desborough
Variation of condition 2 of in respect of permitted development rights of application [KET/2018/0217](#)
(Change of use from amenity land to garden land and erection of boundary treatment),

[NK/2021/0538](#) - 69 Broadlands, Desborough
Change of use to residential children's home for one young person

[NK/2021/0539](#) - 92 Federation Avenue, Desborough
Single storey front and rear extensions with demolition of garage. Conversion of habitable room to single garage with creation of vehicular access.

[NK/2021/0547](#) - 124 Ironwood Avenue, Desborough
Insertion of window overlooking drive and public land

Appendix B

Desborough Town Council
15 July 2021

Finance Report
Monthly Bank Reconciliation (30/06/2021)

Unity Trust Bank Current	£20,148.34
Unity Trust Bank Saver	£100.00
Barclays Current	£1.00
Barclays Business Saver	£9.45
CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund	£275,491.74
Reconciled Balance	£295,750.53

The dividend from the CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund is reinvested each month into the fund. In June the dividend reinvested was £5.93.

Desborough Town Council
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Accounts for payment

Items may be added or adjusted as information is received.

+ Paid in accordance with delegated or continuous authority

	Power	Supplier	Description	Reason	VAT	Total Amount
+	1	Desborough Library and Community Hub	Town Council Office	Office Rent	£0.00	£666.67
+	2	Talk Talk Business	Town Council Office	Internet and telephone	£5.79	£34.74
	2	Do the Numbers Ltd.	Democratic Services	Internal Audit	£0.00	£500.00
+	2	Mr G Thomson	Town Council Office	Refund of expenses (telephone)	£1.67	£10.00
+	2	Mr G Thomson	Administration	Refund of expenses: parking, mileage, bin (C-19)	£7.59	£45.52
+	3	Autela Payroll Services	Salaries & all Employment Costs	Payroll	£8.40	£50.40
+	3	LGSS Pensions, and Mr G Thomson	Salaries & all Employment Costs	Pension and salary payments (July)	£0.00	£2,971.73
	4	Desborough & District Twinning Association (inc European Charter)	Community Grants	Community Grants	£0.00	£350.00
	4	North Northants First Responders	Community Grants	Community Grants	£0.00	£995.00

Powers

1. Local Government Act 1972, s. 133
2. Local Government Act 1972, s. 111
3. Local Government Act 1972, s. 112
4. Local Government Act 1972, s. 137