

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
DESBOROUGH SWIMMING POOL FUND  
HELD AT THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL, DESBOROUGH  
ON THURSDAY 23RD NOVEMBER 2017 AT 7PM**

**Committee members:** Chairman Mr Barrie Allen, Mrs Celia Coe, Mrs Marianne Frost, Mrs Barbara Walker and Mrs Mary Evans.

**Apologies:** Mr John Jobson, Mr Steve Smith.

**Members of the public present:** Mrs Helen Franklin, Mrs Pauline Panter, Mrs Joanne Watson, Mr David Coe and Mr Richard Phillips who joined the meeting at 7.20pm.

**Clerk:** Mrs Helen Rogers

**Chairman's report:**

Mr Allen outlined the purpose of the meeting giving a brief history of how and why the Swimming Pool Fund came to be set up in 1979, the reason why it was never used and the account subsequently frozen. He clarified that the total of £22,342.51 was without any additional funding from the Maud Elkington Trust and was not being held in a charitable trust. The chairman confirmed that the money would only be distributed within the Desborough community as it was raised by the people of Desborough. Thanks were given to Mr Bowder of the Maud Elkington Trust and the guidance given by their solicitors Martineu Shakespeare. Mr David F Coe was also thanked for his unwavering support along with all committee members past and present for their hard work. Recognition was also given to the people of Desborough for their generosity and patience over many years.

**Presentation of the committee's proposed use of the swimming pool fund delivered by Mrs Marianne Frost.**

Thanks were given to the committee members for their continued support and the generosity of local fundraisers in the past was acknowledged. Mrs Frost outlined the history of Desborough Town Council's attempt to secure the completion of The Hawthorns Leisure Centre with a swimming pool. She mentioned the efforts of the Desborough community to persuade Kettering Borough Council who took over the funds held by the town council to provide the facilities. Information was then provided regarding subsequent fundraising, the eventual closure of The Hawthorns Leisure Centre without the swimming pool ever being constructed therefore leaving the Swimming Pool Fund redundant.

Mrs Frost then displayed for the members of the public present a list of potential beneficiaries, each with an approximate share of the fund value which had been discussed at a previous meeting of the committee.

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|---|---------------|---------------|
| <b>Desborough Library (friends of)</b>        | <b>Approx</b> | <b>£4,000</b> |
| <b>Havelock Schools</b>                       | <b>Approx</b> | <b>£4,000</b> |
| <b>Loatlands Schools</b>                      | <b>Approx</b> | <b>£4,000</b> |
| <b>Marlow House (mini bus)</b>                | <b>Approx</b> | <b>£2,000</b> |
| <b>St Giles Church (clock and bells fund)</b> | <b>Approx</b> | <b>£2,000</b> |
| <b>Desborough Cricket Club (youth)</b>        | <b>Approx</b> | <b>£2,000</b> |
| <b>Desborough Football Club (youth)</b>       | <b>Approx</b> | <b>£2,000</b> |

Reference was made to the current uncertainty of the future of Desborough Library and funds potentially allocated to it. It was proposed by the committee and agreed by the members of the public present that no money should be distributed until a final decision was made in December 2017.

Further discussion highlighted the importance of ensuring the effective use of any donated money and keeping it within the Desborough community.

Mr Phillips joined the meeting at 7.20pm and voiced his concern that the committee should have written legal authority to confirm that any distribution of monies held would not be scrutinised or disputed at a later date.

The Chairman confirmed that the committee had sought legal advice and followed the procedure of advertising and holding a public meeting therefore giving the people of Desborough the opportunity to come and view the proposals and make any further suggestions on the distributions of the funds available.

The concern expressed by Mr Phillips was noted by the committee and It was agreed that they would seek further legal advice to clarify their position before any distribution of monies. The chairman confirmed that the only expenditure made so far by the committee from the fund total was the hire of the hall for the public meeting. Further discussion took place regarding the allocation of funds to ensure they are used for their intended purpose.

Mr Coe mentioned that the cricket club would welcome investment in new equipment for young players.

Mr Phillips suggested that maybe some money could be made available to the Desborough Youth Club. As expressed earlier in the meeting, all those present were keen that money donated should go to specific projects and not filtered into other things. Mr Phillips offered to enquire if there was anything in particular that they needed and report back to the committee.

Mrs Watson mentioned that both Havelock and Loatland Schools were currently fundraising for areas that would benefit children in need of extra well being and life skills support. She offered to contact the head teachers of both schools so that they could clarify with the committee how any monies donated would be used.

Mr Coe confirmed that he agreed with the committee's proposals before he left the meeting at 7.55pm.

All members of the public remaining expressed their gratitude to the committee members and fully supported the proposals brought before the meeting. A member of the public requested that a representative of the swimming pool fund committee attend the meeting of Desborough Town Council on the 21st December 2017. This would officially confirm that a public meeting had been held and the proposed donations agreed subject to confirmation on the fate of the library and any request for equipment from the Desborough Youth Club. It was agreed that a member of the committee would attend.

Closing the meeting the Chairman confirmed that they would further investigate their legal position and a representative of the committee would attend the Desborough Town Council meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

### **Postscript to the meeting.**

The chairman Mr Allen received a phone call the following evening from Mr Phillips to apologise for the misinformation regarding legal advice he gave at the Pool Fund meeting.