

KING'S CLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 12th December in the Parlour of King's Cliffe Memorial Hall

02/110 Present: Cllrs. W. Court, D. Sharpe, B. Howard, T. Hill, S. Gibson, A. Howard, J. Dixon, I. Hetherington

Apologies: Cllrs L. Crane, M. Day, N. Ford

02/111 By previous arrangement, Mr. Graham Larkins, Consultant, Sursham, Tompkins & Partners and Mr. Neil Waite representing the builder, spoke about the revised planning application for the former Boulds garage site in Bridge Street and answered questions from Councillors. (Application: EN/02/0172/FUL/PRG).

02/112 Declaration of Interest: Cllr. B. Howard declared a non-prejudicial interest in the item regarding an additional war memorial plaque in the Church, being a member of the Royal British Legion.

02/113 Minutes: The minutes of the Meeting on 14th November 2002 were accepted and signed.

Proposed: Cllr. S.Gibson Seconded: Cllr. J.Dixon

02/114 Matters arising:

The Chairman will investigate why some parishioners are still not receiving the Nene Valley News.

The report on the Slipe Clay Pit meeting was discussed. Cllr. Gibson will visit the site again regarding mud on the roads and the road widening idea will be further investigated.

02/115 Accounts

Curators Salary (December 2002)	£ 73.80
Clerks Salary (December 2002)	£ 166.66
Clerks Expenses (Oct-Nov)	£ 43.33
W.R.Court (November expenses)	£ 6.42
R. Hakes (Grovenor Tree Surgery)	£ 375.00
Citizens Advice Bureau donation	£ 200.00
Resource Centre (NACRE) – photocopying	£ 15.00
Smith-Hetherington (grass cutting – November)	£ 150.00

Proposed : Cllr. I. Hetherington

Seconded : Cllr. J. Dixon

It was agreed that the Clerk should get a quotation for grinding the stumps of the trees that had been cut down in the Stamford Road plantation.

02/116 New Bank Mandate

The remaining signatures were obtained.

02/117 Planning

Four 2 storey dwellings 15 Bridge Street EN/02/0172/FUL/PRG

The plans were discussed at length; it was decided this was a more sympathetic proposal than the original plan for two large houses. With the exception of some minor details of design there were no objections to this project.

Four detached dwelling houses Wood Yard, Wood Lane EN/02/01058/OUT/PDM

The Council unanimously decided the proposals breached a number of Policies set out in the District Local Plan and any Approval would establish a dangerous precedent. The building of a number of houses in a remote area without sound road access and comprehensive services would give rise to a number of difficulties. The Council recommended Refusal.

Two storey extension and pitched roof 4 Kings Forest EN/02/01003/FUL/PRG

An extension of this size and height and in this position would be detrimental to the amenity of the neighbour and the handling of the area between the wall and party fence is not defined. Refusal of this extension is recommended. There is no objection in principle to adding a pitched roof over the side extension provided that the pitch can be accommodated.

LBC: 9 West Street EN/02/00893/LBC: Consent has been issued and this was noted

LBC: 26 West Street EN/02/00953/LBC: Consent has been issued and this was noted

Withdrawn: Picket fence to 48-50 West Street EN/02/00870/FUL: Noted

Cllr. A. Howard joined the meeting.

Removal of gates and erection of new gates 2 Park Street EN02/0180/LBC/PMAP

Replacement gates and post 2 Park Street EN/02/01079/FUL/PMAP

These items were discussed together: no objections.

02/118 Standing Orders: postponed for the January meeting.

02/119 Precept: Cllr. A. Howard and the Clerk will prepare the necessary information in good time for the January meeting so that it can be circulated beforehand. All Councillors, especially sub-committee Chairmen should give the Clerk details of suggested expenditure for 2003-04.

02/120 Freedom of Information Act: The Chairman has written to the Information Commissioner questioning the definition of "publish" and asking for confirmation that the procedures set out by ENC are acceptable to the Commissioner. He has also informed the Commissioner that the agreement form cannot be signed by 31/12/02, as the Parish Council has reached no decision.

02/121 Flood Precautions: The Chairman had had some correspondence with the Environment Agency who is responsible for warnings about floods. They confirmed that the names given before for the automatic telephone flood warning system are still on their list. It was considered that it was probably unnecessary to keep so many names on the list. Two Councillors volunteered to look after elderly residents “at risk” and another will deal with the Memorial Hall. Names should be given to the Clerk for onwards transmission.

We require warning of high water on Willowbrook only (from the Weldon trigger) and not for high water on the Nene. What is not explained is why there was no warning was triggered on 27 October when water nearly reached the threshold of the Memorial Hall door. Various suggestions were made and these must be examined further. An entry will be published in the Gazette regarding these matters.

02/122 Sub-Committees etc

Village Design Group: The next meeting will be early in January. ENC have sent copies of a Village Boundaries plan and other matters are now ready for discussion.

War Memorial Plaque: The Chairman had asked for more information to be provided in time for this meeting but none had been provided. Further enquiries will be made from the RBL, and also from the ENC regarding available grants. Details regarding names given by the RBL will be asked for. There are still Golden Jubilee grants available for some projects and these will be investigated.

Amenities:

Pocket Park, Maltings Green: Cllrs. Gibson and Sharpe had a meeting with Sue Paice and various alterations to the grass cutting and maintenance regime of the Pocket Park were proposed, although it was pointed out that the wild rhubarb, which formerly swamped the area, must be controlled. Cllr. Gibson will sow wild flowers in the springtime to enhance this area. The drainage ditch which takes water from Eagle Lane and Church Walk needs some clearing to enable the free flow of water especially as a ‘hump’ is to be built opposite Eagle Lane to divert water from Church Walk thus assisting in avoiding flooding of the Resource Centre and lower Village Hall. Part of the project should be to check the ‘hard paths’ along the riverbank and beside Randalls Yard, remove any debris spoiling these paths and repair as necessary.

Allotments: Currently there is only one vacant allotment. Cllr. Gibson asked for a skip to be provided for 2 or 3 weeks over the Christmas period to allow the rubbish, old fencing etc., to be disposed of. Prices will be obtained from local firms, but this item was agreed in principle.

The Hills & Holes Pit ‘den’ has been cleared and ENC will be asked to collect the old garage doors. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Gibson for working on this.

Community Safety:

Policing: Cllr. Howard reported that there has been a particularly bad outbreak of vandalism in the village, especially around the Cross, where glass in the telephone box was recently

destroyed. There had been a number of incidents in different places over several weeks. The problem of policing had been made more difficult because our community policeman had been on sick leave. The Chairman had drafted a letter to the MP expressing concern at the recent lack of regular policing in the area. Attention is also drawn to the next meeting of the Community Safety Partnership, which will be in the Resource Centre on 22nd January at 7.30pm and is open to the public for them to ask questions and express their views.

The danger posed by skateboarding on the streets after dark was discussed.

Street Lighting: Cllr. B. Howard is to obtain prices for additional and/or replacement lights.

Burial Board: A meeting will be called early in the New Year to discuss the following:

Churchyard: There is some prospect of getting remedial work done on broken and leaning gravestones through joint action with the PCC. A Faculty is required.

Cemetery: Progress has been made in listed similar work at the Cemetery, but considerable administrative work has to be done first. Work required to trees, paths, seats and spoil heap.

New Cemetery: Capping of the well now has to take place next year. Cllr Dixon is getting an invoice for the manhole cover.

Proposed Skateboard Park: Cllr. Sharpe reported that all tenants of units at Kingsmead have received letters regarding this. Only one reply with an objection has been received. It was hoped to make the Planning Application soon. She is requesting that an amount toward this project should be included in the Precept for the next year.

Cllr. Hetherington left the meeting

02/123 Other Correspondence

Collection of large items of refuse: ENC has decided to introduce charges for the collection of large items of rubbish. Hitherto the collection has been free. The charges will bring us into line with other part of Northamptonshire. This authority can collect a maximum of 7 items of household furniture. For the collection of up to three items of furniture there is a standard charge of £12.00 (which still applies even if the resident only has one item for collection). Any additional items of furniture, up to the maximum of 7, incur an additional fee of either £3.90 (for small items) or £6.25 (for large items). A list of charges for specific items will be displayed on the village notice board.

Alternatively, residents can take domestic metal goods (i.e. fridges, freezers, etc) to the Recycling Centre, Oundle (Herne Park off East Road), weekdays open 8.00 am to 6.00 pm and at weekends open 9.00 am to 4.00 pm.

Councillors unanimously agreed this would lead to large-scale fly tipping, which will undoubtedly prove more expensive to ENC in the long run. Letters will be written to ENC objecting to these charges. Some years ago District Councillors abandoned a similar scheme for this reason.

Local Strategic Partnership: A letter has been received from ENC inviting attendance to discussion sessions. Cllr. Gibson hopes to be able to attend, representing the Parish Council.

Slip Pit: The Clerk has e-mailed many complaints regarding mud on the road to NCC; their response is to ask for photographs, dated and sent to Richard Boyt at NCC. Alternatively, if the mud is dangerous, report the matter to the police as a matter of urgency.

NCVO: The Volunteer Group is promoting their transport scheme in the Rushden area. The subject of local transport schemes was discussed, including use of the Church Minibus.

02/124 Any Other Business

Highway repairs: Cllr. B. Howard again raised the subject of road repairs, but the Chairman re-iterated the apparent fact that Northamptonshire Highways (W S Atkins) has no funds for any work other than urgent safety matters. It is therefore a political matter for County Councillors. The implications will be explained in the Gazette. However letters about the problems will be still written to the authorities and to the District and County Councillors as appropriate.

Trees: Cllr. Sharpe raised a question regarding bushes and trees overhanging the Kings Cliffe/Wansford road, which is the responsibility of the NCC for maintenance. It is agreed that these are a danger. The problem has been raised with NCC but no action has been taken.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.05.pm.

Signed..... Date.....

The next meeting will be held at 7.30.pm. in the Memorial Hall Parlour on 9th January 2003