

## KING'S CLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2003 in The Parlour, King's Cliffe Memorial Hall.

Before the meeting, Chairman Michael Day welcomed Mrs. Karen Horner, Planning Policy Team Leader from East Northamptonshire Council. Mrs. Horner had agreed to explain the draft "Slow Down Growth" policy to be adopted by the District Council. All Councillors apart from K. Howard, who gave his apologies, were present.

Mrs. Horner stated that since 1996, the district had allowed building projects well in excess of the given targets, and it was necessary to limit the amount of house building in the East Northamptonshire District as a whole. New Government strategy insists new plans must be made to limited development; in-fill and brownfield sites will be acceptable. It is hoped the exception to this will be villages which serve as 'Service Centres' i.e. villages which still have shops, schools, surgeries etc., used by surrounding villages with no facilities of their own; this should improve the prospect of the KC1 site becoming a viable proposition. However, Mrs. Horner cautioned the PC that other sites in the village had been put forward and must be considered. The Chairman asked what had happened to the original "future" plan for the village and was told this had been superseded by the present Government policy.

Councillor A. Howard asked what the timescale for the new policy was and how it ties in with the South Midlands Growth Area of 350 houses per annum. Mrs. Horner replied that this was now considered impractical but nothing will happen until mid 2004 but after that there will be a time scale of approximately 18months. Councillor Howard then asked was there now any point in making a village plan? The reply was that this could be used as a statistic to be considered but this must be in place by the end of 2004.

Parishioner W. Court commented that there had been very little Press coverage to make communities aware of these changes and there had been no Public Enquiry; the District Council appeared to have lost its power over planning and MP Phil Hope would appear to be wrong in his interpretation that "all was well". Mrs. Horner replied that there had been no progress on the KC1 site for at least 18 months, but that in her opinion, Kings Cliffe is still considered as a limited development village i.e. Service Centre.

Councillor B. Howard said there were great concerned that the young people in the village were not being considered and felt they were being neglected; had all the hard work on the KC1 site been a waste of time?

Chairman M. Day said the one thing which must not be allowed is ribbon development on small sites on the outskirts of the village; Mr. Court agreed and gave Nassington as a prime example.

Councillor B. Howard asked if the PC had any rights to appeal; Mrs. Horner replied that ENC were well aware of the strong feelings regarding this and DC's Richardson and Glithero were also involved in this.

At this point, The Chairman thanked Mrs. Horner for her time but insisted that the message to ENC was that the village must have more houses to survive as a 'Service Centre' and that greater support was needed from ENC.

The Council meeting was then declared open. Councillors L. Crane and T. Isaac gave their apologies and left the meeting.

**03/086 Present:** - Councillors M.Day (Chairman), D. Sharpe, N. Ford, B.Wyles, B.Wright, B. Howard and A. Howard

**Apologies:** - Councillor K.Howard

**03/087 Declarations of Interest** - None

**03/088 Clerks Report**

Letter written following the last meeting had received replies, most of which are agenda items.

The outstanding rent for four allotments has finally been paid

The Chairman has resolved the matter involving the removal of a hedge in Walkers Field.

County Councillor Priscilla Padley will attend the next meeting mainly with regard to road repairs in the Parish.

**03/089** The minutes of the Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2003 were accepted and signed

Proposed: Councillor A. Howard

Seconded: Councillor B.Wyles

**03/090 Matters arising** - none

**03/091 Accounts**

The following accounts were approved for payment

|   |                                |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Curators Salary (Sept 2003)               | £ 75.65                        |
| Clerks Salary (Sept 2003)                 | £ 187.50                       |
| Clerks expenses (July – Sept)             | £ 69.85                        |
| Smith Hetherington – grass cutting August | £ 171.00                       |
| ABB Lighting charges/repairs              | £ 344.62                       |
| Terry Curtis (mower repairs)              | £ 61.19                        |
| Powergen (¼ to end Sept)                  | £ 424.63                       |
| B.Wright (N.Watch expenses)               | £ 5.99                         |
| Co-op Funerals (Refunded overcharge)      | £ 70.00 (additional to agenda) |

Proposed: Councillor A.Howard

Seconded: Councillor B.Wyles

**03/092 Planning**

Granted : Insertion of 3 dormer windows, 58 Wood Road EN/03/00560/FUL

**03/093 Housing Association**

The ENHA had been asked to re-instate the fence to the rear of 5 Blatherwycke Road, but this property is no longer their responsibility. They also confirmed that the remaining rubbish had been cleared from Colemans Yard.

With regard to the bungalow in Fineshade Close being used as a site office, the Housing Association disagreed with the PC's statement that this was needed for local housing needs and insist that planning permission for change of use has been observed and this property is not needed for reletting at this time. A further letter will be written yet again disputing this.

#### **03/094 Street Lighting**

Lights have been vandalised in Eagle Lane and various schemes, including low level lighting for this area were discussed. The Chairman has arranged a meeting with Jill Corner from ABB Ltd., and will discuss this and the siting of a new streetlight in Forest Approach with her and ask for quotations.

#### **03/095 Children's Play Area**

ENC have stated that a conservation study will be carried out on the land proposed for the play area. They will be asked to complete this at their very earliest convenience.

#### **03/096 Slupe Clay Pit**

In reply to letters sent to ENC Public Health and the Environment Agency expressing grave concerns about the dust and odours from the Pit, ENC insist they are monitoring the situation closely at all times; the EA sent a detailed letter of site visits and again states that the whole operation is monitored and totally under control. However, the problems still exist; Collyweston are also complaining that the smells are noticed in that village. Further letters will be written, but it is the opinion of the PC that complaints are not taken seriously enough. More complaints should be sent by individual parishioners to the various authorities. Mud on the road has again been a problem following the recent showers and this will only get worse as the year progresses. Addresses and telephone numbers will be given in the Gazette.

#### **03/097 Sub-Committee Reports:**

##### **Burial Board**

SC Chairman N. Ford asked the PC for approval for two vases for individual graves which was given

Proposed : Councillor A. Howard

Seconded : Councillor B. Howard

Repainting the Church Gates will be postponed until the Spring  
Work on the well-head at the new cemetery will begin in November

**Village Design Group** : Nothing to report

##### **Amenities**

SC Chairman, Councillor B. Wyles reported that the footpath to the Hills & Holes needs the trees pruning; he will ask Mr. Smith to do this. The bottle bank area is again being used as a tip. Yet again, the PC asks parishioners NOT to leave empty boxes and rubbish on this site. The Horsewater has been bunged up with empty tins, and the salt bin in Station Road has been filled with rubbish. NCC and ENC will be asked to deal with these problems.

**03/098 Community Safety & Neighbourhood Watch**

A letter has been received from Kettering Police informing the Council that five constable posts are to be moved from this area to Northampton, in all 24 officers will be transferred to Northampton from across the Force. The Police admit this will have “an impact” but they will do everything they can to ensure this is minimal.

Letter will be sent to all relevant bodies strongly condemning this action.

**03/099 Other Correspondence Received**

A letter from NCC asking for a Parish Representative for the Highway Repairs Initiative was given to Councillor B. Howard who volunteered for the position. All other correspondence received this month has been dealt with in the agenda

**03/100 Any Other Business**

Councillor B. Howard reported that he had had a meeting with CC Priscilla Padley and a NCC Engineer with regard to the road conditions at Westhay and in the village generally. The Chairman congratulated him on this, but asked in future to be informed of meetings which involve Parish Council matters.

Heavy vehicles have again been misdirected into the village seeking the Kings Cliffe Industrial Estate (formerly Vesuvius). The estate will be asked to replace the Vesuvius sign adjacent to the Wansford Hill turning with an up-to-date one.

Elderly residents from Fineshade Close and Mazewood Gate experience problems crossing the roads to West Street. Investigations will be made into the possibility of providing a crossing at this point and the Police will be asked to monitor the speed of vehicles entering the village from the Blatherwycke direction.

Councillor B.Wright reported that many of the light standards in Howard’s Meadow need repainting. The Chairman will raise this with Jill Corner from ABB Ltd.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10.pm.

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

The next meeting will be held at 7.30.pm. on 13th November 2003 in the Parlour of the Memorial Hall