

KINGS CLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Public Meeting and monthly Parish Council Meeting held at the Memorial Hall at 7.30.pm. on Thursday 14th April 2005.

04/151 Welcome : The Chairman welcomed 10 parishioners to the Annual meeting.

04/152 Apologies : Councillors A. Howard, N. Ford, T. Isaacs

04/153 Minutes of the Public Meeting held on 8th April 2004 were read and approved

Proposed : - Councillor K. Howard

Seconded :- Councillor J. Dixon

04/154 Matters Arising

Mr. W. Court raised a point regarding Highways and the bad state of repair of West Street. Mr. G. Bladen reinforced this, commenting on the lack of kerbs in the hollow and outside the surgery.

Mr. C. Ibotson queried the misspelling of his daughters surname in the minutes.

04/155 Chairman's Statement

Welcome to Kings Cliffe Annual Parish Meeting

First I feel that I must thank all members of the Parish Council, Hilary, our Clerk, and all parishioners who have helped so much during the year, thus making my life as chairman so much easier.

We have already discussed the minutes of the last meeting and so I shall just give a brief report of some of the work carried out during the last twelve months. Please bear with me if I repeat items that have already been discussed.

I feel that I must thank Colin Smith and Arthur Wooding for their excellent work keeping the churchyard, cemetery and other village sites neat and tidy. Arthur has just resigned as the curator of the cemetery, but happily Collin has now stepped in and will maintain both churchyard and cemetery. There are many other people who help with essential parish work; they know who they are and, on behalf of the parish council, I would like to say a heartfelt thank you.

The Youth Club holds meetings in the resource centre and the Parish Council help out with the room rental at present. We hope that the club will continue to prosper. Most of the allotments have been taken this year. The Neighbourhood Watch is progressing, but I'm sure the Committee would welcome anyone who would be willing to help.

As far as planning issues are concerned, we are only consulted and asked for our views. The District Council seems to take far more notice of our comments than previously. We have had our successes and the occasional failure but on the whole the results have been favourable.

On the evening of Monday August 9th we had torrential rain - 5 inches in a short space of time - and many houses were flooded. The drains simply could not cope! We, as Parish Council, consulted every agency possible to see if we could do anything to avert a similar situation. It is like bashing your head against a brick wall! The Parish Council did call a meeting with disaster

specialists from both the District and County Councils, in response to parishioner's demands. The meeting on December 14th was very poorly attended -just 8 people - rather disappointing considering the original demands. We have now adopted the Parish Council Emergency Plan provided by East Northants District Council. We were pleased to note that the sand and bags provided by the Parish Council was warmly received.

The proposed play area for young children, earmarked for the field above Fineshade Close was rejected by the District Council on environmental grounds. However I am hopeful of a successful outcome, as I believe the Community Centre is negotiating with Kings Cliffe Environmental Association to secure funds to develop a new playing field and related sports facilities, which hopefully would cater for everyone.

I suppose I must mention the waste tip. As you may know Wastego was sold to Augean a few months ago. I have spoken to their management team and they seem very keen to work with the local community in all areas. The situation has certainly improved during the last twelve months. The next meeting of the liaison group is later this month and the new owners have promised to attend.

I know that most of the roads and pavements in the village are in an appalling state. We have been promised that some of the pavements have been earmarked for repair. On the plus side at least Wood Road has been resurfaced!

I am sure that when you recently received Council Tax notices you will have noticed that the council precept - set by your Parish Council - once again has not been increased.

Finally I would like to assure you all that we will continue to lobby for support for our community to improve the necessary services.

04/156 Open Forum

Mr. Court asked about the Emergency Plan as discussed at the Disaster Meeting in December. The Chairman explained this was a document devised by NCC and ENC to allow a Parish to enter the names of people upon whom they could call in an emergency, be this local or national. This will be completed by the Clerk and Councillors, but it is a big undertaking and there were very few volunteers either at the aforementioned meeting or after an appeal was printed in the Gazette. Names cannot be entered in the Emergency Plan document without the nominees' approval.

Mr. Bladen complained that the storm drains in West Street were obviously not big enough for the amount of rainfall experienced nowadays. The Chairman explained that if the proposed new development (discussed briefly later in these minutes) comes to fruition, one of the first things to happen will be an upgrade of drainage; this will be specified in any new plans.

Mr. Tempest complained about the lack of warning when major road works are carried out in the village and surrounding areas. The Chairman replied that the Parish Council were also the last to know on most occasions, and with regard to the resurfacing of the Stamford Road, the option was given to put this back for 6 months, but it was decided that as the work was urgently needed, despite the inconvenience, the PC decided not to postpone the works. The new road surface on Wood Road happened with no warning whatsoever; the PC had been informed that it was Forest Approach which was to be re-surfaced. Councillor B. Wyles suggested that the scaffolding on a house at the West Street end of Forest Approach had stopped these works being carried out.

Mr. Court asked for the white lines at the Railway Bridge and on Station Road/Wood Road to be re-instated; the Clerk asked for this to be carried out some months ago, but will again ask Highways to do the same.

He also asked what was happening about the Hills and Holes filled pit, and asked if it might be an idea to ask the Woodland Trust to take this over. The Chairman explained that the land had been considered by a resident as a tree nursery, but the soil was not good enough to grow young trees. This is an on-going situation requiring more discussion with the neighbouring farmer and ENC.

Mr. Tempest asked if it was possible to have an updated Village Directory. The Clerk said that she had been instrumental in up-dating the last time, but to her knowledge there was no existing copy of anything other than the amendments she had sent to the printers, and that many of the telephone numbers were out of date almost as soon as it was printed. However, it was agreed this would be useful and the PC would look into it. It was suggested the Resource Centre could be approached with a view to producing a new directory.

Mr. Ibotson asked what was happening about the proposed Children's Play Area. The Chairman said that the land originally suggested had been refused permission by ENC on ecological grounds. However, negotiations were taking place with a local landlord to obtain land for playing fields and we can only hope this will go ahead. Money from KCEA has been earmarked for this project.

As there were no more questions, the Chairman thanked parishioners for their interest and invited anyone who wished to stay for the remainder of the monthly meeting.

04/157 Declarations of Interest : Chairman M. Day declared on interest in Agenda Item 16.

04/158 Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th March 2005 : Approved

Proposed : Councillor D. Sharpe

Seconded : Councillor B. Wyles

04/159 Matters Arising and Clerks Statement

Hills & Holes Pit : Already discussed during Open Meeting

Litter Pick : Councillor B. Howard had arranged a litter pick which took place several weeks ago; it was agreed that this had been successful and should be repeated as and when necessary.

Clerks Report

A letter was received from Mrs. Wagstaffe, regarding a nasty fall Mr. Wagstaffe experienced on Park Street due to the bad repair of the pavements. This was reported to Highways, who came the same day to carry out temporary repairs. They are doing a full survey of this area of pavement and will let us know the results. It was explained, as always, that they are on a very tight budget. Colin Gilder has left Atkins, but the new contact Carl Evans was most helpful.

Clarence is being scrapped and replaced with "The Street Doctor"; however Clarence will remain for the three months of "changeover". The number will be printed in the Gazette.

All Councillors have received from Augean outlining their new policies – they asked for all Councillors addresses.

Street lights reported and repaired as always.

We received a query regarding the “clock tower” on the site of the old garage. This is on the original passed plans.

04/160 Cemetery Curator : Resignation of Mr. A. Wooding

Mr. Arthur Wooding has resigned as Cemetery curator. Mr. Colin Smith has agreed to take over the job for the coming year. It was agreed that Mr. Wooding should be paid for the first two weeks of April. A letter will be sent to Mr. Wooding thanking him for past services.

04/161 Accounts : The following accounts were approved for payment:-

Curators Salary (2 weeks -April 2005)	£ 70.00
Clerks Salary (current month)	£ 200.00
Mrs. J. Dixon (contra fee for new cemetery rent)	£ 10.00
ABB Ltd – Maintenance & repair charges	£ 435.44
ENC Cemetery Rates for 2005/6	£ 52.75
HLB AV Audit fees	£ 141.00
Smith Hetherington : grass cutting & various	£ 445.00
Kisbey & Son : refurbishment of Church gates	£ 329.00
Resource at Kings Cliffe : Youth Club fees	£ 36.00
W.R.Court : expenses	£ 11.75
M Day (petrol for mowers)	£ 25.00
Parish Gazette (annual contribution) 2005/6	£ 75.00
Allianz Cornhill – annual insurance	£ 367.23
KC Memorial Hall : Disaster meeting fee	£ 15.00

Proposed : Councillor B. Wyles

Seconded : Councillor K. Howard

04/162 Planning : all below were noted:-

Applications:- None

Applications granted:-

Aluminium Conservatory 104 West Street : EN/05/00059/FUL

Subdivision of house to form two houses : 49 Bridge Street : EN/04/02321/FUL

Erection of dwellinghouse : 33 Wood Road : EN/04/02561/REM

Appeal papers:- Erection of three terraced dwellings : 79 West Street : EN/04/01580/FUL

04/163 Horsewater Renovation :Letter from Ms. Neesham

It was agreed a good job had been made of clearing out the pond. Ms. Neesham had asked for the required 10% to allow her to apply for a further £1000 to re-instate the driveway and turf the damaged areas. This was agreed following a show of hands. A Councillor suggested that a “Deep Water” sign should be erected to warn parents of the danger at the Horsewater. It was also

proposed that a channel should be dug into the riverbank to allow excess water to drain into the river.

04/164 Housing Matters : Wood Road

The Chairman told the meeting that he had been contacted by the architects of M. Parker & Son Ltd., a building firm who intend to apply for planning permission to develop land off Willow Lane into a site of circa 100 houses. They wished to informally talk to a few representatives of the Parish Council regarding their plans. An unofficial meeting was held with three architects, the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Clerk and a Councillor. Relevant questions were asked and answered and the gentlemen were informed that it was likely that these plans would be welcomed by the Parish Council. Plans have now been submitted to ENC. A copy of notes taken at the meeting and a sketch of the proposed development was given to Councillors. The Chairman talked the meeting through some of the points raised, but explained would be sensible to wait for the official plans before a full debate could take place.

04/165 Rural Settlement Policy

This is substantial and complicated draft document received from ENC., basically setting out the new planning policy for rural areas. The accompanying letter asked for volunteers to act on behalf of the PC. This has been given to several Councillors for their perusal.

04/166 Letter from Kings Cliffe Environmental Association

A copy of a letter from the above outlining a request to from Kings Cliffe Community Association to enter into negotiations to purchase land for development of playing fields for village use. The Chairman explained the various options for this; the letter suggested that this land, if purchased by the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme, it could be formed as a Trust or could be deeded as Parish Council land, as this would ensure that the land would belong to the village and could not in the future be sold for development or any other purpose. No outlay of money would be expected of the PC. The meeting agreed to this proposal unanimously.

04/167 Sub-Committee Reports

Burial Board

A meeting was held on 4th April. Two quotations have now been received for the timber path edging in the cemetery. They will be discussed at the next Burial Board meeting. The fee structure for burials, memorials, and grave purchases has been revised to bring the charges in line with Church of England Parochial Fees. The broken gatepost in the Churchyard has been repaired by a volunteer at no cost to the Parish Council. Tony Peacey is retiring from the Burial Board. He was thanked for his work over many years. The next Burial Board meeting will be on 16th May.

The increase in fees for the cemetery will be discussed at the next PC meeting when Councillors have received the list of proposed increases.

A letter from the PC has been sent to Mr. Peacey.

Neighbourhood Watch

A meeting of Neighbourhood Watch was held on 14th March 2005. Present were B. Wright, L. Crane, D, Sharpe, F. Thistlethwaite and C. Filby

A number of items were discussed as below:

Ring Master Phone numbers have gone to Dave Robins to be collated. Dates for post coding 7th 14th and 21st of May for shed and garage items.

Topics for talks on Home Security and bogus callers and nominated neighbours to be held on any Monday in June

Zone review:-

Walkers Field : Intruders from Kingsmead ran over the fences into Walkers Field. Howard's Meadow : There was a break-in to house in the close. The alarm was not on.

AOB : Leaflets for car crime and bogus callers

Councillor B. Howard reported that an incident of vandalism reported to the Police from Kingsmead had been very efficiently dealt with; the youngsters involved were indentified and "persuaded" to make good the damage they had done. The youngsters are considered to be persistent offenders where petty offences in the village are concerned and they will now be watched very carefully.

Councillor B. Wyles gave his apologies and left the meeting.

04/168 Correspondence received

Various correspondences were discussed, circulated and noted.

04/169 Any Other Business

It was reported that a stockade and container had appeared in a garden within the Conservation Area in Forest Approach apparently without prior planning permission. This will be reported to the ENC Enforcement Officer for investigation.

Councillor B. Howard raised the issue of the footpath to Apethorpe again; Highways will again be asked to consider this project.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.00.pm. The next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting in the Parlour on 12th May 2005

