

KINGS CLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Kings Cliffe Parish Council held at the Memorial Hall on Thursday 9th June 2005.

Before the meeting proper, by prior arrangement the following statements were made by:-

Mr. Roger Coulthard : Comments on Outline Planning Application EN/05/0620/OUT

The KC1 scheme already exists: it is a carefully-considered plan.

It proposes 50 new houses, with 2, and possibly 3 access roads, so we don't create insurmountable traffic problems.

It proposes a workable layout, which would link it with the rest of the village, so we continue to build a sense of community.

It makes sense: it was adopted by East Northants Council (ENC) in September 1999 as 'Supplementary Planning Guidance'

Rockingham Forest Trust has produced an excellent guide to sensible development in this area. We support and endorse it. We would like to see it applied to any new development in King's Cliffe.

The new proposal by Parker and Sons Limited, April 2005, seeks outline planning permission for a 100-house scheme, with only one access road.

King's Cliffe Design Team has prepared a statement on this new proposal:

(ref: 'Comments on Outline Planning Application EN/05/0620/OUT, for adoption by the Parish Council, and submission to ENC Planners. Summary of key points from meeting held on 18th May 2005')

We believe that the Outline Planning Application should not be supported - for a variety of reasons, as described in our statement.

We are aware that the Parish Council has already told the ENC Planners that it has no objection to the initial Outline Application, but want to be fully involved in discussions and decisions on the Full Application in due course.

King's Cliffe Design Team believes that this could prove to be a tactical mistake (made, we are sure, with the best of intentions, ie: a desire to support development in the village). We also support development – if it's beneficial!

We fear that the developer could argue some time in the future that the Parish Council's decision is an endorsement of a) the total scheme as described so far, and b) the single access road.

We are concerned that there might be some technical/procedural argument put forward later to prevent debate on these key points.

Informal discussions with ENC planners have not reassured us on this matter!

We strongly recommend that the Parish Council adopt King's Cliffe Design Team's statement, and forward it to ENC Planners by Wednesday 15th June as a clarification of the Parish Council position - in order to have those comments on record at least two weeks before ENC's next planning meeting on 29th June '05

Chairman M. Day thanked Mr. Coulthard for his comments. He then introduced Nicola Allan and Matt Carter, who organize the "Underground" Youth Club. At the last PC meeting the problem of disturbance and noise from the Youth Club, who meet at the Resource Centre on Thursday evenings, were raised under any other business and this is an agenda item for this meeting. During the last week, the Resource Centre had asked the Youth Club not to meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month; this was misinterpreted by the YC that the PC were about to withdraw their sponsorship of the club, which would lead to it being closed. Ms. Allan explained that the youngsters were very concerned that the Club may have to close and asked the PC to think carefully before acting on the actions of the non-YC members, who were the culprits as they were not willing to pay the £1 per week entrance fee, but congregated outside the Hall and caused problems.

The following letter was read to the Council by one of the YC members:-

Dear Parish Council,

We are writing this letter to tell you, how we feel about you prejudiced views towards us. (Young adults).

Reasons why club should not close,

1. Denies young peoples access to a youth friendly facilities.
2. Allows young people to socialise with friendly people if feeling insecure.
3. Allows young people to express their views towards other people and life.
4. This is the only facility for young people in Kings Cliffe.
5. Club motivates young people to take part in youth awards, schemes etc.

What could happen if club was to close?

1. People would be on the streets causing crime.
2. There will be more people drinking down the hills and holes (the wee) because people are bored.
3. There will be scared people as they won't be able to talk about sex education or any problems that they may have.

You should listen to us because as the Parish Council you have a responsibility to the young people of your Parish.

Yours Faithfully

Young people from the underground.

The young lady explained that the YC was much valued; members from as far as Weldon came to the club.

Councillor B. Wright, who is a teacher, congratulated the youngsters who had spoken, but suggested that it was possibly in their court to persuade their contemporaries not to cause trouble for them outside the Hall. Was it possible that the 2nd Thursday of each month could be a “quiet” night at the Club? Or was it the case that we should ask the Police to reprimand the troublemakers?

Chairman M. Day thanked the young lady who read the letter. He said the matter would be discussed later in the meeting, but was sure that some middle ground could be found and told Ms. Allan if she would had time to wait he would talk to her after the meeting.

05/018 Present: Chairman M. Day, Councillors B. Wright, B. Wyles, D. Sharpe, J. Dixon and T. Isaac and L. Crane

05/019 Apologies for Absence: Councillors K., A., & B. Howard, Councillor N. Ford

05/020 Declarations of Interest: None

05/021 Minutes: Minutes of the meeting held on 12th May 2005 were read and approved.

Proposed : Councillor B.Wyles

Seconded : Councillor D.Sharpe

05/022 Matters Arising – none

05/023 Clerks Report

With regard to the Portakabins delivered to the Primary School, the Chairman rang ENC as there has been controversy over illegal portakabins in the village and the answer is that LEA will have obtained permission for them, but we did not need to be notified.

A thank you letter has been received from Jackie Neesham in reply to the cheque sent to cover the 10% on her second claim for funds.

The Chairman and Clerk were unable to discover from the Police why the Stamford Road was blockaded by Police cars a couple of weeks ago, following numerous queries – without success. A letter will be sent to the Police asking them to co-operate with the Council on matters which concern the community.

There was a report of smells from the Landfill site last week, but Augean have assured me these have been dealt with to the satisfaction of Howards.

An up-date has been requested regarding the request to the re-instating of the footpath to Apethorpe, so far no reply has been received.

Letters have gone to both Housing Associations asking for details of ‘Cliffe people requesting houses and have asked that these people and applicants with connection to the village should be given priority.

A parishioner has again reported that the drains in Walkers Field have not been cleared; I have e-mailed Atkins, but the last time I asked I understand that, until the road is adopted, it is the builder’s responsibility. The builders will be contacted.

05/024 Accounts: The following accounts were approved for payment:-

Curators Salary (current month)	£ 140.00
Clerks Salary (current month)	£ 200.00
Anglian Water (cemetery water charges ½ year)	£ 33.52
Robert J. Goodson Ltd : Commercial insurance	£ 557.97
Smith Hetherington – Grass cutting for May	£ 226.00
Memorial Hall – for Health Road Show	£ 25.00
Resource at Kings Cliffe (Youth Club)	£ 36.00

Councillor D. Sharpe queried the high insurance premium; some items on the inventory will be removed and others added to the policy.

Proposed : Councillor J.Dixon

Seconded : Councillor D.Sharpe

05/025 Planning : None

05/026 Hills and Holes Pit

The Clerk has approached BCTV at Moulton College who offer volunteers for land clearance, installing kissing gates etc., they will give a quotation for clearing the pit which is now hopelessly overgrown. They will be asked to inspect and give an estimate for clearing the ground. In the meantime, Mr. Smith will be asked to cut the footpath which is presently impassable.

05/027 Rural Strategy

Councillors were given copies of the draft statement and asked to bring comments to the next meeting to enable a reply to be sent to ENC.

05/028 Youth Club

A debate took place taking into account the representations made at the beginning of the meeting. A letter had also been received from Mrs. S. Grout, in support of the club.

Councillor B. Wyles suggested that as children from other village were present, they should also support the club and this should also include support from parents.

Councillor T. Isaac understood that the trouble was not caused by actual club members but responsibility for the troublemakers was to some extent the responsibility of members, as these were their friends who just would not pay to enter; they should interact with them and come to an agreement that they would not cause problems. Councillor B. Wright said the youngsters must be pro-active and encourage sensible behaviour from their friends “on the outside”.

The question was raised as to what the £1 a session was used for as the PC pay for the room rental. If the club were free, the “outsiders” would be “inside” and hopefully not cause trouble.

The general opinion was that the Youth Club must continue but there must be considerably more respect for other users of the Village Hall and the community in general.

05/029 Traffic Speed : Wood Road

A letter had been received from Mr. M. Kirk, asking for some form of traffic calming measures on the stretch of Wood Road from Blatherwycke Road to the roundabout. He is intending to get a petition and send this to Highways by way of a protest.

Several Councillors who live on Wood Road strongly agreed there was a problem, especially from non-village people who use the village as a rat-run. The suggestion was made that the Police should be asked to provide radar speed checks regularly throughout the village. The case of Collyweston was used as an example; the PC there has managed to reduce speed limits and thus improve road safety.

It was agreed that traffic calming measures, preferably not speed humps, which many drivers disregard, possibly like the ones in use in Castor and Ailsworth, should be requested from the Highways Authority.

A letter will be sent to Mr. Kirk, supporting his petition.

05/030 Sub-Committee Reports

Burial Board

Maintenance at the Cemetery : the soil is coming onto the paths and needs attention, therefore estimates have been obtained to re-edge the paths in timber. A very reasonable quotation from R.S. & D. Pump was discussed and agreed.

Proposed : Councillor D. Sharpe Seconded : Councillor B. Wright

The plans for the New Cemetery were passed round and discussed. The most urgent work is to obtain a permanent water supply as the well is now dry. This will be applied for.

There is a great deal of work and planning to be done before the cemetery is ready for use; a schedule of works has been drawn up.

The next meeting will be on 27th June 2005.

Neighbourhood Watch & Community Safety

Posters will be displayed for the meeting at the Village Hall on 15th June.

05/031 Correspondence received

Various correspondences were noted and will receive replies where necessary

05/032 Any Other Business

A Councillor reported that a hedge had overgrown the path between Fineshade Close and Wood Road. The owner will be asked to trim this to allow free access through the path.

There was a report of noise and rubbish nuisance at a listed building in West Street. The complainant agreed to inform ENC with a view to controlling both problems.

A complaint regarding children playing on the allotments was discussed. These are not children of tenants; a note for parents will be published in the Gazette .

A drain is blocked opposite the cemetery; this will be reported to Highways.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.00.pm. The next meeting will be on Thursday 14th July at 7.30.pm.