

KINGS CLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Kings Cliffe Parish Council held at the Memorial Hall on Thursday 13th July, 2006. Vice-Chairman A. Howard chaired the meeting

06/030 Present: Vice-Chairman A.Howard, B. Wyles, T. Isaac, B. Howard, B. Wright, L. Crane, D. Sharpe, J. Dixon and N. Ford

06/031 Apologies for Absence: Chairman M. Day

06/032 Declarations of Interest: Councillor A. Howard declared a non prejudicial interest in item 10 on the agenda.

06/033 Minutes: Minutes of the meetings held on 8th June were read and approved

Proposed : Councillor T.Isaac Seconded : Councillor L.Crane

06/034 Matters arising

A Councillor raised the matter of parking on the pavement outside the Wesleyan Chapel in Bridge Street, following the item in the minutes regarding change of name. Although this pavement is allegedly the property of the owners of the Chapel and No. 4 Bridge Street, the pavement is a Public Right of Way and at least parishioner is known to have fallen over the high pavement onto the road, luckily without sustaining serious injury.

Clerks Report

The salt bin on the corner of Station Road/Park Street has been smashed by a tractor towing bales. The farmer involved will replace this bin.

Colin Smith has asked for footpath signs which he is quite happy to erect; he commented that people regularly ask him where footpaths are. This will be arranged.

NCC has assured us that all drains in the village have been cleaned out, although several Parishioners have contradicted this. Regarding road verges, these are cut twice a year, but NCC will trim overgrown areas which endanger road safety if requested.

The ragwort in Kingsmead has been reported to ENC who agreed to deal with this promptly.

An incident at the bottom of Willow Lane, when the Millennium Wood sign was vandalised was reported to the Police, but no witnesses were prepared to make statement, although the perpetrators were identified.

A letter has been received from Kelhams to inform us that the conveyancing of the land for the Playing fields is going ahead.

Augean contacted the Council to say they will be burning methane from the pod they are repairing at the back of the site; this apparently looks like a large Bunsen burner flame and should only be visible after dark.

A letter has been received regarding the cemetery. This will be acknowledged.

Pocket Parks – Councillor Sharpe has a report which will be under AOB.

06/035 Accounts : The following accounts were approved for payment

Curators Salary (current month)	£140.00
Clerks Salary (current month)	£ 200.00
Smith Hetherington : grass cutting & various	£ 254.00

Powergen ¼ to July 06	£ 424.00
Resource at Kings Cliffe : Youth Club	£ 24.00

Proposed : Councillor N.Ford

Seconded : Councillor B.Wyles

06/036 Planning

Applications

11 Forest Approach : Single storey rear extension and replacement garage :

EN/06/01032/FUL : No objection

Endowed School : LBC for various alterations : (Received from NCC) : EN/06/-

No objection

26-32 Bridge Street : Re-roofing of various properties : EN/06/01231/FUL : No objection

1 Bridge Street : Painting of doors and windows : EN/06/01191/FUL and

EN/06/01398/LBC : No objection

31 West Street : Reversion of Restaurant Licence (A3) : EN/06/01301/FUL : No

objection

Granted

Land adjacent to 38 Wood Road : New two storey dwelling : EN/06/00959/FUL : Noted

66 West Street : Various alterations : EN/06/00960/LBC : Noted

06/037 Allotments

Councillor T. Isaac has approached allotment holders with a view to forming a committee and three tenants are interested. The Vice-Chairman suggested that they should meet before the next PC meeting when a report can be given.

There has been some vandalism in the allotments which resulted in some newly hatched ducklings being killed and produce has been stolen. A sign has been put on the top gate asking that the public use the bottom gate which is the official access to the footpath, but this is being ignored. The bottom gate also needs some repair, Chairman M. Day will be asked to repair this.

06/038 Moors footpath : report

Councillor N. Ford reported that the footpath has been levelled and is usable; he produced photographic evidence to support this. Councillor B. Howard stated that the public were not using the footpath but were using the gate from the Moors; it was pointed out as this gate is usually left open by the farmer no harm was being done.

06/039 Youth Club update : letters from NCC & W. Court

Copies of letters from NCC, Mr. W. Court and an extract from the Resource Centre minutes were circulated to Councillors. Messrs. Court and Peacey are working extremely hard to ensure the Youth Club remains a viable enterprise and will be attending yet another meeting next week to fight for the cause. The Council are unanimous in condemning NCC for withdrawing Youth Workers from rural areas. Councillor A. Howard has attended a meeting

and had no confidence that there will be any further funding for this project. There were several comments that parents of youngsters in the village should be making more effort; as Mr. Court had stated, it is tragic that it is two gentlemen in their 70's who are leading the campaign with little support.

Letters will be sent to County Councillor P. Padley, District Councillor R. Glithero and ENC asking for their help and support.

The PC have agreed to fund the hire of the Resource Centre for a further six months if any progress is made

Proposed : Councillor D. Sharpe Seconded : Councillor J. Dixon.

06/040 Berry Bros : proposed purchase of ground for cemetery extension

The PC is still awaiting a valuation from Berrys; Councillor D. Sharpe, Chairman of the Burial Board, is concerned that this is going on too long, the Burial Board needs more information. The Clerk will contact Berrys again

06/041 Street Parking

The age old dilemma of on-street parking has again been raised by several Parishioners. This is an on-going problem, exacerbated by cars parked on or partially on pavements, causing problems to pedestrians notably outside the school and in Forest Approach, where there is only a pavement on one side and pedestrians are forced onto this narrow roadway at the West Street junction.

It is understood that the bus which usually brings children from other villages to the primary school is to be cancelled, which will cause even more traffic at the school.

Councillor B. Howard has volunteered to carry out a survey of parking in the village which will be most useful but the general consensus is that little can be done with regard to on-street parking as so many houses have no parking area. Several suggestions such as "one-side of the road" parking, yellow lines and a one way system throughout were dismissed as impractical and unworkable. Councillor A. Howard stated the only benefit is that parked cars do eliminate speeding vehicles through the village.

If any Parishioners feel they have a sensible and practical solution to this problem, the PC would be delighted to hear from them.

06/041 Request to use Maltings Green for wedding reception

This request for 19th August has been approved, subject to the usual proviso that the green is left clean and tidy afterwards.

06/042 Report on Affordable Housing : Councillor B. Wright

Councillor B. Wright reported on a meeting she attended in Yarwell. A new company, Northants Rural Housing Association in conjunction with ENC are building small well-planned estates of up to 12 houses, rent and shared ownership in villages in the area where land is available. These houses are designed to fit into the rural landscape and are the obvious answer to affordable housing. This was discussed at length and although there would appear to be no obvious plots in Kings Cliffe, Councillor D. Sharpe suggested that as the KC1 site plans appear not be happening, perhaps part of this site could be considered. The District Councillor and ENC will be asked to advise on this matter.

06/043 Sub-Committee Reports

Burial Board – nothing to report

Neighbourhood Watch – nothing to report

06/044 Other Correspondence Received

Various correspondences were discussed, noted or circulated.

06/045 Any Other Business

Councillor D. Sharpe had a meeting with the Ruth Douglas, the Pocket Parks co-ordinator regarding an offer of free labour to renovate overgrown areas. Unfortunately the work required on the Willow Walk is too extensive to qualify for this, although advice was given that the overgrown trees should be trimmed to allow the wild flowers to grow more freely and with more light. Councillor L. Crane commented that if the path was straightened by tree trimming, cyclists are encouraged to use what is essentially a footpath and this can be dangerous. This will therefore be an agenda item at a future meeting, as trees and shrubs should not be trimmed at this time of year and local contractors would be asked for their advice on this.

Councillor B. Wyles again raised the problem of vehicles speeding into the village from the Blatherwycke Road and suggested the 30 limit sign should be further from the village. Councillor N. Ford reminded the council of how long it had taken for the Apethorpe Road sign to be moved and that it had not made the slightest difference to the speed at which vehicles enter the village. The Clerk reported that the Community Safety Fund had been approached with regard to obtaining a grant for traffic calming measures in the village and they had replied that this was on their agenda for consideration.

He again mentioned that youngsters are gradually breaking the new seat at the bottom of Wood Lane by sitting on the back of this and making it unusable as their feet made it too dirty to sit on; he also reported that the hedges to the side of the footpath from Fineshade Close to Wood Road are badly overgrown. The Clerk will ask residents to trim these back.

A muckheap in Wood Lane had been smouldering for some time and casing noxious odours, but the farmer has now doused this and solved the problem.

Councillor D. Sharpe suggested that dog litter bins should be sited on Maltings Green and Station Road/Park Street; another Councillor pointed out that the same refuse collectors emptied litter and dog bins and doggie bags can be deposited in both bins. NCC have said the Elephant Trap in Willow Lane has been cleared; although this is not in their remit it is cleared as a goodwill gesture, Councillor D. Sharpe disputes that it has been done – the Clerk will inspect and report back.

Councillor B. Howard raised the question of pavement surfaces. The Clerk replied that she and Councillor D. Sharpe had done a survey and inspected these with Andrew Leighton from

NCC; County Councillor Padley had done the same and no repairs had yet been carried out.

Vice-Chairman A. Howard announced that there will be no meeting in August unless there is urgent business and the next meeting will be on 14th September 2006

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