

KINGS CLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL : PUBLIC MEETING

The Public Meeting of the Parish Council took place on Thursday 5th April 2007 at 7.30.pm. at King's Cliffe Memorial Hall.

06/169 Welcome : The Chairman welcomed seven parishioners to the meeting

06/170 Present : Chairman M. Day, Councillors L.Crane, D. Sharpe, B. Wyles, K. Howard and B. Howard

06/171 Apologies : Councillors J. Dixon, T, Isaac, A. Howard, N. Ford, B. Wright and Mr. L. Caddick

06/171 Minutes of the Public Meeting held on 11th May 2006 : These were agreed as correct

Proposed : Mr. W. Court

Seconded : Mr. A. Peacey

06/172 Matter Arising

Councillor B. Howard raised the matter of Neighbourhood Watch, which the new co-ordinator Mr. Chris Jackson had attempted to restart without much success. Councillor B. Howard insisted that the Clerk should have had more input into the organisation; the Chairman explained that this is an organisation independent of the Parish Council and the former co-ordinator had given Mr. Jackson all the necessary information. It was generally felt that there was little interest for NW in the community but this will be raised again when a new Council is formed in May.

Councillor D. Sharpe pointed out the lack of white lines in various areas and the lack of marking on the speed humps on Wood Road. The Chairman pointed out that despite numerous letters to Highways, the requests for these markings to be reinstated are being ignored. A further letter will be sent.

06/173 Chairman's Statement

Good evening ladies and gentleman. I should like to take this opportunity to welcome you to our Annual Parish Meeting.

Before I begin I must apologize for the low number of Parish Councillors attending tonight this is no fault of theirs but the strict time frame we had to fix this meeting, It was unfortunate that the council elections are in early May, and with Easter falling this weekend many councillors are on holiday and as I am on holiday in a weeks time this was the only date available.

Last year you may remember the Police were invited to answer questions about a 'RAVE', which took place at the 'Old Bomb Dump'. I am pleased to say that this year we do not have anything as dramatic to concern ourselves with! This is partly due the closer liaison we now have with the police. Whilst not being complacent the system seems to work as we have managed to stop one or two raves before they managed to get going .

In last years report I commented on the fact that the roads have been resurfaced and hoped that we could get our pavements restored to a similar condition, but, as you can see from Councillor Padley's report I don't think there is much chance of this happening. I can assure you that your Parish Council is 'beavering' away and hope that we can get some resurfacing done in the near future.

As most of you will know we are negotiating with Guy & James Adams for land to extend the existing cemetery. This is ongoing as we speak and we have just put in a planning application to

ENC on land amounting to about 1 acre to the south of the existing cemetery. If this is successful, hopefully we can then conclude our negotiations with James & Guy.

Mr Colin Smith has been our cemetery curator for the last two years. He has now indicated that he wishes to retire from the work in the cemetery but continue with work in the churchyard. We have advertised for a new curator and hope to appoint someone in the next few days. I should like to thank Colin for all his hard work over the years, not just for the cemetery and churchyard but for all the other work he undertakes on our behalf.

During the year we have had many meetings with both District & County Council Officers as well as the elected members and one of the most important results of this hard work is their acknowledgement of King's Cliffe as a centre for local villages in the north of the County. This has meant for the first time, that I can remember that the county has finally accepted the importance of King's Cliffe!

All this work has resulted in the 'Pathfinder Project'. This gives us direct contact with both councils. Many of you who attended the consultation meeting at the Community Centre last month about the new Sports & Community Project may have filled in a questionnaire for the Pathfinder Group and we have just received the results. They make interesting reading.

The county have appointed Mr Mike King to collate and implement any suggestions on how to improve the amenities in the village. If anyone has any suggestions or observations whatsoever he can always be contacted in the Resource Centre on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons.

This centre has now employed a full time administrator in Debbie Balmer who has given a report on their recent activities which has been circulated. And just tonight we have had some good news about the re-instatement of the Youth Club, they have been awarded £12,000 to continue in the Resource Centre.

As already mentioned the Sports & Community Centre; which is planned to the north of the village covering some ten acres this land will soon be in the ownership of the Parish Council using monies from the landfill tax credit system. This is administered through King's Cliffe Environmental Association on Augean's behalf. I am sure most of you have seen the ambitious plans for the site and I believe it will be extremely beneficial to the village, again raising our profile in this part of the county.

This year one of our greatest expenses has been the street lighting and we have replaced many of the old lights and we have also installed new lights in some of the 'darker' areas of the village.

The allotments are all let and we have a waiting list. I believe one or two tenants are giving up so we may be able to help some new aspiring gardeners.

During the winter we cut the hedge in Orchard Lane, cleared the Pocket Park on the old railway line and mended the steps down into the park from Willow Lane which had been destroyed by our local vandals who were also busy last weekend decorating parts of the village with spray paint.

The above mentioned are just a few of the works which the Parish Council have carried out throughout the year, most of which go un-noticed, but are necessary for the smooth of the village.

Before I close I should like to thank all councillors for their support over the last years while I have been their chairman. As many of you will know there were to be elections in May to elect a new Parish Council but I can tell you that only 9 names were put forward so next year you will be looking at a few new faces as we will have to co-opt two to make up numbers. There

will definitely however be one new face Phillipa Lang Norris .Also you will be looking at a new Chairman as I shall be standing down.

Finally, before I close I must say that no Council can function without a clerk and in Hilary I believe we have had one of the most hard working and dedicated clerks possible. Thank you

06/174 County Councillor Padley : Annual Report : this report was circulated at the meeting

The council's revenue budget of £350.8 million was approved at the council meeting of 22nd February and the increased revenue spending this year will be £19.7 million, an increase of 5.9%. Schools receive their money (£360.5 million) direct from Government. The council's general reserves are being kept at £16.1 million and the council tax will only rise by 3.95%, thus keeping faith with the Tory Administration's promise to keep it within general inflation levels. This benefits those on fixed incomes such as pensioners. The revenue grant from Government giving a rise of only 2.8% was again near the bottom level grants received in the country for the second year running and well below our own council inflation rate of around 5%.

There will be job cuts, but these will not affect front line services. The council is working to deliver what is called an "Integrated Change programme" to make its services more efficient and better value for money. There will be Front offices shared with the Districts and Boroughs to meet and respond to the public and their queries and problems and these are likely to be situated in existing 7 District or Borough offices. Back office functions such as Payroll, HR support and IT support could be integrated and savings could be made. The initiative to deliver these changes began before the Government White Paper demanded in October last year that counties respond within 3 months to the choice between being "Unitary Authorities" or "Radical Two Tier Authorities".

This was an unrealistic time table and we have not been able to submit a definite bid; although we have indicated that we prefer the Two Tier option, as can be seen from the work done so far. In the meantime our Chief Executive has resigned as he felt that the work with the Districts and Boroughs would proceed better with a new man at the helm.

In the fast part of this financial year the Highway Maintenance Budget is being temporarily reduced so that repair of roadways and footpaths is becoming more difficult to deliver. We are however trying to catch upon the £60 million backlog of repairs we inherited from the Labour Administration in 2005.

We have contributed £500,000 towards Visible Policing this year which has assisted the new Safer Community Teams policing the county. The East Northants North Team was launched on February 27th in Oundle, and will cover the villages in my Prebendal Division, which is very good news.

We have signed the Nottingham Declaration on Climate change and are working on reducing our emissions from Council buildings. The council aims to pursue and prosecute companies who use excess packaging and therefore unnecessary landfill as well as energy and has already had one successful prosecution. The new Mineral and Waste Development Framework guides and plans quarries and landfill as well as recycling plants which in principle we support. In Prebendal division we have several sites, most of which are well managed including Slipe Clay Pit, where Augean have now restructured the Eastern boundary to protect the woodland and badger setts alongside them. King's Cliffe industrial site has two recycling plants and the Inert Waste site just outside the boundary has only been given 6 months permission to ensure that the

condition of access only being allowed through the Industrial site and not along the bridleway is adhered to.

My work with children in care and children excluded from school has continued this year. Northants has a good record of caring for "Looked After Children" although we would like to recruit even more foster carers. I have continued to Chair the Personnel Committee and the forum at which the unions meet the council and sit on several staff appeals. Our staff are our biggest asset; we employ around 20,000 people including school staff, being the largest employer in the county. Councillor Priscilla Padley - March 2007.

06/175 Open Forum

The Chairman invited members of the Public to ask questions:-

Mr. W. Court asked if the proposed Sports Complex was being run by a company. The Chairman replied that it was presently under the umbrella of the Community Association but once up and running it will be a limited liability company. Councillor B. Howard felt that no one knew what was going on and he said the Parish Council should be more involved. The Chairman questioned this; there have been three consultations at the Community Centre and Middle School, which have been advertised extensively and well attended. He explained that the land will belong to the Parish Council for obvious reasons, to avoid any problems with it being sold for development in the future but other than that, they are not involved. This had all been decided in Council when the idea was first mooted.

Mr. Bradshaw agreed with Councillor B. Howard but the Chairman explained that all the money had been given in grants by various sources. Councillor D. Sharpe said she felt it was very well managed and it was impossible to please the whole community whatever was proposed. Councillor B. Howard said he would like to be proposed as an observer for the Parish Council; the Chairman answered that he was personally invited to meetings as the land will belong to the PC. Councillor K. Howard alleged that the site did not have full planning consent; the Chairman replied that planning permission was in place for the site to be developed; further than this it was not the responsibility of the Parish Council; it was for the relevant committee and solicitors to sort out. Mrs. Walker asked for names of the committee members and the Chairman gave her several names. He then gave a potted history of the origins of the whole idea and again stated that all of it had been approved by the Parish Council. Mr. Peacey asked if he was right in thinking that the Parish Council was not actually involved in the project; the answer was that they own the land and that is where their immediate responsibility ends.

Councillor B. Howard insisted this must be an agenda item at the next meeting as he did not know enough about it. The Chairman again stated that there had been three consultations showing all the plans for the project and that Mr. Hellard and Mr. Pick had originally brought the plans to a Council meeting when it had been discussed at length. Councillor D. Sharpe brought this subject to a close by stating that Councillor B. Howard was in a minority and not representing the Parish Council who were unanimously in favour of the project.

Mr. Crawley asked if the Clerk would please report the following items: the light on the STOP sign at the junction of Park Street and Station Road was on permanently; a drain cover outside Willowbrook View clatters when vehicles pass over it and suggested we should ask for Wansford to be added to the signpost at the above junction. The Clerk will address to these problems, but as usual there are no guarantees that Highways will respond to her requests.

Mr. Bradshaw returned to the Sports Complex project; he asked if the land will be fenced and is

there an end date? The Chairman replied it will proceed over a number of years in phases. Councillor K. Howard considered there is a serious Health and Safety problem in using the road through Kingsmead. Mr. Bradshaw said the Committee seemed to have disregarded the roads issue which would be very expensive. The Chairman said this would not cost the Parish anything; the bulk of the money would come from the Landfill Tax scheme who has already given many thousands of pounds towards village project i.e. the Church roof, the Memorial Hall, the Horsewater clearance etc.

Mr. Peacey than told the Council that in 2008 it would be 800 hundred years since Kings John first came to the village – should there not be a Mid-Summer Fair, possibly going back in time to show how the village had been in those days. It was suggested that this could be an agenda item for the new council in May.

Councillor K. Howard said that several people had expressed an interest in restarting the Kings Cliffe Festival to raise money for the village; this could be in the form of craft stalls etc. Councillor B. Howard endorsed the idea.

The Chairman said he was sure the Parish Council would support this wholeheartedly.

As there were no more questions, he then declared the Public Meeting closed but said anyone who was interested was welcome to remain for the monthly meeting.

Signed.....

Date.....

MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

06/176 Declarations of Interest : Councillor L. Crane declared an interest in agenda item 15.

06/177 Minutes of the meeting held on 8th March 2007 : These minutes were approved

Proposed : Councillor B. Wyles

Seconded : Councillor L. Crane

06/178 Matters Arising : None

06/179 Clerks Report

A letter has been received from County Councillor Padley to inform us that she is retiring and will not be standing in the forthcoming elections

Following a letter to the Traffic Commissioner regarding the application for a Good Vehicle licence from T.J.Trucking Ltd., to run from Leedsgate on the Wansford Road, a letter has been received from TJ saying that actual vehicle movements will be minimal in comparison with those from the Industrial Estate.

Requests for quotations for the repairing of the stone wall in the Pitchell have been sent to local contractors.

I have asked yet again for the Elephant Trap to be cleared and these requests have been ignored. All other drains in the village have allegedly been cleared.

After numerous complaints, T-Mobile has been contacted by me and many members of the community regarding the lack of service considering there is a dedicated mast in Willow Lane. The total lack of help is abysmal; a report was promised by a senior executive in time for this meeting, but has not arrived. I was told I could not represent a whole community – all complaints must be from individual users; many subscribers have contacted them but no satisfactory explanation has yet been given.

Colin Smith has offered to become the Pocket Parks Co-ordinator; this will be an agenda item for the next meeting and in the meantime, NCC PP department will get in touch with him.

Councillors have been given a report from the Resource Centre on present progress.

06/180 Accounts Payable : the following were approved for payment

Curators Salary (current month)	£ 140.00
Clerks Salary (current month)	£ 200.00
Resource at Kings Cliffe : Room Hire	£ 24.00
ABB Ltd : Lighting repairs Rate/Coleman's Lane	£ 282.00
ABB Ltd : Emergency callout to Wheel House	£ 77.67
ENC: Rates for cemetery	£ 66.23
J L Ashby & Co Ltd : Pocket Park clearance (as agreed)	£ 1410.00
Allianz Cornhill : Insurance renewal	£ 387.12
Anglian Water : Cemetery Water charges	£ 56.74
Ian Helliwell : Architect : Plans for cemetery extension	£ 100.00
Powergen : Lighting charges ¼ to March 2007	£ 418.79
Smith Hetherington : Grass cutting	£ 196.99

Proposed : Councillor B. Wyles

Seconded : Councillor D. Sharpe

06/181 Planning

Applications

111 Wood Road : Single and two storey extension : EN/07/00418/FUL : No objection

67 Park Street : Conservatory to rear elevation : EN/07/00602 : No objection

Granted : noted

The Rectory, Hall Yard : Fell two yew trees : EN/06/02401/TCA

Kings Cliffe Industrial Estate : Glass Recycling : NCC

70 Park Street : Single storey extension and insertion of roof light : EN/07/00113/FUL

Refused : noted

116 West Street : Roof light to rear : EN/06/02459/FUL

06/182 Cemetery Extension : update

The Planning Application for change of use of the land for the extension has been sent to ENC; hopefully this will be approved and the Council will be in a position to purchase the land.

06/183 Cemetery Curator

Only one application has been received therefore the applicant, Mr. Robin Hakes, will be the new curator. He will be asked to liaise with Mr. Smith before commencing at the beginning of May.

Proposed : Councillor B. Howard

Seconded : Councillor D. Sharpe

06/184 Street Lighting : Wheel House

The light outside the Wheel House was damaged and consequently removed by ABB Ltd. A new light was installed which the owners did not like, but ABB said they could not repair the old lantern and a replacement lantern would take three months to order and would cost circa £700. Therefore the Clerk asked for the damaged light to be returned for inspection; it is apparently repairable. It was suggested that the same thing may happen again, but was pointed out that it had been there for at least fifteen years without damage. The Council agreed that the old light should be repaired and reinstated.

06/185 Allotment Rental Renewals

Renewal notices have been sent to tenants with letters to several of them telling them that as their plots are not used, their tenancy will not be renewed. Replies have not yet been received but vacant plots will be allocated to those on the waiting list in the fullness of time.

06/186 The Spa

A long discussion was held regarding the dilapidated condition of this monument. Councillor D. Sharpe and Councillor A. Howard have contacted Mr. Richardson of Southwick Parish and it was suggested there should be grants to cover this. It is officially nothing to do with Kings Cliffe as it is out of our Parish and actually the responsibility of the owner of the land. One Councillor insisted that the PC should get involved with this. At this point, Mr. Court asked if he could speak, which the Chairman allowed, and stated that the last time the Parish Council gave money towards this, it was reprimanded by the Audit Commission. Therefore it seems this must be left to Southwick Parish meeting and the owner of the land.

06/187 Burial Board – Nothing to report

06/188 Other Correspondence Received

The letter and photographs from Mr. Smith regarding the clearing of the Willow Walk was discussed. Although it looks rather bare at the moment, it was agreed that the spring and summer growth should rectify this and this work was done on the recommendation of the NCC Pocket Parks department.

Councillor B. Howard suggested the new Chief Inspector of Police should be asked to a meeting.

The new seat to be supplied for the cemetery will be moved to the new cemetery land when this reaches fruition. Howard Wooden Packaging Ltd forwarded a copy of a letter sent to ENC regarding road safety issues in Kingsmead when the Sports Project is up and running.

06/189 Any Other Business

Councillor D. Sharpe reported the graffiti at the Bottle Bank. This has been reported to ENC. She also requested that the Community Policeman Paul Webster be asked to have a word with the youngsters who invade Malting's Green in the late afternoon and evenings.

Councillor B. Howard again mentioned the need for top dressing on the roads. The Chairman told him, as the Highways Representative for the Parish, to deal with the matter. The Councillor also asked why this village did not have as many Spring bulbs as other villages. The Clerk obtained many bags of bulbs for the village some years ago, and last year Councillor A. Howard offered bulbs which had been donated to anyone who wanted them.

Again, Councillor B. Howard complained of fly tipping in the Hornstocks. This area is within the Collyweston Parish and anything beyond the immediate verge area is the responsibility of English Nature who owns the land. However, the Council understand that ENC has cleared this within the last few days

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.55.p.m. The next meeting will be the AGM on 10th May 2007.

Signed.....

Date.....