

KINGS CLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

The monthly meeting of the Parish Council was held on Thursday 11th June 2009 at 7.30.pm. at the Parlour, King's Cliffe Memorial Hall.

09/025 Present : Chairman A. Howard, Vice-Chairman M. Wharton, Councillors L. Crane, C. Williams, B. Wyles, M. Day, G. Kingston, J. Dixon, B. Howard, parishioners and members of the public, M. Kirk, L. Emerson, J. Groves and M. McCall.

09/026 Apologies for Absence : Councillors P. Lang Norris, and K. Howard

09/027 Declarations of Interest : None

09/028 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 14th May 2009 : Approved

Proposed : Councillor M. Wharton

Seconded : Councillor C. Williams

09/029 Matters arising

The drains at the junction of West Street/Park Street are still causing problems during heavy rainfall. This will be reported again.

Spire Homes have done little to alleviate the problems with pavements at Station Road/Park Close. They will be asked yet again to deal with this problem

09/030 Clerks report

The Enforcement Officer from ENC came to inspect some very bad pointing on two cottages in West Street; the contractors said they were renewing like for like, but have been asked to apply for a grant to complete work on the gable, with the correct mortar mix.

There has been one volunteer to plan an Emergency Plan committee; but despite several calls have been unable to contact the lady who left a message.

Likewise, one volunteer to manually help with creating a Children's Playground, but it is hoped to a group will be formed to take this forward.

An e-mail complaint was received regarding the bridge over the river in the Church meadow. Charles Atkinson has cut the grass on his side, this has will be reported to the Footpaths Officer, although the bridge itself is in good repair and has not caused problems in the past.

The pavement in Station Road has been repaired, but as we know, this does not solve the problem of tree roots; this will be pointed out to Spire Homes.

A complaint regarding the pavements on Blatherwycke Road has also been reported; also the fact that there is grass growing through the new tarmaced footpath near Kirks Lodge.

Anglian Water, after much nagging from me and Mr. Terence Smith, have yet again repaired a burst water pipe in the lane from Station Road to Park Close. Spire Homes have also been requested to clear this path of mud and hedge cuttings; the reply was that the cuttings are the responsibility of tenants.

An order has been placed to inspect the faulty road drains in West Street/Forest Approach and at the bottom of Wansford Hill. It is noted they have been marked with yellow paint.

As we now have our own web-site, Oundle on Line have asked that our records be removed from their site and they will create a link to our web-site.

09/031 Accounts payable

Curators Salary (current month)	£ 150.00
Clerks Salary (current month)	£ 200.00
Clerks expenses (January – June)	£ 90.87
Robert J. Goodson Ltd : Commercial insurance	£ 659.71
Smith Hetherington : grass cutting etc.	£ 205.00

E-ON : Service charges for street lighting	£ 363.15
Mrs. J. Dixon : contra payment for Pitchell	£ 20.00

09/032 Planning

Applications

70 Wood Road : New Gable & replacement windows : EN/09/00806/FUL : No objection
 Huskisson's Lodge : Alterations to S/S entrance hall : EN/09/00821/LBC : No objection
 25 Bridge Street : Removal of 3 fruit trees : EN/09/00858/TCA : No objection

Granted by ENC

8 Wood Lane : S/S Sun lounge : EN/09/00448/FUL : Noted

Withdrawn by applicant

Endowed School : Covered Play Area : EN/09/00023/CCD : Noted

PCSO Tim Butters joined the meeting

09/033 East Northants Resource Management Facility Proposals

On the 20th May, five councillors and the clerk attended a presentation at the Resource Centre, given by Augean, also attended by NCC, the Environment Agency, ENC Environment manager and various other interested organisations. There followed an interesting debate on Augean's proposed submissions to take low-level nuclear power station waste at the landfill site. An exhibition on the same subject was held at the Memorial Hall on the following day, which was visited by several more councillors and many parishioners.

The members of the public in the room asked if Mr. M. Kirk could speak for the Kings Cliffe Waste Watchers. He said they had a meeting on 10th June and there were levels of deep concern within the community and asked if the Council would please arrange a Public meeting to allow these concerns to be discussed. The Chairman said he had been contacted by Mrs. Amanda Rackham who was involved in organising a group. Vice-Chairman M. Wharton said it should be ensured that there were not several splinter groups involved in any action.

Councillor J. Dixon said the exhibition presented by Augean had been excellent, very informative and there appeared to be only a very, very low level of risk to the public in the submissions proposed.

Mr. Kirk said many members of the community visited the exhibition. The questions regarding safety were not satisfactorily answered in his opinion. When it was suggested that flying long distance, x-rays, etc., were far more dangerous, he replied that there is a choice – with the landfill site, the village is not given a choice.

Councillor M. Day agreed with this, but the Parish Council cannot support a Public Meeting without a vote of support.

The Chairman said we must have the views of the Parish, if a meeting is called, will people attend? Councillor B. Wyles said at the April PC Annual meeting, three members of the public attended and what will this actually achieve? The Chairman replied that this must mean the community is satisfied with the work we do. A petition might be the alternative way forward.

Mr. Kirk replied that a Public meeting would effectively prevent splinter groups from forming within the community.

The Chairman asked if it was the view of the PC that a Public meeting be called. Vice Chairman Wharton said the PC is the focal point of the community. Two hundred and fifty people attended the exhibition and they all have a right to speak.

Councillor M. Day asked what the meeting would discuss, as no actual plans have yet been submitted to NCC.

The Chairman felt a meeting should be called to ascertain the general feeling. This was agreed and the meeting will be at the beginning of July (date to be confirmed). The Clerk was asked to invite CC

Heather Smith, DC Roger Glithero, NCC Planning Officers Phil Watson and Roy Boulton .All local Parish Councils will be informed; also Roger Coulthard as the original WasteWatchers co-ordinator.

09/034 Resource Centre/Youth Club update

The Chairman has spoken to Simon Wilson, Memorial Hall chairman; it was hoped a reprieve had been granted but this did not come to fruition. The Hall committee are willing to allow access to existing users of Resource. It is important that this facility is not lost, the user costs are minimal and the PC will continue to pay for the Youth Club room hire.

Councillor J. Dixon, a member of the Hall committee, said there will be a shortfall in funds and they are concerned that the Youth Club must have someone controlling the finances, sadly one part time organiser is not sufficient to their needs.

09/035 Children's Play Area : update

The money, namely £ 4582. 00, from the original Pathfinder Project is now in the PC account; the Chairman has spoken to David Hellard regarding an area within the sports complex for this facility. There is now a pressing need for fundraising. Mr. Donald Pollock from Bridge Street has offered his services in organising a group to hopefully raise funds. The Council thank him sincerely for his offer of help.

09/036 KCASP

The County Councillor and District Councillors have expressed concerns about the viability of this project. David Hellard has told the Chairman a business plan is in place to raise funds for changing rooms. Initially the funds will be for a base, possibly in the first instance, a Portakabin or mobile building of some description. The pitches, once completed, will be hired out and should be a source of income.

The main concern was that if a sports hall is built how would this be funded and maintained, as it would significantly increase the costs associated with the project and we would ask to see a business plan at that time. The bottom line being that if the project was to fail, the PC is the actual landowner and could become responsible for this.

09/037 Sheltered Accommodation

The Chairman expressed concern that there is no provision in the village for the elderly, who can no longer manager to look after themselves without help. Older residents have to leave the village when they need help. Should we put pressure on NCC for some form of sheltered accommodation, possibly six homes? This is a large village and other several smaller villages in the area have sheltered housing.

Vice Chairman M. Wharton said many authorities supply a warden who visits the elderly on a regular basis. There are schemes for 'emergency alerts' but these are not free. Councillor L. Crane said she believed there was a scheme in the village. CC H. Smith will be asked to investigate this for us.

09/038 Speed Warning Signs

C C Heather Smith is researching the possibility of providing flashing warning signs to combat speeding on the roads into the village.

09/039 Community Responder Scheme

Apethorpe Parish approached East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS) about the possibility of establishing a CRS. EMAS agreed and advised that any scheme would need to include Kings Cliffe. They would like the residents of Kings Cliffe to support this scheme.

This is a scheme to provide first aid to people who phone the ambulance service requesting help for collapse and/or severe chest pains (which may be a heart attack). Local volunteers are trained by the ambulance service to act as 'First Responders' to people living in their community. First aid given to the patient in the minutes before the ambulance arrives can make a big difference to the patient's recovery (and can mean the difference between life and death). The next meeting is on Tuesday 21st July 2009, to be held at the King's Head, Apethorpe

09/040 Gazette Entry for July : discussed and agreed

09/041 Burial Board

Councillor Day report that John Barratt had reported he was concerned about the Church wall in Hall Yard. He considers although not imminently in danger, it should be a consideration when budgeting for next years precept. The Chairman said there are also concerns again about the safety of some of the gravestones in the churchyard which the burial board will investigate

The Clerk will source a new 'No Parking' sign for the newly painted cemetery gates.

09/042 Neighbourhood Watch

PCSO Tim Butters reported, earlier in the meeting there had been two break-ins in Hall Yard, but the crime figures were better than those in the locality. He gave a warning that cars are being broken into to steal SatNavs; despite removing and hiding them, the give-away to thieves is the 'suction mark' on windows, which invariably means there is a SatNav in the glove compartment. Please take them out of the car when parking. There have also been local break-ins purely to steal car keys, so please leave keys out of sight of house windows.

The new non-emergency number for the Police will be 03000 111 222 – the old helpdesk number is to be phased out.

The Chairman spoke for the Council by saying everyone was sad to learn of the death of PC Kevin York who had been a very good friend to Kings Cliffe during his years with the force.

09/043 Other Correspondence Received : discussed or circulated

09/044 Any Other Business

Councillor M. Wharton requested that each Councillor be given four minutes to speak under this agenda item. The Chairman replied that, strictly speaking, AOB should not be on the agenda and it was certainly not permitted to discuss items which should be agenda items. It remains mainly for each Councillor to raise queries for the next meeting, or for genuine emergencies. The Clerk asked Councillors, if they had matters for discussion at meetings to please let her know at least one week before the meeting as agenda are displayed, by statute, at least five days before meetings.

Councillor L. Crane asked if residents could be asked to secure recycling bins to avoid papers, which the dustmen do not gather up, blowing into the streets.

Councillor C. Williams, referring to the earlier item on speed warning signs, asked if perhaps the PC could afford to buy one each year.

Councillor B. Howard asked when the KC1 site would be started and when are pavements in the village to be resurfaced. The Chairman reminded him that country is in recession and as far as Highways are concerned, we have had a great many of our requests granted and we should be grateful. We listed all the work we had managed to get done recently with more in the pipe line

Councillor B. Wyles reported that the flowers growing on the pavements in West Street were restricting access for wheelchairs and pushchairs and he asked that we should ask the residents to cut them back

Councillor G. Kingston asked if we had heard from DC Glithero regarding the planning granted for the large garage to the front of 72 Park Street. Also, has the Clerk yet reported the alleged breach of planning permission in Bridge Street to the Enforcement Officer at ENC, where a garage appears to have been converted into living accommodation. The Chairman asked the Clerk to please deal with this directly.

Councillor B. Howard complained that areas in the village had not had the long grass cut, however it was pointed out that the grass had been cut last week

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.10.pm. The next meeting will be held in the Memorial Hall Parlour on Thursday 9th July at 7.30.pm.