

KINGS CLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual General meeting of the Parish Council was held on Thursday 12th May 2011 at 7.30pm. at King's Cliffe Memorial Hall

011/001 Welcome

Andrew Howard, as Chairman of the former Council, welcomed everyone to the meeting; following the recent local election, all Councillors have now been formally elected by the Parish.

He explained certain procedures of protocol which must be adhered to and asked all Councillors to ensure they had declared all their interests on the official "Register of Members' Interests" to hopefully avoid conflicts of interest in the future; in some circumstances, Councillors may feel the need to resign from other organisations, if these cause conflict with Parish Council matters. He asked everyone to sign their Acceptance of Office forms, which need to be witnessed by the clerk. He also added that members of the public or Councillors can give notice to speak before the meeting and the clerk had made such a request; he therefore invited her to speak.

Clerk Hilary Blunt spoke to the meeting to explain the circumstances of a current planning application on her family property.

11/002 Present : Councillors J. Atkinson, R. Brown, G. Caddick, L. Crane, M. Day, N. Ford, A. Howard, G. Kingston, C. Leuchars and R. Meadows. Richard Brown, cemetery curator, also attended.

11/003 Apologies : C. Williams.

11/004 Declarations of Interest : Councillors Day and Crane declared an interest in the Freestone Lodge planning application; Councillor Howard declared a non-pecuniary interest in the same. Councillors Day declared an interest in the Augean discussion as he is a member of KEA. Councillors Atkinson, Leuchars and Meadows declared an interest in KC1.

11/005 Election of Chairman : The Clerk asked for nominations. One nomination for Councillor Howard was received.

Proposed : Councillor Ford Seconded : Councillor Day

11/006 Election of Vice Chairman : The Chairman asked for nominations. One nomination for Councillor Day was received.

Proposed : Councillor Kingston Seconded : Councillor Ford

11/007 Formation of Sub-Committees

The Chairman explained that the only sub-committee was the Burial Board. Councillor Day, current BB chairman said he wished to stand down as chairman, but would continue on the committee and assist with the marking out of graves for interments. The new committee will be Councillors Crane, Williams (who agreed beforehand), Ford, Kingston and Day. Councillor Crane has agreed to call a meeting to elect a new chairman in the near future; Chairman Howard has asked to be included.

11/008 Appointment of Wardens

Footpath Warden : Councillor Meadows

Tree Warden : Retiring Councillor Jenny Dixon has agreed to remain as warden.

11/009 Nominations to Other Bodies if required

Memorial Hall : The Parish Council has need two trustees on this committee. Mary Wharton and Christine Williams have resigned as Trustees, which leaves two vacancies. Councillor Meadows is a member and willing to become a nominated trustee; he will ask another committee member to represent the PC as the second trustee.

11/010 Dates of Meetings for the Coming Year

Councillors were given a list of meeting for the coming year. The Chairman explained these were subject to change if necessary and interim meetings could be called if required. The August and December meetings will only be held if there is sufficient business as associated organisations have less business during these months.

11/011 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14th April 2011 : Approved

Proposed : Councillor Crane Seconded : Councillor Howard

11/012 Matters Arising

The Chairman said he was sure everyone wished to send their condolences to Elisabeth Court following her sad loss. Wilfred Court had served the Parish Council, both as Chairman for two terms and as Councillor for many years and given invaluable service to many village organisations.

The Clerk will write to retiring councillors, thanking them for their long service.

11/013 Clerks Report

Welcome to all our new Councillors!

The envelope on the table which is circulated to all Councillors formerly contained reams of minutes etc. from ENC, which are now e-mail to Councillors; it now contains very little, basically a few public information leaflets, and magazines from various organisations. The monthly correspondence list, which used to have all letters received recorded in it, now only has circulated literature and various invitations etc. as so much is now e-mail not hard copy. This list also includes additional items to the agenda, i.e. accounts or planning applications, which need attention, received after the agenda has been published

Bequest from Mrs. Jessie Bevan : Stapleton Solicitors have confirmed that we can use these monies at our discretion, provided that the four graves in question are always properly tended. At this point, the meeting suggested when the new cemetery is complete, a seat to acknowledge this generous bequest would be appropriate.

Rubbish in the Hornstocks : reported to Natural England who has promised to remove it.

The rubbish in the garden of 5 Blatherwycke Road has been reported to the Rockingham Forest Housing Trust and they are sending an inspector out.

The small water leak outside 12 West Street has been reported to Anglian Water.

11/014 Accounts Payable

Clerks Salary current month	£ 160.00
Richard Brown, Cemetery & Churchyard etc.	£ 200.00
British Telecom : Telephone ¼ to April	£ 142.83
E-on : Lighting repairs	£ 28.16
E-on : Lighting charges : ¼ to March 2010	£ 591.59
HMRC : Clerks PAYE for April	£ 40.00
Richard Brown : tree felling in Churchyard	£ 48.00

ENC Precept ½-year payment of £ 7,500.00 paid to the PC on 21/04/2011

Proposed : Councillor Ford Seconded : Councillor Kingston

11/015 Planning

Applications:

22 Park Street : Extension to provide new orangery : EN/11/00474/FUL : No objection

Councillors Day and Crane and the Clerk left the meeting for the next item and returned afterwards.

Freestone Lodge : Use as existing builders yard & stables : EN/11/00628/LDE : No objection

Augean Scoping Proposals : Further discussion

The Parish Council sent a response to the Scoping Proposals in March; a more detailed response has been requested by Phil Watson at NCC.

After a long discussion it was decided the following points would be raised in a letter to Mr. Watson:-

Water Pollution

Evidence points to the fact that any leachate from this site will either enter an aquifer that is adjacent to the site or enter the groundwater drainage system which leads to various springs in the village. We would be very concerned at the risk of the ground water in the Parish becoming contaminated with leachate from the site

Residents Concerns

In our recent referendum, 98% of the electorate who voted objected to the proposed operations at this site. This vote provided a clear and decisive view from the Parish.

The proposed activities on this site causes anxiety and a concern that in the long term it could result in harm to the residents of the Parish

Necessity for Extension of Time and Size

The submission of three proposals is causing considerable confusion to residents and we consider there is no logical reason to extend the time and size of the site.

11/016 Audited Annual Accounts for approval – 2010/11

The Clerk reported that at a meeting with Ivan Walker from Stephenson Smart & Co., all aspects of the accounts were discussed and approved and signed by him. The minutes were also inspected as regulations stipulate.

The Chairman then explained the accounts to Councillors. Although we have spent more than actual monies received, we received the most generous bequest from Mrs. Bevins' estate, which will enable the cemetery extension to be completed and we have a buffer in healthy bank balances, carefully managed. It had been formerly agreed that we would not ask for an increase in the precept. Councillor Caddick suggested the bequest money should be ring-fenced; this has already been done, this money is in a dedicated savings account.

For the future, the KC1 site will bring further benefits to the village, and each house sold will pay council tax, which will enable us to ask for more precept in the future.

The accounts will be approved at the next meeting when Councillors have had an opportunity to study the figures produced.

The Clerk was asked to leave the meeting for the next item on the agenda.

11/017 Clerks Salary : proposal to increase

The Clerk has not had an increase in salary since 2005; it was pointed out that this has been her choice. However, there has been a considerable increase in the work load during the last 18 months, this is likely to increase even more and the salary paid is considerably lower than is paid to clerks in adjacent villages and a long way below the NCALC salary scale for clerks. No allowance is given for the home use as an office, internet connection, computer and printer etc. An allowance for document copying, postage and sundry stationery items, is claimed twice yearly. The dedicated telephone account is paid by the PC quarterly. In addition, PAYE has to be deducted following new regulations introduced by HMRC.

It was decided to raise the salary to £ 3,600 gross per annum with an incremental increase each year.

Proposed : Councillor Brown

Seconded : Councillor Ford

11/018 Traffic Calming & crossing : Wood Road

This was reported in detail in the April 2011 minutes. The Chairman briefed new Councillors on the history of the suggested crossing, objections and the reasons as to why between Forest Approach and Willow Lane was the only viable option. Some years ago, the PC had asked for a crossing from Wood Road to West Street at the junction with Blatherwycke Road; the reply from NCC was that the cost then would be approximately £25,000 and the cost could not be justified. It was decided to go back to NCC and see what the least obtrusive, acceptable crossing layout was acceptable to them.

11/019 Memorial Hall : parking area in Church Walk : posts

The Clerk had researched the price of posts for this area at approximately £7 per post; there would be additional cost of fixing the posts and having a reflector at the top. Comments were made that to have high posts would give the appearance of a fence. Councillor Meadows reported that the Memorial Hall committee had received a quotation for £800 for recycled posts, which was felt to be very costly. He has agreed to go back to the committee on this issue to be dealt with at a later PC meeting.

11/020 Dogs Bins : survey

It was decided more research into the need for further bins is needed. Each bin costs in excess of £150 plus the cost of installing them.

11/021 Highways : white lining request

The Clerk requested white lining re-painting in the village; the reply in no uncertain terms was that there are far more urgent cases in the area which will be given priority.

11/022 KC1 : Road names

As discussed at the last meeting, we have been asked to suggest street names for the KC1 site. The Clerk contacted the Middle School to ask if they would like to give the children opportunity to suggest road names. No return contact was made. Although in April, the use of tree names was dismissed as too urban, after a lengthy discussion, it was decided that as the new development is off Wood Road, adjacent to Willow Lane, in view of Rockingham Forest, where there is an enormous, very old and famously significant beech tree and as Kings Cliffe was known worldwide as wood-turning village until the 1930's, nicknamed "Wooden Clifty", the logical names are the following indigenous tree names; it was also felt this will also give a directional idea for visitors if they know they are looking for "tree" names. The names sent to ENC are:- Beech, Oak, Ash, Hazel, Elm and Sycamore. Whether they are close, street, or road are up to ENC and Charles Church.

11/023 Mobile Library : alterations to service

There are proposals to change the frequency and stops of the Mobile Library service, but as yet no change in frequency has been notified.

11/024 Gazette entry for June 2011 : Discussed and agreed

11/025 Burial Board

Plans for division of cemetery extension : This and other matters will be discussed by the BB committee at their forthcoming meeting.

Fire Station doors : Chris Jackson has volunteered to paint these doors and the Clerk is instructed to gratefully accept this help.

11/026 Neighbourhood Watch

Mary Wharton and other Councillors have in the past tried unsuccessfully to resurrect the Community Neighbourhood Watch. There seems little point in trying again. The village has a low crime rate, but everyone must stay vigilant to keep it this way.

11/027 Other Correspondence Received : circulated

11/028 Any Other Business

The Chairman explained to new Councillors that he asks each of them in person if they have any items they wish to be included on a future agenda, or if simple, can be dealt with now. No major business can be discussed under Any Other Business.

Councillor Brown suggested the Parish Council web-site could be extended and expanded. As he very kindly created the web-site this was enthusiastically received, ideas were aired and these will be implemented or discussed at a future meeting.

Councillor Meadows asked if the grass and the trees on the Green opposite the Endowed School could be cut and pruned. Although ENC will no doubt eventually cut the grass, the Clerk will talk to the Tamsin Denis at ENC regarding the pruning, as this is within the Conservation area.

Councillor Kingston asked for a request to be sent to NCC to trim the hedge, which belongs to them, adjacent to the old Railway Bridge.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.55.pm. The next meeting will be on Thursday 9th June at 7.30.pm. in the Memorial Hall Parlour.