

KING'S CLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Public Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 18th April 2002 at King's Cliffe Memorial Hall

Present: Cllrs. Hetherington, L. Crane, W. Court, B. Howard, A. Hill, D. Sharpe, J. Dixon and several Parishioners

Chairman Hetherington welcomed everyone to this Public Meeting and welcomed the return of the Parish Clerk after her illness.

Apologies: A. Howard, A. Urquhart, and N. Ford

The Chairman announced that Councillor Bob Wyles had resigned from the Parish Council and had asked that his reasons for resigning should be made known. He felt that the new Code of Conduct, which is to be adopted by Parish Councillors, was too demanding and intrusive. The thanks of the council were expressed for all the hard work and devotion given by Councillor Wyles for almost 40 years. A letter would be sent to him.

Chairman's Statement

This year marks the end of Councillor Hetherington's time as Chairman. He reflected on the tremendous value which the Parish Council delivers to the village; the new contentious Code of Conduct must not be allowed to curtail the freedom to deliver these valued services to the Parish.

Support for the Village Design Statement has grown during the year and the committee group of elected members and laymen under the Chairmanship of Cllr. Court have done some exceptional work.

It is regretted that where Local Housing needs are concerned, ENC and NNC have created great uncertainty and have made it a difficult year. The land in question is owned by ENC and available, but they lack the will to obtain access. It is hoped these problems will be resolved in the near future. The last meeting to discuss this was unfortunately cancelled, but this will happen – despite these setbacks.

Management of the Cemetery, churchyard etc., is talked about very little but this very important service undertaken by the Council's Burial Board chaired by Cllr. Court – dealing with the bereaved and undertakers, sensitive, important, behind the scenes work that is greatly appreciated.

The new burial area in Church Walk is being admirably maintained until it is required.

The Council owned land – primarily the Pocket Parks, Willow Walk etc., and the allotments are managed most efficiently by the Amenities Committee; the majority of the allotments are now tenanted, although some will take a great deal of hard work to make them really productive. Willow Walk has been considerably improved, for this our thanks go to the Chairman, Cllr. Daphne Sharpe for all her hard work.

The Chairman said there was to be a review of Street lighting throughout the village. The repairs and power bills were a big drain on the revenue of the Parish.

Much of the Parish Council's effort is spent on responding to statutory consultation. It is hoped that the Parish Council's voice will be strengthened in the future. All this provides immense value for money for all residents of King's Cliffe and all for less than £ 1 per month.

There will be Council Elections next year – we must have sufficient candidates to try to ensure there is an election. The Chairman committed to spend the next year recruiting.

The Village Directory should now have been delivered to every home. Thanks to the Parish Clerk for editing the new version.

Open Discussion

The Chairman invited members of the Public to speak.

One Parishioner expressed great concern regarding Slipe Clay Pit. The Chairman and Councillor Sharpe expressed their opinion that although not a perfect situation, it was felt all possible safeguards were in place to ensure the safety of the area. Cllr Court explained that this had gone to appeal but the High Court had overturned the local decision.

Code of Conduct

Councillors have had copies of this document. The Chairman proposed from the chair that this Council adopts the Code of Conduct, but where it conflicts with Standing Orders the Code of Conduct rules and will have precedence.

A parishioner queried whether this was compulsory and the reply was in the affirmative.

Proposal: Councillor B Howard wished the minutes to say that he was not happy with the invasion of the privacy of councillors.

Cllr. Court stated that he would only sign as the alternative is a Parish Council run by the District Council. All Councillors agreed; the Chairman stated that the situation is less than satisfactory but to function as Parish Council all Councillors must concur.

Therefore the Code of Conduct was adopted effective 5th May 2002. Where it might conflict with Standing Orders the Code of Conduct will have precedence.

(Attached – Appendix 1)

Proposed: Cllr. Hetherington

Seconded: Cllr Sharpe

Minutes: The Minutes of the meetings for February 2002 and March 2002 were agreed after minor amendments and accepted.

Proposed: Cllr. D. Sharpe

Seconded: Cllr. N Ford

Matters Arising: There were no matters arising

ACCOUNTS

Councillor D. Sharpe (expenses)	£ 8.36
Powergen (To 31 st Dec. 2001)	£ 424.63
Clerks Salary	£ 166.66
Clerks expenses	£ 34.88
British Telecom KCPC new line	£ 84.83
Smith- Hetherington (Grass cutting)	£ 150.00
Smith- Hetherington (Pocket Park)	£ 21.63
King's Cliffe Memorial Hall	£ 50.00

Proposed : Cllr Court

Seconded : Cllr Dixon

PLANNING

Application

Warehousing, Stamford Road, King's Cliffe EN/02/00270/FUL

Cllr. B Howard declared an interest and left the room

No Objection

Proposed: Cllr Court

Seconded: Cllr Crane

Cllr Hill joined the meeting

OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

A letter has been received from Mrs. Samuels regarding roller-blading nuisance in the passage leading to Wood Road. This is a recurring problem and very distressing for the tenants of adjacent houses. ENC response is that the Parish Council should provide a sign – but this is not enforceable and costly. It is suggested that NCC should be asked for ideas.

A Parishioner raised the question of a park for Skateboarding and Rollerblading – this will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

A Parishioner raised the question of why King’s Cliffe has no play area; to which all Councillors agreed there was problem and as yet no solution had been found.

Cllr Howard suggested compulsory purchase of land above Mazewood Gate for a Sports Field. Apparently there is still a Village Playing field Fund from many years ago.

It was agreed that at the next meeting there should be urgent discussion for the provision of play areas and long-term maintenance, encouraged by public participation.

Rockingham Speedway: There is to be a meeting regarding Traffic Management and KCPC will offer support to other Parish Councils.

RSPB : The invitation to Top Lodge, Fineshade was noted and has been well advertised

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Road Conditions : Cllr. B. Howard raised the issue of road conditions in and around the village. It was decided to write a forceful letter to the County Council, reporting the various problems, copies of the letter to DC Glithero and CC Padley. Cllr. Howard volunteered to undertake this task.

Affordable Housing: the cancelled meeting with ENC on this subject is to be reconvened

Golden Jubilee : A further meeting will be announced shortly. Cllr Court will deal with the matter of road closures for the celebrations.

Burial Board : The equipment store at the cemetery to be made more secure and the double gates are to be padlocked.

Village Design Committee : The date of a meeting will be announced shortly

PC Meetings : For the coming year, these meeting will be on the 2nd Thursday of each month
Location of meetings will be discussed at the next meeting

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and there being no other business the meeting closed at 8.55.pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

The next meeting will be at the Memorial Hall at 7.30.pm. on Thursday 16th May 2002