

KING'S CLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Thursday 11th March 2004 at the Parlour of the Memorial Hall, King's Cliffe Three members of the public were present.

Prior to the meeting by prearrangement, Parishioner G. Wagstaffe spoke to the Council regarding agenda item 7 : Royces Lane. Mr. Wagstaffe stated that he had lived in the village for 50 years and used Royces Lane daily as a way of avoiding the congestion in the heart of the village. Some 30 years ago, residents of the lane attempted to have it closed and this was very strongly opposed by Parishioners. He said this did not represent a traffic hazard, as the bollards in the lane prevented speeding; local drivers used the very responsibly and he was vehemently opposed to any measures to close it to traffic. He was also acting as a spokesman for his next-door neighbours, who were unable to attend the meeting. The Council comments on this matter appear later in these minutes.

03/168 Present: - B.Wyles, B. Howard, A. Howard, L.Crane, B. Wright, J. Dixon, K. Howard and T. Isaac and N. Ford

Apologies: Councillors D.Sharpe and M. Day

Vice-Chairman A. Howard chaired the meeting in the absence of the Chairman

03/169 Declarations of Interest: None

03/170 Clerks Report

Two cars, one burned out and one wrecked on the bridge in Willow Lane were reported to ENC and removal requested

Numerous faulty streetlights have been reported to ABB and have been repaired

The dangerous manhole cover by the speed bump on Wood Road was reported to Clarence and has been repaired.

The Chairman arranged for bags of salt to be taken to Mazewood Gate in case of further frosty weather conditions; Mr. Michael Jackson has very kindly offered to spread this should the weather become frosty again

A quantity of broken glass at the Bottle Banks has been reported to ENC but not yet collected. A request for a "Litter pick" around this area has been sent to ENC; no reply has been received

A request for a Parish Highways representative has been given to Councillor B. Howard and he has agreed to be the Council representative.

A letter and the quotation from ABB have been sent to Colin Ray at ENC for their approval to facilitate the removal of the redundant pole in Hall Yard. Once approved ENC will meet the costs for this.

The new streetlights in Walkers Field have been ordered, but as the specified poles are no longer in general use there is a delay but these should be installed within the next few weeks

An e-mail sent to Phillipa Lang-Norris via Richard Hankins at ENC was given to the Chairman regarding the condition of the wall in Colemans Lane, which apparently belongs to the Housing Association; a request has been sent asking them to repair it as necessary. Apparently, teenagers have been removing stones to make skateboard ramps.

03/171 Matters arising

The new seat for Hall Yard has been delivered. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the siting of this seat. The possibility of siting the seat in alternative sites was considered, but the Council decided the most appropriate site was where the seat was previously sited. The Council acknowledged the concerns of local residents .

The tenancy for the New Cemetery has been signed and the peppercorn rent paid and refunded as agreed.

03/172 Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 12th & 26th February 2004 were accepted and signed

Proposed: Councillor B.Wyles

Seconded: Councillor N.Ford

03/173 Accounts

The following accounts were approved for payment:-

Curators Salary (Current month)	£ 75.65
Clerks Salary (Current month)	£ 187.50
Nick Evans (capping well head)	£ 638.10
Glasdon Ltd (seat for Hall Yard)	£ 746.45
Terry Curtis (mower servicing)	£ 111.98
Jenny Dixon (lease for new cemetery)	£ 10.00
HLB AV Audit (charges for 2002/03)	£ 141.00
NALC Annual subscription	£ 176.00

There was some discussion regarding the capping of the wellhead, but this work had been agreed some two years ago, it was accepted and agreed

Proposed : Councillor N.Ford

Seconded : Councillor B.Wright

03/174 Planning

Removal of internal wall 12 West Street EN/04/00154/LBC : Granted : noted

03/175 Royces Lane

A letter had been received from the resident of 49 Park Street regarding the possible closure of Royces Lane to vehicular traffic. Further letters had been received opposing this and a member of the Public had spoken at the beginning of this meeting on this matter. This provoked a long discussion; a councillor reminded the meeting that this subject had arisen many years ago and a subsequent meeting with NCC had roused much support from villagers to keep it open to traffic.

Another councillor stated he had noted heavy traffic usage(200 + cars a day) of the lane, but other councillors disputed this . A 5 mph speed limit was suggested, but this was countered by the fact that it is not possible to speed in this area, as the bollards make caution essential. Another councillor insisted that the PC should use its power to keep this lane open, as it had serious implications as to other lanes in the village the closure of which, as in this case,

would create “private” car parks for residents, who were aware of the thoroughfare when they bought their properties. A vote was taken; the result was 6 to 2 against any action to close this lane.

03/176 Pocket Parks : Dog Fouling Regulations

A letter from ENC including a map marking designated areas was circulated and many further areas were identified as needing to be covered by these regulations. The amended map will be sent to ENC for approval and alterations.

03/177 Horsewater, Hall Yard

Councillor D. Sharpe had sent the following comments to the meeting regarding this:-

“Following the appeal in the Gazette, an offer of help has been received from Barry Hurcombe who said he could organise a few other people when a date was imminent. A parishioner, Mrs Jacqueline Barcroft, has continued to investigate sources of help to renovate the pond. She has been advised that late summer is the best time to do it.

Tim Bennett from the Wayside and Wildlife Advisory Service has advised that the clearing needs to be done mechanically followed by the hiring of a small digger locally to remove the spoil. He manages several ponds in this area and will look at the Horsewater again in late summer. An island in the centre of the pond would be beneficial to wildlife and could be formed with rubble.

Fen Ditching have equipment with a 20-metre reach and will provide a quotation later.”

This matter will be discussed again in the autumn.

03/178 Local Telephone Directory

At last months’ meeting, Councillor B. Wyles raised the matter of the BT Directory not giving the Parish the numbers really needed. An e-mail to BT resulted in the clerk being informed that for many years now the village has unfortunately been receiving the wrong directory. The new directories to be delivered in April should cover Peterborough, Stamford & Oundle and not South Lincolnshire. Councillor J. Dixon had received the same information from BT following a separate issue; the correct directory should, in addition include the appropriate Yellow Pages.

03/179 Police Boundary Changes

A letter from the Police Authority made it clear that these changes will be put into force in April regardless of numerous objections. Councillor B. Howard pointed out that these changes have cost the Police millions of pounds to implement. Councillor A. Howard said as these changes are now approved, the time to object again is if and when the changes have an adverse effect on policing in the parish.

03/180 Children’s Play Area

ENC have yet again been asked for the Conservation report on this land and a letter will be sent to them asking for a decision.

03/181 Landfill Site

The minutes of the meeting of the Local Liaison Group held on 22nd November 2003 were received from NCC. At next meeting scheduled for 23rd March, Councillor A. Howard and the Clerk will represent this Parish.

One Councillor is keeping a diary of times and dates of the very familiar problems of odour, queuing vehicles, mud and debris on the road and the ensuing possible dangers to health from toxic waste and these were discussed again. The telephone numbers for complaints from Parishioners will again be published in the Gazette.

Councillor J. Dixon joined the meeting.

03/182 Burial Board

Sub-committee Chairman N.Ford reported that he, another member of the committee and the Reverend Davis had discussed the entrance to the new cemetery at length. It is considered that the existing gateway cannot be altered to accommodate coffin bearers and there will have to be a ramp from the churchyard. A query was raised regarding graves adjacent to the proposed ramp – but Councillor N. Ford reported there are none close enough to be affected. This matter will be discussed at a forthcoming BB meeting, quotations requested and arrangements for funding decided.

Councillor J. Dixon reported that the wellhead had been capped, but a pump was needed to obtain water from the well, as the cover was too heavy to be lifted and there are presently sheep on the land which need water. This will be discussed at the BB meeting.

The trees in the cemetery driveway have been pollarded. Quotations will be sought to re-gravel this drive. Mr. Smith will be asked to trim the hedges around the cemetery.

Upon inspection, it was decided that the hand-gate to the churchyard is sound, but new gateposts are needed.

03/183 Village Design Group and Parish Plan

Councillor D. Sharpe has indicated that she no longer wishes to be chairman of this subcommittee; but in her absence this matter will be deferred to the next agenda.

03/184 Village Web Site

The following statement was received from Councillor D. Sharpe:-

“The group has met twice this year and there is a training day on Saturday 13th March to create the Home page (first page displayed when logging on) and to set up subsequent pages for a sample of village groups. Following this session, further training will follow for nominated people from the groups and businesses. Letters will go out to organisations explaining the next stages.

At present the name 'www.kingscliffe.org.uk' is registered with an individual, which is not an ideal situation. Kings Cliffe Parish Council voted to support the web site a year or so ago. Would it therefore take ownership of the name? In practical terms this means a payment of £10 a year plus £50 a year for hosting. “

This matter was briefly discussed, but any decision deferred to the next meeting, when Councillor D. Sharpe will hopefully be available to advise the Council on this matter.

03/185 Amenities

Sub-committee Chairman B. Wyles reported that most of the rubbish had been cleared at the Bottle Bank, and the full bottle banks replaced; whoever, despite being reported there is still outstanding rubbish to be removed. The Electricity Board have trimmed trees which were fouling power lines; the trimmings are to be mulched by them.

All the allotments are now rented out.

03/186 Community Safety & Neighbourhood Watch

Sub-committee Chairman B. Wright reported that only two crimes had been notified to NW during the last month. However there are reports that response to 999 calls in the Parish are not satisfactory, this is to be investigated. There will be a NW meeting at the Village Hall on 29th March, notices will be posted. Hopefully by April, NW will be running smoothly, but there were delays in receiving paperwork from ENC and problems obtaining the necessary amount of copies of documents for mail shots. Councillor A. Howard will investigate this. Councillor B. Wright will attend an area meeting on 22nd March and her and Councillor B. Howard will attend a NW meeting at Nassington on 31st March.

03/187 Other Correspondence Received

The papers finalising the 2002/2003 Audit have been received and these were offered for authorisation

Proposed : Councillor A. Howard

Seconded : Councillor B. Wyles

Various correspondences were received and dealt with as necessary or circulated to Councillors

03/188 Any Other Business

Councillor J. Dixon reported that she had passed on numerous copies of letter concerning the Landfill Site to the Clerk. The Council asks that Parishioners send copies of such letters directly to the Clerk.

Councillor B. Howard reported that a meeting of the Governors of the Endowed School the staff were praised following a favourable Ofsted report This was acknowledged by the PC.

The matter of the empty bungalow in Fineshade Close will again be pursued. Councillors will obtain names of interested parties to reinforce the need for this house to be completely refurbished and put back onto the available houses list.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.55.pm.

The next meeting will be the Annual Public Meeting on 8th April in the Memorial Hall Parlour at 7.30.pm.

Signed.....Date.....