

KINGS CLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Kings Cliffe Parish Council held at the Memorial Hall on Thursday 11th November 2004

04/79 Present : Chairman M. Day, Councillors A. Howard, B. Howard, L. Crane, T. Isaac, D. Sharpe, B. Wright and B. Wyles and J. Dixon

Apologies : Councillors K. Howard and N. Ford

04/80 Declarations of Interest : None

04/81 Minutes : Minutes of the meeting held on 14th October 2004 were read and approved.

Proposed: Councillor A. Howard

Seconded: Councillor L. Crane

04/83 Matters arising:

Apethorpe Hall : Councillor A. Howard attended the meeting on 19th October; English Heritage are still hoping the Hall will become a single residence; it will only be opened as a Visitors Centre as a last resort. In this event, the estimated number of visitors would be 18,000 per annum.

Stamford Road : This has been up-graded and re-opened. Several Councillors consider the road is very dangerous; there is still far too much mud on the road. Councillor A. Howard stated that Wastego and P C Howard were prepared to purchase warning signs. It was suggested that a mirror should be placed at Westhay Cottages; with the increased speed of vehicles, turning out of these houses is hazardous.

Clerks Report

The Portakabin has been removed from Kirks Lodge after great deal of hard work by the Enforcement Officer and me; ENC have been thanked on behalf of the PC and the West family.

The fallen Park Close sign has been reported several times; today an e-mail arrived to say it will be replaced shortly.

Numerous street light failures have been reported and repaired by ABB.

The raised man-hole and bollard in Park Close is still being pursued, to date neither ENC or NCC will admit responsibility.

The Elephant trap has eventually been cleaned out this week

A request from the residents of Morehay Lane for a Dog bin has been requested from ENC. As the PC must pay for this, an estimate has been requested.

Church Walk, and the adjoining lanes have been cleared of leaves; the road sweeper will be in the village in the next few weeks.

The bottle banks will be inspected and changed as necessary today.

A request has been made by Mr. & Mrs. Mackay at the Bottom Chapel to be allowed to hardcore the "lay-by" outside Chapel Cottage. I have asked the advice of Highways and passed their e-mail to the Mackays; apparently they do need permission to do this.

Mr. Court had asked ACRE to fund the tarmac in the area below the Resource Centre; this has been done this week

Councillor Sharpe asked me to request Howard Farm to remove a dangerous fallen tree in the Hills and Holes. Nothing has been done, Councillor B. Howard will pursue this.

Community Safety Fund : We have been asked if we wish to apply for funds for Community project, but as we have the opportunity of applying for Wastego monies, it seems pointless to discuss this; we asked for a pedestrian crossing last year and have heard nothing whatsoever about it.

Following a complaint of ivy growing onto the pavement and causing a hazard, Mr. Lindsay and Mr. Lish of 26 and 28 West Street, whoever it belongs have been asked to remove it please.

Following additional confidential information from ENC, the concerns of .the Parish Council and community have again been formally registered with ENC Planning Department regarding the possibility of the Saw Mill in Wood Lane being turned into a traveller's site.

This last item was then discussed at length and letters will be sent to various authorities. The general feeling was that for Mr. Hakes as a native of Kings Cliffe to consider subjecting the community to the sort of problems which are daily reported by the media was most regrettable.

04/84 Accounts : The following accounts were approved for payment:

Curators Salary (current month)	£	135.80
Clerk Salary (current month)	£	187.50
Smith Hetherington - Grass cutting	£	171.00
British Telecom 1/4 to October 04	£	56.42
Remembrance Day Wreath	£	25.00
ABB Ltd. Lighting Repairs	£	26.26

Proposed: Councillor A. Howard

Seconded: Councillor J. Dixon

04/85 Planning

Applications:

Single Storey extension: 12 West Street: EN/04/01221/LBC : No objections

Removal of various trees : 104 West Street :EN/04/02172 : No objections

Granted

Two Storey extension: 40 Park Street: EN/04/01 857/FUL

Erection of Conservatory : 5 West Street: EN/04/01557/FUL

Removal of two trees : 22 Park Street: EN/04/01899 Removal

of two trees : 2 Park Street: EN/04/01942

Increase in roof height: 16 West Street: Granted : EN/04/01168/LBC

Refusal : Conservatory, 76 Park Street: EN/04/15 98/LBC

04/86 Annual Audit & Precept for 2005/2006

Councillor A. Howard had prepared the annual accounts and talked the meeting through the balance sheet. The papers will now be sent to the official auditors. The Chairman thanked Councillor Howard for his work on the audit.

Proposed: Councillor D. Sharpe

Seconded: Councillor L. Hakes

The precept requirements for the next financial year were discussed at length and it was decided that this should remain at the same figure as for this financial year.

Proposed: Chairman M. Day.

04/87 Wansford Road fencing

This fencing was damaged during an RTA last year and has not been repaired. Some Councillors felt a fence was no longer necessary as the trees are now well-grown; others felt it should be repaired. Councillor D. Sharpe suggested reflectors placed on the fence would give additional warning of the T-junction to motorists unfamiliar with the road during foggy conditions. The proposals were put to the vote and were carried. The Chairman will arrange the necessary repairs and purchase of reflectors.

04/88 Hills & Holes Pit

Councillor D. Sharpe had made a suggestion that this land should be given to the owners of the adjacent land to avoid the annual problems of fencing and grass-cutting; however, an alternative idea had been put to her by a resident who would like to plant this area with hazel trees. He would maintain the area which would give the same result. The Chairman suggested the interested resident should write to the Council outlining the plan and this will then be discussed at the next meeting.

04/89 Temporary Road Closure: Forest Approach

A Temporary Closure notice has been received for Forest Approach; the road is to be resurfaced; this work will take place during November and will take approximately one week.

04/90 Road Repair Survey

Councillors were given a copy of the very comprehensive Road Repair Survey compiled by Councillor B. Howard. This will be sent with a covering letter to all the necessary parties in an attempt to facilitate the very necessary repairs needed within the village. The Chairman thanked Councillor Howard for his hard work.

04/91 Health Trust Meeting re Landfill Site: Report

Councillor B. Wyles expressed his dismay at the lack of "old" village at the meeting and suggested people were becoming complacent. The Chairman said it had been a good, well-managed meeting, very re-assuring but the pressure must be kept up to ensure the high standards are adhered to. The speakers were very comprehensive; the meeting had been told the land would not be able to return to good farmland again but grazing would eventually be possible. Around one hundred people attended but there were less questions than at the previous meeting. There had been no reports from local surgeries of patients suffering from the effects of the odours. A councillor had insisted that the gas waste from Bristol had been deposited in the wrong pod, but ENC and the Environment Agency disagreed and said it was safe. He asked that minutes of the meeting should be available, but there were none offered after the original meeting.

04/92 Proposed Disaster Committee : Date of Meeting

There will be a Public meeting at the Village Hall at 7.30.am. on Tuesday 14th December; Joanne Maddams from the NCC Emergency Team will attend and there will be a representative from ENC. It is hoped this will be well attended and a new committee will be formed.

04/93 Sub-Committee Reports

Burial Board : A Meeting of the Burial Board was held at 8pm. on 2nd November 2004 at 19 West Street, Kings Cliffe.

Present : Councillors Daphne Sharpe, Jenny Dixon, Tracey Isaac, Parishioners Tony Peacey, Wilfred Court, Norman Embleton.

Cllr Daphne Sharpe was elected as the new chairperson.

Proposed by: Wilfred Court Seconded by: Norman Embleton

The minutes of the meeting on 6th October were

approved

Cemetery

Main drive. Ruts have appeared caused by the August storms. It is proposed to rectify the problem by scarifying the centre ridge, leveling the material into the ruts and consolidating with a roller. NE will investigate and contact Stable Hire to obtain quotations for hire of equipment. Lime trees. The Parish Council will be asked to approve the cost of removing the side shoots. Howard Seat. No progress on removing uneven slabs. It was agreed that DS will contact Bernard Howard and request that the work is done by 30th November.

Spoil heap. This will have to be removed mechanically. This job will be deferred until there is sufficient material to justify the cost of removal.

Burials and Memorials. Various memorials were discussed and approved. WC will write to relevant memorial companies.

Rules. Draft guidelines are being drawn up.

Churchyard

Railings. Repair and reinstatement work is ongoing.

Walls. Colin Smith will be asked to remove the ivy on the Hall Yard wall. JD will remove the ivy on the Pitchell wall.

William Law's Tomb. WC reported that the repair fund now contains £1000. The total estimated cost is £5000. He is investigating further sources of funding.

Unsafe headstones. No progress. WC will contact the stonemasons to obtain a start date for the work.

New Cemetery

JD reported that the Churchyard retaining wall is in need of major repairs. The Parish Council will be asked to allow for costs of £700 each year for about 4 years.

The Parish Council will be asked to approve the purchase of 5 or 6 replacement roses to a maximum cost of £30.

A visit by members of the Burial Board to the new Cemetery is arranged for 2pm on Saturday 4th December. All parish councillors are invited.

Any other business

NE reported that in the Cemetery there is ongoing erosion of the grass bank adjacent to the footpath near the shed. It was agreed that a kerb edging was required. This could be back filled with spoil. NE will investigate materials and costs.

The meeting closed at 11.00 pm

Next meeting will be on Monday 6th December 2004 at 8.00 pm at 19 West Street

The above minutes were discussed by the Council and all items were approved. Councillor D. Sharpe asked if a gentleman councillor could arrange to fetch petrol for the mowers. This was agreed. The Chairman thanked Councillor D. Sharpe for the minutes.

Children's Play Area

Councillor T. Isaac reported that she was still awaiting the report from ENC on this land. They have stated it will probably go before the ENC Resources Committee for their December meeting. Councillor B. Wyles reported rubbish in the area, the Chairman asked him to detail this to the clerk.

Neighbourhood Watch & Community Safety

Sub-committee Chairman B. Wright reported on the recent vandalism in the village and the Council all agreed the behaviour of some juveniles in the village was totally unacceptable. The following report had been received by the Clerk from PC Mark Hillyer-Smith:

"As some residents may be aware, we have been patrolling Kings Cliffe during the evenings and have been actively engaging the juveniles, advising about their behaviour. On one evening there were four uniform officers patrolling on foot although some people will not be aware as they will have been behind their curtains. We have a problem with skate boarders at the school and I will be addressing this as well. I have visited Mr. Coatham the Headmaster and we are liaising over the issue. Detective Constable Tarleton is investigating the series of offences and enquiries are in hand .I have been contacting local people and wish to do more it will of course take time due to the constraints I am under, Kings Cliffe is not the only village in which I have to address juvenile nuisance problems. I am also occasionally pulled to the centre as the area adjusts to the new policing mode.

A lively discussion followed; suggestions were made for CCTV throughout the village for a period, this is available under certain circumstances; when the culprits are identified ASB orders should be served upon them. Brighter street lights in certain areas would help in identification. One councillor recommended a curfew but this was not well received as it would be impossible to police. The unanimous conclusion was that this mindless vandalism must be stamped out and the council would like residents to be prepared to telephone the Police to ensure incident numbers are given and identify the perpetrators to help the Police to take the necessary action. The main switchboard telephone number is 01604700700 : callers should ask for contact with the Eastern sector.

Councillor B. Wright, Neighbourhood Watch is proposing meeting on 3rd January followed by a Public Meeting possibly on 10th January. Some of the co-coordinators are working hard, but some appear to have done nothing, which is disappointing. A budget is needed to pay for window plaques etc. The district office is not being very helpful.

04/94 Correspondence received

A letter from the newly formed Allotment Association was received too late for the agenda. It will be discussed at next months meeting.

A letter from the Police asked for nominations for "Unsung Heroes in the Community".

A reply will be sent to a letter received from Lady Judy Floyd. Other correspondences were noted or circulated.

04/95 Any Other Business

Chairman Michael Day once again explained that this item of the agenda is now very difficult to deal with. Due to the "Declarations of Interest" policy of government , technically only the advertised agenda items can be discussed, and new parish clerks are instructed not to put AOB on the agenda. The clerk must be notified of any potential agenda items at least one week before a meeting; these will then be assessed by the Chairman and included on the agenda if appropriate.

In this instance, Councillor Wyles had raised two queries and these were discussed.

Stones have been placed on an area of grass in Orchard Lane; he considered these were dangerous and should be removed as it is not private land. The Chairman replied that there were many instances of stones, flowerpots etc., on pavements and verges throughout the village and one individual should not be singled out.

The second item was the trees in Coleman's Lane; Councillor Wyles has received complaints from parishioners; however, the general opinion of the council was that these trees are not dangerous or a hazard and should be left as they are. At this point, a vote of thanks was given to Councillor L. Crane and her husband Bill, for keeping this general area tidy and clean.

Councillor J. Dixon asked if the overgrown elder tree at the war memorial could be removed.

There being no other business the meeting closed a 9.30.pm.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 9th December at 7.30.pm.