

KINGS CLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Kings Cliffe Parish Council held at the Memorial Hall on Thursday 14th September, 2006.

06/046 Present: Chairman M.Day, Councillors A.Howard, B. Wyles, B. Howard, B. Wright, D. Sharpe and J. Dixon and two parishioners

06/047 Apologies for Absence: Councillors T. Isaac, N. Ford and L. Crane,

06/048 Declarations of Interest: Councillors B.Wright and D. Sharpe declared an interest in Item 6 on the agenda...

06/049 Minutes: Minutes of the meetings held on 13th July were read and approved

Proposed : Councillor B.Wright

Seconded : Councillor D.Sharpe

Matters arising

Chairman Day apologised that the repairs to the allotment gates had not yet been done.

Clerks Report

Anglian Water has been called out twice to the sewers at the Orchard Lane/Blatherwycke Road junction. Sewage was backing up into 1 Blatherwycke Road and after the second problem they have promised to inspect the sewers with a camera as there is obviously an ongoing fault.

Reports from Mrs. Johnson in West Street and Mr. Wagstaffe in Park Street of drains being unable to cope with heavy rainfall were reported and Highways are investigating both. NCC has also been asked again to raise the dropped kerbs to front doors in Park Street; as usual no reply has been received from them.

Pat Howells the Apethorpe Chair secretary is working really hard fund raising for the proposed footpath to Kings Cliffe and is very optimistic that this will happen in the not to far distant future.

Mark Hillyer Smith is no longer a Community Policeman and is in a desk job. He has promised to keep us informed of who the new Community Policeman will be.

Damaged tarmac in Eagle Lane; several parishioners commented on this at the Duck Race but Mr. Court assures me it will be repaired when the renovations to the village hall are completed.

Several street lights have been repaired and bulbs replaced.

The broken glass at the Bottle Bank has been cleared and the nettles and docks have been cut and generally tidied up. However it is noticed that grass cutting and weeds are being dumped on the bank there, which is probably a necessary evil of the Green Collections being stopped.

Apex Haulage has again been contacted about one of their vehicles driving dangerously along the road from the Industrial Estate. The transport manager has promised to investigate the issue.

06/050 Accounts : The following accounts were approved for payment

Curators Salary (August & September 06)	£ 280.00
Clerks Salary (August & September 06)	£ 400.00
Smith Hetherington : grass cutting & various: Aug.	£ 196.00
Smith Hetherington : “ “ “ “ : Sept	£ 281.00
BT : ¼ to July (payment to Clerk, account paid)	£ 66.38
Resource at Kings Cliffe : Youth Club	£ 12.00
Northamptonshire ACRE : Annual subscription	£ 32.00
Stephenson Smart & Co : Annual Audit	£ 352.50

ABB Ltd. Lighting Maintenance ¼ to August 2006 £ 323.87
ABB Ltd. Lighting repairs £ 87.21

Proposed : Councillor B. Wyles Seconded : Councillor B. Wright

06/051 Planning Applications

Applications : Majority decision of councillors available during August recess

Buildings, Sewerage Plant : Alterations to roller door : EN/06/01410/FUL : No objection

Land Adj. to 38 Wood Road : Removal of conifer hedge : EN/06/01549/TCA : No objection

70 Park Street : Rear extension & permission for shed : EN/06/01313/FUL : No objection

60 Wood Road : Demolition of 3m of boundary wall : EN/06/01293/FUL : No objection

Landfill site, Stamford Road : Installation of Gas Flare & Pumping Stn : NCC : No objection

Current Applications

Hither Miers Lodge, Wood Lane : Residential development : EN/06/01709/OUT

Following discussions a decision was postponed as it was felt the Council was not in receipt of the full documentation on this application from ENC

Hither Miers Lodge, Wood Lane : Variation of Section 52 Agreement : EN/06/01712/VAR

The Parish Council has no objection to this application subject to there being a total cessation of commercial activity on the whole area linked to the dwelling covered by the Section 52 agreement and that all plant, machinery and relevant buildings are removed from this area. The applicant assured the Parish Council that trading had already ceased on this site.

43A West Street : Single storey extension : EN/06/01795/FUL : No objection

1 Howards Meadow : Conservatory : EN/06/01719/FUL : No objection

Primary School : Fell ash tree & treat stump : EN/06/01708/TCA : No objection

1 Rates Lane : Re-pollard trees, remove suckers : EN/06/01687/TCA : No objection

2 Bridge Street : Side & Rear extension & internal works : EN/06/01849/FUL : No objection

Granted : all noted

66 West Street : Single storey extension : EN/06/0146/FUL

1 Forest Approach : Single storey extension & replacement garage : EN/06/01032/FUL

3 Walkers Field : Lawful Development Certificate : EN/06/01114/LDE

1 Bridge Street : Painting of doors & windows : EN/06/01191/FUL & EN/06/01398/LBC

31 West Street : Reversion of restaurant to domestic use : EN/06/01301/FUL

26-32 Bridge Street : Re-roofing works : EN/06/01231/FUL

Industrial Buildings, Sewerage Plant : Alterations to roller door : EN/06/01410/FUL

60 Wood Road : Demolition of 3m of boundary wall : EN/06/01293/FUL

Refused : noted

70 Park Street : Rear extension & dormer window : Permission for shed : EN/06/01313/FUL /

06/052 Annual Audit for approval

The Audit papers have been prepared by Stephenson Smart & Co and permission is required for these to be sent to the Audit Office for approval.

Proposed : Councillor D. Sharpe Seconded : Councillor B. Howard

06/053 Allotments : As Councillor T. Isaacs was unable to attend this item is deferred until the next meeting

06/054 Land to adjacent to Walkers Field : ENC letter

A letter has been received from ENC regarding land owned by them and leased to the Parish Council for allotments. A resident of Walkers Field has enquired as to the possibility of purchasing this land from ENC. The Parish Council is happy to terminate the lease as this land is currently tenanted by residents of properties in Walkers Field and a reply will be sent to ENC in accordance with this.

06/055 Proposed Playing fields : Kelhams solicitors

Kelhams Solicitors have asked for a letter from the Council confirming that the Chairman and Clerk are authorised to sign papers purporting to the purchase of land for the proposed new Playing Fields as this land will be officially owned by the Council in perpetuity as follows:-

That the Chairman and Clerk of Kings Cliffe Parish Council be authorised to sign and execute a Legal Charge in connection with land in Willow Lane, King's Cliffe and to approve all matters in connection therewith including the signing of all ancillary paperwork.

Proposed : Councillor J.Dixon Seconded : Councillor B. Wyles

06/056 Berry Bros : Proposed purchase of ground for cemetery extension

Following the receipt of a letter from Berrys regarding the above, Chairman M. Day was authorised by the Council to discuss this matter with the land owners to endeavour to reach an agreement on a purchase price.

06/057 Street Parking

The Council received and replied to letters from Mr. N. Randall regarding the problems of street parking and mobility vehicle access. Although Councillor B. Howard had volunteered to carry out a survey on street parking, it was decided that there was no point in this as there is no obvious solution to the problems caused by lack of parking areas in the village, no land is available to create parking areas, it is accepted that parked cars do reduce speeding through the village and the introduction of any road markings is unlikely to solve this problem. Once again, the Council will continue to monitor the situation and would ask anyone who feels they have a solution to let them know.

Councillor D. Sharpe quoted the following regulations taken from the current Highway Code :

You MUST NOT wait or park your vehicles where it would endanger, inconvenience or obstruct pedestrians or other road users. For example, do not stop near a school entrance, in front of an entrance to a property, on a bend, where the kerb has been lowered to help wheelchair users, or opposite of within 10 metres of a junction. DO NOT park partially or wholly on the pavement. Parking on the pavement can obstruct and seriously inconvenience pedestrians, people in wheelchairs, the visually impaired and people with prams and pushchairs.

By and large, most residents do park sensibly, but the Council would ask all residents to adhere to the above regulations whenever possible, especially with regard to pavement parking and parking adjacent to the schools. The only official control on these regulations remains with the Police. Highways will be asked to drop the few remaining high kerbs which cause problems for mobility vehicles. A letter will be sent to Mr. Randall regarding the above and the Council will continue to monitor the situation.

06/058 KC1 Site : Update

ENC have again discussed the above plans and have approved the outline planning for 150 houses;

this will now go forward to the Secretary of State for decision. Councillors again reiterated that the Council must be involved in all discussions before any firm decisions are made and the Chairman reported that this is written into the existing paperwork and all options are still open as this is an outline, not detailed proposal. ENC has also stated that this development would, if approved, be carried out in stages and that affordable housing would be included.

06/059 ABB : Quotation for new street lights

A quotation has been received from ABB Ltd., to replace street lights outside 35 & 67 Wood Road which are no longer repairable. This was agreed.

Proposed : Councillor D. Sharpe Seconded : Councillor B. Wright

06/060 ENC Liaison Meeting : report by Chairman

The Chairman attended an ENC Parish Liaison meeting on Rural Pathfinder at the Memorial Hall on 11th September.

Three speakers, Carolyn Turner (NACRE), Cheryl Arnold (NCC) and Nicky Booth (NCC) gave an interest report on the Rural Pathfinders project, which is destined to rejuvenate rural areas; this area is identified as a cluster of villages in EN in the Prebendal and Kings Forest Wards within the north of the District, using existing facilities. This will be funded by DEFRA and various other organisations. The Chairman feels this will be of benefit to the village if successful.

The proposed KC1 site was mentioned and Chairman M. Day again insisted that the PC must be consulted at all levels and that at least 30% of houses must be affordable and for rental.

The footpath to Apethorpe was also mentioned and it was suggested that funding might be available for such a project.

With regard to Boundary changes, this area has lost Harringworth and now contains Apethorpe, which is totally and logistically logical.

06/061 Housing Association : Letter from Spire

Spire Homes have asked to come to a Council Meeting to discuss affordable housing with Councillors. A reply will be sent inviting them to the October meeting.

Under this item, the Chairman also invited discussion of a letter received from Jayne Ford and Jason Giddings asking for help from the Council to obtain a Housing Association home in the village. This letter will receive a reply from the Council stating that regrettably the PC have no influence whatsoever in the allocation of house. The Clerk has obtained the Allocations & Letting Policy document and lettings are decided purely upon a points system. We have written to the Housing Associations in the past, asking for locals to be prioritised to no avail. The Policy states under "Who can apply for housing?" - 'Any person(s) who has a housing need and live in East Northamptonshire or who want to move to the district.' It is understood that if and when new Housing Association houses are built the PC can insist on a clause being added that local people or those with local connections to the village must be given preference, but this does not apply to existing houses. A Councillor said it must be remembered that the houses are not 'Cliffe houses' but East Northamptonshire Council properties.

06/062 Footpath Warden : Letter of resignation from Mr. J. Paige

Mr. Paige has resigned a Footpath Warden after many years of hard work; it was suggested that Mr. Smith, the curators, would be an excellent replacement and a letter of invitation will be sent to him

Proposed : Councillor D. Sharpe Seconded : Councillor A. Howard

06/063 Sub-Committee Reports

Burial Board

Councillors were given a copy of the minutes of a recent Burial Board meeting; there were no matters arising. The next Burial Board meeting will be on Tuesday 26th September.

Councillor Wyles raised the point of grave spaces having much more space than other; this is a problem which has happened over many years, despite Mr. Courts hard work in trying to resolve it.

The Chairman will inspect the cemetery to assess the problem. Councillor A. Howard said the Council must make certain that a very strict plan is adhered to when the new cemetery or cemetery area comes into use.

A cheque will be sent to the PCC as their share of the refund received from Finnemores after some of the repairs to gravestones in the churchyard failed.

Neighbourhood Watch

Councillor B. Wright has advertised for someone to take over a Chairman of NW, so far there are no takers. This is regrettable, as the crime rate has dropped since its formation. This is not an onerous task – anyone wishing to volunteer please contact Brenda or the Clerk.

06/064 Other Correspondence Received

Various other correspondences were discussed or circulated.

06/065 Any Other Business

Councillor B. Wyles complained that a skip and trailer loaded with glass was reported driving dangerously from direction of Blatherwycke. The firm concerned will be contacted by the Clerk. He also reported the amount of disruption being caused by building works in Bridge Street mainly the dumping of building materials on grass verges, temporary “pathways” and the general defacement of the roadside in the area. The Clerk reported that she is already addressing this subject.

Councillor B. Howard reported several broken and missing kerbstones around the village, especially outside the shop and public house in West Street. The Clerk will inspect and report. He also asked the Clerk to find out the name of the new Community policeman.

Councillor J. Dixon remarked on the size of the garage on the roadside of 50a Bridge Street and suggested it was totally out of place; the Chairman replied that planning had been granted for this, despite the Parish Councils objection.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday 5th October (one week earlier than originally planned).

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25.pm.