

KINGS CLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Kings Cliffe Parish Council held at the Memorial Hall on Thursday 9th August 2007.

07/052 Present : Chairman A.Howard, Councillors M. Day, L. Crane, B. Wyles, P. Lang Norris and C.Williams

07/053 Apologies for Absence : Councillor J. Dixon, B. Wright, B.Howard, N. Ford

07/054 Declarations of Interest : Councillor A.Howard agenda item 7, Councillors P. Lang Norris and M. Day agenda item 13

07/055 Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th July 2007 : Approved

Proposed : Councillor B.Wyles

Seconded : Councillor L.Crane

07/056 Matters Arising : The Clerk apologised for omitting “Accounts” from the above mentioned minutes, the July accounts were as follows:-

Accounts Payable for July 2007

Curators Salary (current month)	£ 140.00
Clerks Salary (current month)	£ 200.00
Columbria : New seat & plinth in cemetery	£ 487.63
(Monies for the seat have been credited as a grant to PC account by ENC)	
Smith Hetherington – grass cutting etc. inc. Willow Walk	£ 251.00
Powergen : Electricity charge quarter to June 2007	£ 428.78

Proposed : Councillor B. Wyles

Seconded : Councillor K. Howard

07/057 Clerks Report

A letter has been received from Mrs. Margaret Knights, resigning as the PC Representative on the Memorial Hall Committee. A letter will be sent to Mrs. Knights thanking her for all the hard work she has put into this, especially during the refurbishing of the Hall. An agenda item in September will be looking for someone to take over from Mrs. Knights on this committee

Robin Hakes has made an excellent job of trimming the trees in the avenue of the cemetery and trimming the hedge on the north side. The lime trees will be thoroughly pollarded during the winter.

The leak on the cemetery tap has been repaired free of charge very kindly by James Willimont.

Several parishioners and councillors have now said they are willing to be members of Neighbourhood Watch; is there a volunteer willing to act as a go-between on this matter? (to be discussed later in this meeting).

Spires Homes have cleared the drains at the bottom of Coleman’s Yard, but have left the debris behind. They will be contacted again to clear the top drains and clear the debris.

A resident in Fineshade Close has asked for the “No Cycling” signs to be reinstated in the lane to Wood Road. ENC have been asked to do this.

Various drains have been cleared following the heavy rain and light bulbs replaced. Following a complaint to NCC and passed on to ABB a light in Bridge Street has been blanked off at the rear to attempt to lesson the light nuisance to a lady living in one of the almshouses.

Wilfred Court has handed over all the Burial Board paraphernalia to the Clerk. Councillor Day has agreed to measure and mark grave plots when required , but we do need a Burial Board committee to deal with approval of memorials etc.

An interesting suggestion from a parishioner has been received – following the chaos over recent A47 closures. As West Street is “Give Way” onto Wood Road, would it not be a good idea to do the same in Park Street i.e. make Park Street/Station Road the main road, therefore showing that the through route is via Wood Road and backing this up with a “Through Traffic sign” and “Changed Priorities”? This should then prevent large vehicles, whether in the village by accident, design or SatNav. getting stuck at the Cross and causing major problems. It was agreed this will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

07/058 Accounts

The following accounts were approved for payment:-

Curators Salary (current month)	£ 140.00
Clerks Salary (current month)	£ 200.00
Smith Hetherington – grass cutting	£ 211.00
Crowsons : refund of Rauchfleisch fee for a memorial	£ 120.00
Robin Hakes : trimming of cemetery trees & hedge	£ 625.00
ABB Ltd : Lighting repairs	£ 27.58
BT : Quarter to July 07	£ 59.60

Proposed : Councillor L. Crane

Seconded : Councillor M. Day

07/059 Planning

Applications :

Westhay, Stamford Road : Change of use to parking area : EN/07/01253/FUL : No objection

Kings Cliffe Industrial Estate : Variation of condition 14 : EN/06/025506

No objection, but it will be suggested that the extension to this condition should not extended for a further period

Granted

72 West Street: Demolition of old/erection of new garage : EN/07/01063/FUL & 1066 LBC :noted

07/60 Land for Cemetery Extension

The Chairman explained that the necessary application had been completed to obtain permission to apply for an interest free loan for this. However, a budget forecast is required and now the accounts have been audited, this will be supplied.

07/061 K.C.1 : Update

The Chairman has had a meeting with ENC Planning Officer Sue Wheatley to obtain her comments on the play area, footpath and request for land for cricket pitches. She is talking to the developers and all these points will be considered. The Play Area seems almost certain to be approved; however she will report back to the Council in due course.

07/062 Footpath to Apethorpe : update

The Chairman had inspected the Kings Cliffe end of the original footpath and reported it is in very bad shape. It was agreed to write to District Councillor Roger Glithero regarding this issue and whether funds can be made available from the Community Fund at ENC for this work. Councillor M. Day agreed but asked that we liaise with Pat Howells, Secretary of the Apethorpe Parish Meeting who has put so much hard work into this project for both villages

07/063 Request to use Malting's Green for wedding reception : 25th August

This request was approved with the normal proviso that the area is left clean and tidy after the event.

07/064 Approval of audited accounts

Stephenson Smart have carried out the internal audit which was approved for submission to the Audit Commission. Councillors will receive a copy of these accounts.

Proposed : Councillor B. Wyles

Seconded : Councillor M. Day

07/065 KCEA & KC Community & Area Sports Project Ltd

Councillor M. Day left the meeting during this discussion, having declared an interest and Councillor Lang Norris declared a non prejudicial interest.

The Chairman provided an update on the current position regarding the lease of the land to KCCASP, the Chairman had spoken to KCEA and SWEET regarding the preparation of a lease for the land.

The Council has no responsibility for negotiating the lease but at the same time Councillors must approve the details. It was noted that this was an unusual situation. KCEA have met with KCCASP and the following lease terms have been proposed.

The lease will run for 50 years with a peppercorn rent. However two issues were raised; there must be assurances that any costs regarding liability and insurance are passed on and not borne by the PC. In the agreement for the right of way through Kingsmead the PC have liability for the 'link' road and pathways to the site, It was agreed that KCCASP need to accept this responsibility

KCCASP will be responsible for the maintenance of any property on the land , as tenants of

the land.

The only other issue relates to ‘parish council’ representation, it had been proposed by KCEA, that either the Chairman or Vice Chairman would be invited to attend meetings of KCEA. A long discussion took place on this aspect. It was felt that any Councillor attending should be independent of KCEA .

Councillors expressed concern at the reluctance of KCCASP to accept a nomination of a member of the Council to attend their meetings. This is particularly relevant as it is the Parish Council that has entered into the agreement to purchase the land and entered into the necessary funding agreement and it will ultimately be the Parish Councillors that could be responsible if there is a problem with this project.

It was therefore agreed that we should go back to SWEET and advise them that the Council would like to nominate one of its members to attend all KCCASP meetings as an observer and that this person will form part of that forum

The Chairman advised that we were taking legal advice from our Solicitors in relation to the funding agreement that has been entered into. The Council is also seeking advice as to whether the Council should have obtained permission to borrow the funds concerned from NALC

07/066 Parish Council correspondence

The Chairman again advised all Councillors that all official Council correspondence must be dealt with by the Clerk and that this would be based on decisions reached by the full Parish Council. Parish Councillors are at liberty to act on behalf of residents but they should ask the Clerk to deal with these matters

07/067 Highways : Beacons on Wood Road

At a previous meeting, a Councillor suggested there should be beacons or a pedestrian crossing in Wood Road. NCC Highways have told the PC as Kings Cliffe has a very, very low accident rate, this request would not be justified. Some years ago, Highways were asked to consider a crossing from Wood Road/Wood Lane to West Street; this request was rejected. However after discussion, it was decided that the siting of a crossing to the East of the mini-roundabout on Wood Road would be a sensible proposition as this also provides a link between both village schools and a route for the children attending these.

It was also agreed that the advice of Highways should be sought on the proposition by a parishioner (see Clerks report) to change the priority of the road junction of Station Road and Park Street – it was agreed to discuss this more fully at the next meeting when it will be on the agenda.

07/068 Burial Board

Cemetery hedge trimming and avenue pollarding
Hand-over of cemetery matters from W. Court

The above matters were reported in the Clerks Report. Councillor M. Day has agreed to mark grave spaces prior to interments.

It is imperative that a new Burial Board sub-committee is formed; Councillors M.Day, L. Crane, C. Williams and N. Ford have volunteered for this. The Chairman expressed his gratitude.

When the new cemetery land is opened, it was decided there must be much tighter control on the spacing and placing of grave spaces.

07/069 Neighbourhood Watch

The Chairman stated that although it has been decided not to form a full Neighbourhood Watch committee, a volunteer from the Council was needed to identify helpers, pass on information sent from the Police to the Clerk, compile a report for the Gazette each month, just the essentials. Councillor P. Lang Norris volunteered to take this on and this offer was most gratefully received.

07/070 Other Correspondence Received

A timetable from Peterborough and Cambridgeshire CC regarding the Local Waste plan was discussed and it was decided to ask them to keep us informed at all times; when the kerfuffle over the proposed incinerator at Wansford arose, it was left to Wansford Parish Council to inform us.

Various other correspondences were noted or circulated.

07/071 Any Other Business

The Chairman had received a letter from Mrs. M. Knights expressing her concerns regarding the frequent failure of the road drains during heavy rain and asking what will happen if and when the KCI site is developed. It was agreed to write to ENC regarding the issue of drainage improvement linked to the KCI site.

There was a discussion over this ever recurring problem; Councillor M. Day understands that with the new development there will be a complete upgrade of the present drainage in the village. Councillor L. Crane said that although the road sweeper had been in the village, due to parked vehicles, many gutters were blocked with debris and grass cutting, which ended up blocking the drains.

Councillor P. Lang Norris reported a number of HGV's on Wood Road obviously destined for the Landfill Site. It was suggested that names of haulers and registration numbers should be taken, most

hauliers will restrict their vehicles when asked to do so.

Councillor B. Wyles said there had been problems with parked vehicles in Wood Lane. CSPC Paul Webster will be asked to look into this. He also reported dustbins had blocked access through Royce's Lane. If this occurs in future, action will be taken.

Councillor C. Williams asked if the stile into the Moors could be repaired. She also mentioned dog fouling; all agreed this was a big problem most probably caused by residents walking their dogs during the hours of darkness and not poop scooping. There was also a unanimous complaint regarding the amount of horse muck, both on roads and pavements. It

was suggested that local owners should form a rota and take it in turns clearing this mess through the village.

The Chairman announced that the September meeting will be held a week later than usual; there being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10.pm.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 20th September.

Signed.....

Date.....