

KINGS CLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Kings Cliffe Parish Council held at the Memorial Hall on Thursday 10th January 2008

The Chairman welcomed Rachael Abbott and Cheryl Arnold from Northants ACRE, County Councillor Heather Smith and CSPO Tim Butter to the meeting.

07/141 Present : Chairman A. Howard, Councillors M. Day, B. Wright, B. Howard, J. Dixon, K. Howard, N. Ford, P. Lang Norris and C. Williams

07/142 Presentation by the Rural Pathfinders Project.

Rachel Abbott introduced herself and Cheryl Arnold and they explained that they would be giving a progress report on the Rural Pathfinders Project. A Government White Paper in 2005 outlined projects in relevant locations which were considered to be suffering from rural deprivation and a statistical analysis was carried out; toward the end of 2006 various areas were identified and Kings' Cliffe was one of three chosen in Northamptonshire for the Planning for Real project.

A consultation has taken place to discover how to meet the new Central Government changes regarding rural areas, namely testing Parish Plans and Planning for Real. This is a one-off project, a cornerstone; a large amount of data has been collected alongside ACRE to establish a Parish Plan. This must be village led, ACRE are purely there in an advisory capacity. There must be Parish Council support for a Parish Plan. The outcome will be up to the Parish, supported by ACRE.

The Chairman asked what is involved. Rachael explained that the Consultation Report compiled by Mike King, NCC Community Regeneration Officer, who presently works from the Resource Centre (copies received by the Clerk and excerpts given to the meeting) was the key to the whole project. Although Mike has collated a vast amount of local information, some people may not yet have had their say. It is expected that two Parish Councillors will be needed to carry the process forward by forming a Steering Group. Volunteers will be asked for.

The Chairman referred to the above mentioned 57 page draft report which included an action plan and disaster planning, which appears he feels is rather disproportionate.

Cheryl said this as a slight misunderstanding; they have no wish to cause offence over some of the entries in the report. This was the methodology they use! Mike King is now working with Rural Management to correct this. It must be understood this is still a pilot project. Everyone involved seems very enthusiastic.

The Chairman said there have been many consultations and a list of suggestions included does contain some rather fatuous ideas. Rachael asked if the PC were happy with the consultation. The Chairman replied that there did seem rather too much detail; relevance must be democratically addressed. Councillor M. Day suggested that all the comments must be considered, however impractical, or in some cases totally farcical; there are also many practical suggestions, as parishioners, some of whom appear to be totally uninformed about current projects etc., in the village, had taken the trouble to write their views down.

Rachael stated that everyone must be sure they are involved in this. The Chairman asked that the report be condensed and again presented to the Parish Council before it is widely circulated.

The Chairman quoted several examples of comments which were really misleading and impractical. Councillor M. Day again said freedom of speech and democracy had to be upheld and the comments must be contained in the report.

Councillor B. Howard said that ACRE and NCC actually know exactly what is needed in the village; this project will change nothing; action is rarely taken and our requests are largely ignored.

Cheryl asked if a small condensed report outlining local priorities was what was needed. This was generally agreed by the Council. She again reiterated that ACRE will not do it; this is Parish Plan work. She admitted that Parish Plans had not proved very popular in North Northants, although many areas in the South of the county have adopted them.

There will be an Action Plan for service needs. The Government is adamant that there must be Parish Plan protocols to get them working efficiently. We must demonstrate our enthusiasm.

County Councillor Smith said we were working on traffic calming measure for the school areas – if the area is considered to be deprived, can we please have some money to install a 20mph zone in Park Street?

Councillor B. Howard stated that Kings Cliffe is a village, we don't want town rules; we need funding, all our requests are fobbed off and we are starved of funds.

The Chairman asked what the next step should be.

Rachael said ACRE was forming a plan with Mike King, then a Steering Group from the PC is required. Cheryl said it would now be up to the Council to discuss the project further.

The Chairman thanks them for their time.

After consulting with Councillor P. Lang Norris, he then brought item 15 from the agenda forward for discussion with PCSO Tim Butter.

07/143 Neighbourhood Watch

PC Tim Butter said there had been complaints regarding lack of Police patrols – hence there had been three months when Easton-on-the-Hill and King's Cliffe were classified as 'hotspots' and had in total 19 hours of foot patrols.

The Chairman praised Tim for being on duty on New Years Eve and said there had been more visible police presence over that period than at any time since the village had lost its own designated officers.

The Police are in the final stages of having a laptop at the Resource Centre will effectively turn this into a sub-base, where PNC checks etc., can be made in situ.

The monthly crime report shows 5 crimes. Most of these were in the school area after night classes, when the grounds were locked, but the police now have keys to access these areas.

He thanked Councillor B. Howard for all his calls, but explained that mud on the A47 from the quarries is an NCC Highways problem, not the concern of the police.

Following many complaints regarding dog fouling, the warden will inspect the areas identified.

The arson attack on the house of a Councillor last year : the culprit had been given a Supervision Order.

Tim said there was a shortage of volunteers of to oversee Community Services.

He also told the Council the police were involved in the Planning for Real project and attended most of the meetings.

The Chairman thanked him for attending.

County Councillor Smith related that Atkins had lost the NCC Highways contract. A new preferred contractor had been appointed. It is hoped the new contract will bring better communications. It will be on a different basis, but most of the current employees will be retained in their present employment,

The detailed letter outlining highways issues sent to Highways last month has not yet been acknowledged, she and the Clerk are actively chasing this. However, the 20mph zone by the school is being pursued; there will be a new sign for Howard's Transport at Westhay and Kings Cliffe Industrial Estate will be again asked to insist that their HGV's do not use the Stamford Road/Wansford Road but only approach and leave the site via Wansford.

07/144 Apologies for Absence : Councillors B. Wyles and L.Crane

07/145 Declarations of Interest

The Chairman, Councillors K. Howard, B. Howard and N. Ford in agenda item 9 (Augean), Councillors M. Day and P. Lang Norris in agenda item 11 (KCEA) : There will be no need for them to leave the meeting for these items.

07/146 Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th December 2007 : Agreed

Proposed : Councillor N. Ford Seconded : Councillor C. Williams

07/147 Matters Arising

Councillor M. Day had sent the agreed comments to NCC regarding Augean planning proposals and these had been acknowledged by both Augean and NCC.

07/148 Clerks Report

The broken kerb stone outside 19 West Street and the large pothole in Bridge Street at the entrance to Morehay Lane have been reported to the Street Doctor and acknowledged.

Two lights in Howard's Meadow need new light fittings and have been replaced.

The failed light in Kingsmead is a job for ENC. It may be some while before they repair it, as they are very busy.

I have today had notification for applying for Bus Tokens and passes. The forms will be available from the Post Office shortly. Will applicants please note : they can have either one or the other, not both and ENC have asked that photographs for passes must be official passport size.

07/149 Accounts Payable

Curators Salary (current month)	£ 140.00
Clerks Salary (current month)	£ 200.00
Powergen : electricity charges ¼ to Dec.07	£ 424.19
ABB Ltd : New heads on lights in Howard's Meadow	£ 352.50

Proposed : Councillor N. Ford Seconded : Councillor M. Day

07/150 Planning

Applications : no objections

97 Wood Road : Two storey extension : re-submission : EN/07/02324/FUL
72 Park Street : Replacement of windows : EN/07/02180/FUL

Granted : (Decisions taken & notified by ENC) : noted

66 West Street : Conversion of barns : EN/07/01863/FUL

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45-57 Bridge Street :change of use of land to gardens (Re-submission): EN/07/01972/FUL

114 West Street : Installation of roof light (retrospective) : Appeal decision : EN/06/02466/FUL

07/151 Augean : Landfill site

The Chairman has spoken to Gene Wilson at Augean who states they have no pending planning applications at present. He would like to attend the next meeting.

07/152 Precept for 2008/2009

The Chairman has assessed what would be needed for the coming financial year. We overspent on last year's precept. Once the cemetery land is purchased the annual loan repayments must be taken into consideration. Funds will also be needed for the new roadway, fencing and landscaping.

The matter of the Pitchell land was raised; this will be on the agenda for full discussion at the next meeting. The Chairman raised the point that revenue from the cemetery had fallen during the last two years.

It was proposed that the precept request to ENC be raised by £1,000 to £ 15,000.

Proposed : Councillor J. Dixon

Seconded : Councillor B. Wright

07/153 KCEA & KC Community & Area Sports Project :update

The Chairman said there had been problems with agreeing and preparing the lease for this land. Hopefully this will be resolved in the very near future. The OurSpace deadline for the lease being signed by 31/12/07 was unrealistic.

Councillor B. Howard again raised the issue of monitoring this project. The Chairman asked for a volunteer and Councillors K. Howard and Councillor B. Wright offered their time. Our agreement with KC&ASP is for one person. It was proposed by Councillor M Day that Councillor K. Howard be our representative; seconded by Councillor C. Williams. This was accepted with Councillor B. Wright as a reserve for this position to ensure continuity.

07/154 Purchase of Cemetery land

The Vendors solicitors have requested exact measurements and James & Guy Adams have promised to provide these in the near future.

07/155 KC1 Site : Currently nothing to report, but this will continue to appear on agenda to ensure continuity.

07/156 Burial Board

Councillor M. Day said there has been no sub-committee but one will be called before the next meeting. A gentleman in the village has offered to deal with the rabbit problem in the cemetery

Neighbourhood Watch : This was discussed earlier in the meeting (Minute 07/143)

07/157 ENC Local Plan Presentation : Monday 21st January 2008

The Chairman felt that ENC should have consulted the PC before advertising this meeting in the Parish Gazette to confirm details.

07/158 Other Correspondence Received : Various correspondences were discussed or circulated.

07/159 Any Other Business

Councillor J. Dixon reported HGV's carrying topsoil using West Street with the usual congestion problems; however she had no details of the vehicles involved. When the haulier is identified this will be investigated.

Councillor C. Williams passed on a request from Councillor B. Wyles (absent) for leaves in Gauderns Lane and Church Walk, which were making the paths slippery and dangerous to be cleared. The Clerk will report this to ENC.

Councillor N. Ford complained that the glass recycling lorries from the Industrial Estate are again ignoring requests not to travel via Stamford Road/Wansford Road. The Clerk will deal with this.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.0.pm.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 14th February at 7.30.pm. in the Memorial Hall Parlour.