

KINGS CLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Kings Cliffe Parish Council held at the Memorial Hall on Thursday 13th March 2008.

07/180 Present : Chairman A. Howard, Councillors M Day, L. Crane, C Williams, B. Howard, K. Howard

07/181 Apologies : Councillors B. Wyles, P. Laing Norris, N. Ford and J. Dixon

The Chairman, Councillor Andrew Howard, welcomed Andrew Pick to the meeting.

07/182 Sports Project : Update by Andrew Pick

Andrew Pick produced plans and notes for the Council to see. He said it was important to know what stage had been reached.

Some of the work in the area of the road entrance at Kingsmead had been completed to meet the ecology conditions for springtime.

Tenders for the work of levelling the site had been sent to three contractors and the contract had been awarded to Bowman's of Stamford. Initially this will be all major earthworks, grading and drainage. This has been passed by the Environment Agency. The area will be fenced for safety. Then the two football pitches will be constructed by a specialist firm as this has to meet Football Association standards. Weather permitting, the pitches will be ready for use in September.

At the other end of the site, Our Space for which £90K was given for the youth area. The youngsters are very keen; it is hoped this will be complete by the end of the summer term for the holidays. This will include the skateboard area.

Centre of the site : The retaining wall for the pitches will form the basis of the changing rooms. The reed beds etc., will all be seeded. Following this, the bases of the all weather and tennis courts.

The road will be initially rolled stone, this will not be topped until all plant and machinery has left the area, as this will cause damage to a tarmaced surface, although the area from the hammer-head at Kingsmead to the site will be tarmaced; this will be gated to ensure safe parking and help to prevent vandalism.

The equipment for the Our Space areas will include shelters, goalpost, baseball nets, an outdoor table tennis table and the skateboard area, with different gradients for BMX as well. The surrounding areas will be safety surfaced.

Andrew asked for questions from the council.

Regarding tenders, the first areas will be the end of June, the rest by September.

The varying levels will look far better than flat surfaces over the whole area. The buildings at a later stage will be on various levels, to allow for wheelchair access to all areas.

One of the pitches will have 2 miles of piping underneath to provide free heating in the future. Everything is designed to be a 'green' as possible.

The budget for the football pitches up to seeding is £77K. Councillor B. Howard suggested the PF Association may be able to help through Government grants. Andrew said they were in touch with this

organisation. The Football Foundation had also been approached, but sports organisations as a whole are heavily involved in the Olympic Games at this time. He has also talked to Phil Hope MP who will be invited to inspect the site.

The focus will then move to funding the rest of the site. The tennis court costs have been broken down and the Tennis Club will be given their area and will then hopefully raise money for its' completion.

After Phase 1, the only expense will be grass-cutting. Later when more facilities are completed, there will be income from the site.

Councillor L. Crane asked about Cricket Pitches. The Chairman, Councillor A. Howard replied that there is no room for pitches on this site, but hopefully cricket areas will be provided as part of the KC1 site development.

There is a contingency sum on all the tenders. All works will be architect supervised including retentions.

Councillor Howard also stated that vehicular to the Sports Fields will be through Kingsmead, although gates will be opened for emergency vehicles, as the bridge at the top of Willow Lane is not suitable for heavy vehicular use. The Council are negotiating with the developers of the KC1 site for a footpath in Willow Lane, it is not yet agreed as they say it is not their land and subject to a Section 106 agreement.

Andrew Pick concluded by saying " We have a dream but will soon see that dream coming true" - all ideas are gratefully accepted and the directors look forward to working closely with Councillor K. Howard as the PC representative. The Chairman thanked Andrew and opened the meeting proper.

07/183 Declaration of Interest : Councillor M. Day in the first planning item

07/184 Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th February 2008 : Agreed

Proposed : Councillor K. Howard

Seconded : Councillor C. Williams

07/185 Matters Arising : None

07/186 Clerks Report

Debbie Balmer from the Resource Centre was to have spoken to us about the Youth Club; postponed; she will be invited again for the April meeting.

We have received a payment of £24. 00 by Standing Order; all the bank entry said was War Graves Commission; Councillors confirmed that this is a payment received for the maintenance of war graves

A report was received regarding large lorries on Wood Road; I have written to the haulage company concerned ORAN – and they have apologised and asked is it happens again to try to give them vehicles numbers. Although they are a Waste Disposal firm, Augean say they have no knowledge of them. If anyone sees these vehicles, please make a note of their number.

A letter regarding repairing and adding to a cemetery memorial was received from Mr. P.W. Howard. I have replied that the mason involved will contact us is necessary.

Although we had said the letter regarding District Wide Graffiti was to be an agenda item, upon studying the letter, it applied to mainly to towns. However I have replied and itemised areas in the village where graffiti needs removing.

Various faulty street lights have been reported to ABB.

07/187 Accounts Payable

Curators Salary (current month)	£ 140.00
Clerks Salary (current month)	£ 200.00
ENC :Dog bin in Malting's Green	£ 167.67
Anglian Water : Cemetery ½ year	£ 24.91
ABB Ltd : Maintenance charge to March 08	£ 358.99
Mrs. J. Dixon : contra lease payment for Pitchell	£ 20.00
Parish Gazette : annual contribution	£ 75.00
ENC : Annual rates for cemetery	£ 79.06

Proposed : Councillor K. Howard

Seconded : Councillor L. Crane

07/188 Planning

Applications

100 Wood Road : Conversion of garage garden room etc., : EN/08/00045/LBC

The plans submitted still show the application for an additional dwelling on this site. It was felt this should have been removed from the drawings to avoid confusion

In March 2007 the PC responded as follows to a similar request : - The garage is a Listed Building which has been refurbished, therefore there should be no alteration to this building; these comments apply equally to the latest application.

In addition, there are concerns that the conversion to a summerhouse, garden room and office are not appropriate and would cause the loss of an essential parking area. In conclusion it was unanimously agreed to object to the plans.

Kingsmead Units : Planning Committee decision 5th March 2008

Although this proposal has been passed by ENC it is felt that sufficient time was not given for this to be fully discussed. The Chairman will talk to the District Councillor regarding this matter.

Bridge Street : Potential breach : siting of caravan adj. Kirks Lodge : EN/08/00033PPD : noted

Granted by ENC : noted

114 West Street : Roof light : Granted following a successful appeal : EN/06/02459/FUL

3 Bridge Street : Various alterations and refurbishment : EN/02456/LBC/02455/FUL (2)

44 West Street : Various alterations (resubmission) : EN/07/02430/LBC

72 Park Street : Replacement wooden windows : EN/07/02180/FUL

44 West Street : Various alterations (resubmission) : EN/07/02431/FUL/02430/LBC (2)

Refused by ENC : noted

72 Park Street : Proposed 2 Storey extension & garage : EN/08/00052/FUL

07/189 Augean : suggestions for renaming the site

This has arisen at several Liaison Committee meetings. Augean are happy to discuss any suggestions for renaming the site to exclude the use of the name Kings Cliffe.

This was discussed at length but Councillors concluded that there was no obvious name that they could suggest which would not lead to more confusion as to the location of the site. It was felt it would be best to leave it as it is at present

07/190 Purchase of Cemetery land

All paperwork is in place for this to go ahead at the convenience of the vendors.

07/191 KC1 Site

The Chairman has spoken to Sue Wheatley at ENC and hopefully the Play Area, Cricket Pitches and kickabout area are agreed. He has written to the Cricket Club and will discuss this with them. The maintenance sum for the play area has been approved. It was pointed out that when the site is completed, the annual precept sum will increase to the benefit of the community. Outstanding is the footpath in Willow Lane, there are queries as to who the land actually belongs to. It is not a Public Footpath or Right of Way.

07/192 Parish Council vacancy

Brenda Wright has resigned from the Council on grounds of work commitments. The Statutory notices have been posted. This will be on the next agenda if no election is called.

07/193`Rural Pathfinder : Draft document

Councillors have a copy of the draft document which contains a great deal of collated information. The Chairman has asked the Council to identify any actions which can be dealt with; at the next meeting comments will be coordinated, documented and sent.

07/194 Parish Plan

No progress will be made on this until the previous agenda item is resolved and the final document printed.

07/195 Highways Issues : Roadside Hedges

There are many instances of hedges overgrowing into the roads running into the village. NCC say this is a matter for the owners, but some of them refute this. A list will be compiled of offending areas, owners will be contacted and if necessary, the Parish Council will arrange for these to be cut back.

Road Safety : Several more accidents have occurred between Westhay and the A47; the road surface does appear to be to blame in most instances. County Councillor Smith has taken this up with NCC, but as few of these accidents are officially reported to them and there are no fatalities to date they can do nothing.

Howard's have erected signs at their own expense to try to slow traffic down in this area. The Clerk will ascertain from the Police how many of the accidents are on their records.

07/196 Replacement Street Lights : Wood Road

Two wooden telegraph poles in Wood Road with lights on them have been replaced with standard 'hockey stick' poles; as the poles are currently being removed by Central Networks, it is economic sense to change them at the same time sooner than wait for the old posts to rot, which would treble the price of replacements.

Proposed : Councillor C. Williams

Seconded : Councillor B. Howard

07/197 Burial Board

There has been no Burial Board meeting as there has been nothing to discuss which cannot be dealt with at PC meetings.

The soil heap will be removed when the contractor has time to do the work.

Councillors C. Williams and L. Crane have inspected the gravestones in the churchyard and only one appears to be slightly loose, but is not dangerous.

07/198 Neighbourhood Watch

The Police have warned local distraction burglaries as follows:-

Most people who call at your home will be genuine, but sometimes someone may turn up unannounced, with the intention of tricking their way into your home.

If someone calls on you:

Lock - Keep your front and back doors locked, even when you are at home.

Stop - Before you answer, stop and think if you are expecting anyone. Check that you have locked the back door and taken the key out.

Chain - If you decide to open the door, put the chain or door bar on first, if you have one. keep the bar or chain on while you are talking to the person on the doorstep.

Check - Even if they have a pre arranged appointment, check their identity card carefully. Close the door while you do this. If you are still unsure, look up a phone number in the phone book and ring to verify their identity. Do not use a phone number on the identity card, as this may be fake. If you have any doubts, **KEEP THEM OUT.**

07/199 Other Correspondence Received

The Chairman noted that in the ENC Finance report, Kings Cliffe was taking one of the lowest

precepts in the district.

Other correspondences were noted or circulated.

07/200 Any Other Business

Councillor M. Day asked if ENC had made any enquiries into local Post Office closures, as the press have reported that some councils are negotiating to taking over small Post Offices.

Councillor B. Howard reported that the trailer parked in the Bomb Dump entrance is full of rubbish which has spilled out over a wide area. ENC will be informed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.11.pm.

The next meeting will be a Public Meeting on 10th April in the Memorial Hall at 7.30.pm.