

KINGS CLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

The monthly meeting of the Parish Council was held on Thursday 11th February 2010 at 7.30.pm. at the Parlour, King's Cliffe Memorial Hall.

09/142 Present : Chairman A. Howard, Vice-Chairman M. Wharton, Councillors M. Day, L. Crane, G. Kingston, and P. Lang-Norris

09/143 Apologies : Councillors K. Howard, B. Howard, B. Wyles, C. Williams, and J. Dixon

09/144 Declarations of Interest : None

09/145 Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th January 2010 : Approved

Proposed : Councillor M. Wharton

Seconded : Councillor L. Crane

09/146 Matters arising

There is a possibility that Spire Homes may provided a salt bin for the two unadopted roads off Fineshade Close, as it is clear they have inspected the area. A decision from NCC is still pending regarding re-instating the bin in Hall Yard.

Highways have agreed to remove the ivy from the old Railway Bridge and attend to the adjacent overgrown hedges. Although the Council realise the decision to remove the ivy is contentious, leaving it is not an option; the ivy may have caused damage to the brickwork; this structure is very much part of the village boundary and if it is damaged the sooner this is repaired the better.

It is reported that Gaudern's lane needs cleaning; a request will be sent to ENC.

09/147 Clerks report

The clearing of vegetation on and around the old Railway Bridge is scheduled to start on Monday 15th February and will possibly take up to four days. Traffic lights will be in operation.

A complaint was received that the hedge beside the lay-by in Willow Lane was encroaching onto the lay-by. This is officially the responsibility of the tenants of the houses beside it, but Highways have been asked to cut this back when they are doing the bridge, as a one off favour to the elderly residents. This was carried out yesterday, apparently very efficiently, but they insist that must be a 'one-off' and does not set a precedent to other householders.

The water seepage in Willow Lane has also been inspected by Anglian Water and blue marked for attention. The mud from Wood Lane has been reported to Highways.

It has been discovered that the drainage problems at the bottom of Wansford Hill were mainly due to the fact that all drainage pipes ran directly into the bank around Huskisson's Farm. This was reported by the builders and the Clerk and Highways have piped all foul water into the culvert below the farmyard.

A complaint has been received regarding overgrown ivy in Gaudern's Lane. The owners of the ivy will be asked to trim it back sympathetically.

The Landfill Liaison Meeting accidentally omitted from the agenda. Councillor Day will give a report in AOB.

09/148 Accounts payable : Approved

Curators Salary (current month)	£ 150.00
Clerks Salary (current month)	£ 200.00
ABBA : Annual subscription	£ 90.00
BT : Telephone account for 3 months	£ 80.91
E-ON : Supply charge for 3 months to Dec	£ 579.00

Proposed : Councillor G. Kingston

Seconded : Councillor L. Crane

09/149 Planning

Applications : None to date

Granted by ENC

47 West Street : Replacement windows & shop frontage : EN/09/01930/FUL (PP-00906253)

The Chairman reported that he attended the meeting where the above was discussed, regarding a different application, but common sense prevailed over the former refusal of this application. It was decided that although this is in the conservation area, any alterations to this very incongruous building can only be an improvement.

Rosary Farmhouse : Internal alterations : EN/09/01839/LBC : noted

Wood Lane Sawmills : New Dwelling : EN/09/01835/RWL : noted

09/150 KC1 site : Tim Slater, Planning Director of 3D Planning Ltd

The Chairman welcomed Tim Slater, who also attended last months meeting, and Adam Knight, Technical Director for Charles Church.

Tim Slater reported that negotiations to purchase the site are ongoing. Adam Knight presented a draft sketch of the design of the site for discussion and explained where the roads could be and the general layout of houses. He explained that these would be of differing designs, not blocks of identical houses and that social housing would be interspersed with the private housing. The design would variable, in the way that villages develop, with large and small dwellings adjacent and curved roads to create a pleasing view. Materials used would be to match the old village as far as possible. He also explained that the rear of the site would be left as a natural nature reserve; wildlife would be protected whilst building was taking place. There would be a main road to the development with the agreement of NCC Highways.

Chairman A. Howard asked how many dwellings were proposed; there was a strong local feeling that 150 agreed in the original application were too many. Adam Knight said they had no fixed number in mind, but this would be subject to agreement with the planning authority.

Tim Slater pointed out that the sketches shown were only the first draft. Councillor L. Crane suggested that even 100 houses equals 200 more vehicles in the village, which struggles with the existing traffic movements. Tim replied that there would be discussion regarding traffic calming measures, but the Chairman pointed out that he understood that speed bumps are being phased out throughout the country and other methods would need to be discussed. Councillor M. Wharton pointed out that the village schools are already full, indeed the Middle School is using mobile classrooms for the overflow. Tim replied that there would be provision for money for the schools. It is apparently hoped that the new school academy at Weldon will ease the pressure on our schools and existing numbers of pupils will fall.

Adam Knight said that Charles Church means quality; the building of the houses would be staggered of a number of years, possibly thirty to forty houses per annum. It is not their policy to spoil existing communities.

Both the Chairman and Councillor G. Kingston queried the layout of the houses; some were too close to the Ex-Servicemen's Club. Tim Slater suggested that Councillors take the plans home and alter and amend them as they think fit, to be discussed in the future. The Chairman thanked the gentlemen for coming to the meeting.

09/151 KCASP : David Hellard & Andrew Pick

The Chairman welcomed David and Andrew. David Hellard gave the following update to the Council:-

Progress report – Plans and recent aerial photographs were circulated. Andrew Pick reported that the two football pitches were now well established and should be ready as planned for play in the 2010 season; work on the MUGA (All-weather pitch) had resumed after a break for the prolonged bad weather and it was hoped that the facility would be ready by April when a formal opening was planned; space for the proposed middle age range playground had been allocated (and shown on the circulated plans) – it was hoped that the initial phase of this could be in use for this summer; proposals for changing rooms and club facilities in the first phase of development of the planned larger Community Complex in the centre of the site were explained – the contract would shortly go out to tender and funding willing, construction should be possible in mid-summer so that the essential facilities for football, wider sporting and community use could become available from autumn 2010. Liaison with the Middle School was also noted. Although some £1.3M had already been raised for the project, the longer term aim was to continue fundraising in order to achieve the full Community Complex and hopefully the much asked after Sports Hall. This progress was commended to the Parish Council.

Management – A brief account was given of short, medium and long term management measures to maintain, sustain and develop the site and its facilities. As let-able facilities e.g. football pitches, MUGA & Club room became available, bookings systems would be set up – initially using volunteers and some paid part time supervision – but longer term moving towards full time employed staffing as per the original business plan. The project's aim was to achieve self sustainability.

Insurances – Finally, a request was made to the Parish Council tasking if they might assist with Public Liability Insurance cover either direct contribution or perhaps by adding the site to existing Parish Council Insurance policies as was the norm in other parts of the country. The particular problem would always be the payment for essential cover for those facilities e.g. OurSpace, Playground, Picnic area, car parks and walks which would always be used by the general public and yet which had no possibility of raising revenue from letting or usage fees.

The points above were debated at some length with various Councillors asking pertinent questions which were answered.

The Council was asked if we could add some of the Public Liability to our insurance. The Clerk will talk to Allianz Insurance regarding this.

The Chairman thanked David and Andrew for updating the Council. They left the meeting.

The meeting then discussed the insurance request. The point was raised that the Sports Project land is leased out to KCASP on a 50 year lease and is legally nothing to do with the Parish Council. One Councillor asked if it was possible just insure the OurSpace area and the half-pipe, as other areas can be considered as commercial i.e. they will be hired out for public use. This will be researched and reported at the next meeting.

09/152 Allotment & Cemetery Charges

The allotment rental has not been increased for more than 10 year; it was therefore agreed that the plot rental will be raised on 1st April 2010 from £7 to £10 per annum. This is considered to be fair and much less than many Councils charge. Pensioner reductions will no longer apply

Proposed : Councillor M. Day

Seconded : Councillor G. Kingston

Any revision of cemetery and burial charges considered necessary will be discussed at a Burial

Board meeting.

09/153 Salt bins

The Clerk will follow up the Spire Homes inspection and remind Highways about the request for Hall Yard.

09/154 Highways : Hedge trimming etc.

An up-date on trimmings was given in the Clerks report (09/147) above. The Clerk will remind NCC and County Councillor H. Smith that none of the items on the “wish list” we submitted have been carried out.

09/155 Gazette Entry for March edition :

Last month, we were informed there was no room for our entry. Several Councillors felt that less important things had been included and pointed out that we do make an annual subscription to the gazette for our entry. It is hoped the agreed entry will appear in March.

09/156 Burial Board

Councillor M. Day has asked for a revised quote from the fencing contractor to include rabbit fencing. Messrs. Adams have agreed that the Western hedge can be cut and laid to include this fencing; they have also asked that we delay work on the land until the weather improves, as plant crossing their land will cause damage during the winter months. The curator will be asked to remedy the enormous rabbit hole, again at the Western end of the cemetery.

09/157 Neighbourhood Watch

Vice-Chairman M. Wharton has e-mailed all the co-ordinators on the list given to her by Councillor P. Lang Norris, but has received no replies.

09/158 Other Correspondence Received : All circulated

09/159 Any Other Business

Councillor M. Day attended a Landfill Liaison meeting on 27th January. He reported there were no problems raised. The decision on the submission is now delayed until March.

Several faulty lights were reported.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25.pm. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 11th March 2010.