

KINGS CLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Kings Cliffe Parish Council held at the Memorial Hall on Thursday 9th November, 2006.

Before the meeting began, The Chairman introduced Mr. Chris Jackson to the Council. Mr. Jackson has owned a house in the village for a number of years and is moving into the village in December. He had spoken to the Clerk prior to the meeting and has offered to chair Neighbourhood Watch in the village and hopefully get this useful organisation up and running again.

Mr. Jackson then gave an interesting verbal curriculum vitae including the fact that he is a retired Police Officer, had been involved with YMCA and The Scouts and is very community minded. The Council warmly welcomed his offer and he decided to remain for the meeting to get to know everyone a little. The Chairman explained that the framework of Neighbourhood Watch was already in place, but the current Sub-Committee Chairman Brenda Wright has retired. Mr. Jackson will liaise with Brenda and a meeting will be called at the beginning of next year. The Chairman thanked Mr. Jackson and looked forward to a new start for NW.

At this point Constable Hillyer-Smith joined the meeting, to inform the Council he is leaving the operational force on Monday next to take a desk job. However, he said he will always be happy to advise the Council and the Clerk has his telephone number. The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks for PC Hillyer Smith stressing that all his hard work and input had been invaluable; this was warmly endorsed by all and Councillor B. Howard said he had always been responsive which was much valued. The Constable said he had enjoyed his time in the village and had gained much from the experience. Constable Cliff Wilkins will take over on 20th November; he is very experienced and knows the area well.

06/081 Present: Chairman M.Day, Councillors N. Ford, B. Wyles, B. Howard, D. Sharpe T. Isaac, L. Crane, A.Howard, J. Dixon, K. Howard and one parishioner.

06/082 Apologies for Absence: None

06/083 Declarations of Interest: Councillors A.Howard declared an interest in agenda item 6 and he, Councillors B. Howard and N. Ford declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 11 on the agenda

06/084 Minutes: Minutes of the meetings held on 5th & 26th October 2006 were read and approved

Proposed : Councillor A.Howard

Seconded : Councillor N.Ford

06/085 Matters arising

The Chairman reported that the Apethorpe Footpath project appeared to be on track again and we will be kept informed of progress

Clerks Report

A resident of Walkers Field had asked ENC if they would sell the plot behind his house to him. ENC replied it was leased to the Parish Council; despite a letter saying we were willing to release this, the Resource committee ruled this should not be disposed of and the current lease should remain unaltered. Therefore two plots have been rented to residents as allotments for the foreseeable future.

A letter was received from Steve Barber of NCC regarding signs we requested many months/years ago on the Stamford Road/Landfill Site. He has suggested to his committee that Slippery Road Signs should be erected at the bend by the Bomb Dump. They consider chevrons may not be needed but they will keep it in mind.

ABB have replaced 10 lanterns in various locations in the village

A complaint by a parishioner regarding the fitting of roof lights and the painting of a gable end in West Street has been reported to ENC Planning and they have inspected the site and will write to us in due course.

Andrew Leighton of NCC Highways replied to an e-mail sent to him in August asking for repairs to pavements, kerbs, the Wansford Hill Barrier etc., etc., and promised a formal response within a week – this has not yet been received.

Various failed street lights have been reported and repaired.

Damage to the Glenn Miller Memorial on the old airfield is being dealt with by Councillor B. Howard.

06/086 Accounts : The following accounts were approved for payment

Curators Salary (current month)	£ 140.00
Clerks Salary (current month)	£ 200.00
Smith Hetherington : grass cutting & various	£ 196.00
ABB Ltd. Replacement lights & repairs	£ 352.50
British Telecom : ¼ to September 06	£ 52.88
British Legion : Wreath for Remembrance Sunday	£ 30.00
BDO Stoy Hayward : Annual Audit	£ 141.00
Graham Smith : Painting of Church Railings	£ 350.00
ABB Ltd : Replacement of 10 Lanterns	£1433.50

Proposed : Councillor A.Howard

Seconded : Councillor B. Wyles

06/087 Planning

Applications

70 Park St : Single Storey rear extension, shed & add. works : EN/06/02058/FUL : No objection

70 Park St : Removal of stone wall : EN/06/02064/CAC : No objection

Hall Farm : Change of use : tennis court to ménage : EN/06/02059/FUL : No objection

Granted

2 Bridge Street : SS extension : EN/06/01850/LBC/ EN/06/01849/FUL : noted

43A West Street : SS extension & office : EN/06/01795/FUL : noted

1 Howard's Meadow : Conservatory : EN/06/01719/FUL : noted

Endowed School, Park Street : External Store & doors : EMP 2815/27/7/2 : noted

Refused

22 Park Street : Various including garage : EN/06/01887/FUL : noted

06/088 Audited Accounts : Approval

The Audited account for year ended March 2006 were approved for public inspection

Proposed : Councillor M.Day

Seconded : Councillor A. Howard

06/089 Land for Cemetery Extension

The Chairman asked for comments on whether the Council should go ahead with negotiations to buy more land adjacent to the Bridge Street cemetery. He commented that this had been on-going for a long time and no firm decisions had been made, despite discussions both within the Council and at Burial Board meetings.

Councillor T. Isaac said this land was needed and the Council should go ahead with it as a matter of urgency. Councillor J. Dixon said we already had land at the Pitchell and did not need to buy more land. The Chairman stated that the estimated costs which were given some two years ago to prepare the Pitchell for burials amounted to more than the purchase of new land. She replied that these costs should be look at again. Councillor A. Howard said that Bridge Street had to be the preferred site, as all that would be needed was to break through to the new land, fencing and hedge planting, which could be carried out over a fairly long period, but if necessary the land would be instantly useable. The matter of selling the Pitchell was raised by several Councillors, but it was felt that the original owner had sold the

land at a reasonable price on the understanding it would belong to the PC; the Chairman said this was not an issue at present. It was decided that the Council will again write to the Adams family setting out proposals for the purchase of this land provided they are still willing to negotiate.

06/090 The Beech Tree : Fire Damage report

The Chairman felt that everyone was aware of the fire damage to the historic beech tree in West Hay Wood. The Clerk had contacted Tamzin Dennis the ENC Tree Preservation Officer and they inspected the damage. Tamzin had given the Clerk several contacts for advice on having the hole in the tree sympathetically repaired to discourage further problems. We are awaiting replies and suggestions from these sources; this is to be treated with some urgency. The Woodland Trust and Forestry Commission have been informed of the damage.

06/091 Hill & Holes Pit : Tenancy proposal

The transfer of ownership of this land to Howard Farms has all but stopped as there are no deeds proving ownership. The Clerk has spoken to Kelhams Solicitors with a view to this land being leased to Howards on a long lease; it is the time of year when they have time to fence around the trees and replace the boundary fence. Kelhams are not overly enthusiastic about this idea, but it was agreed we should push ahead with this in the very near future, until ownership can be ascertained.

06/092 Proposed Sports Facility : Sub-committee formation & Access from Kingsmead

It is necessary for the PC to form a small sub-committee to deal with matters arising from the proposed Sports Facility, which is now moving forward. It was agreed this committee will be the Chairman & Vice-Chairman plus one councillor during any given period of office; presently, Chairman M. Day, Vice-Chairman A. Howard and Councillor B. Howard who volunteered his services.

The Chairman envisages ENC will raise problems over the access to this land from Kingsmead, as they have over the land behind Walkers Field and asked the Council to sanction the release of approximately 3 metres of the Pocket Park in advance of any problems which may arise in the near future. The PC agreed unanimously to this proposal. Councillor D. Sharpe raised the point that as this access will be crossing a footpath, it must be well signposted to warn walkers and drivers when the time comes to use it for the Sports Facility.

06/093 Allotments : Tenants Committee

Councillor T. Isaac had nothing to report; there will be a meeting of the committee in December

06/094 Request to use Malting's Green : Kings Cliffe Players

A request from Kings Cliffe Players to use Malting's Green during a weekend next summer was agreed.

06/095 Countryside Alliance : Support for Post Offices

The Countryside Alliance has asked for support for their campaign to retain local Post Offices. This is regarded by all Councillors as an essential part of the village and support was unanimous.

06/094 Police : Community Support Officers

A letter has been received from the Police regarding the funding of the training and salaries for Community Support Officers. The Chairman will ensure all Councillors have an opportunity to study the information received and it will be an agenda item at the next meeting.

06/095 Parish Plan meeting, Woodnewton : Councillor B. Howard

Councillor B. Howard attended this meeting on 26th October and reported to the Council, giving the Clerk the list of other Parishes who are considering or have already made a Parish Plan. The committees consist of Parishioners who carry out fact-finding surveys of the populous and report their findings which will hopefully be acted upon by the powers that be. The Chairman stated it would be a good idea, but should not be Parish Council led. Mr. Court and Mr. Barratt are very interested; would the Council be

prepared to support them? Councillor A. Howard said that as any proposals go to ENC the PC must have a view and the village must move forward; the PC is, after all, the official representation for the village. Councillor D. Sharpe said it must not just be a select committee, it has to be represented by the whole community. Interviews will be taken from the full spectrum of village life and collated. A letter will be sent to the organiser outlining the Councils decision.

06/096 Sub-Committee Reports

Burial Board : Retirement of Mr. W. Court

Wilfred Court has tendered his resignation from the Burial Board. He will hand over his duties at the November Burial Board meeting. It was agreed he will be greatly missed as he has for many years undertaken all aspects of burials, including all the paperwork and the measuring and marking of graves. The Clerk will take over the paperwork, but as she has chronic "graveyard phobia" the Chairman will measure and mark graves as necessary in the short term, unless a volunteer is found. It was suggested that it would be useful if all plots could be permanently and tactfully marked. A Councillor said the trees and hedges are in need of attention; the Burial Board Chairman however felt the trees should not be pollarded this year; the Chairman will inspect and report back.

Neighbourhood Watch

As reported at the beginning of this meeting, a new Sub-Committee Chairman will take over in the New Year.

06/098 Cambridgeshire Minerals & Waste Plan

The Chairman apologised for adding a further item to the agenda at this time, but he, Councillors K. Howard and J. Dixon had visited an exhibition at Wansford and prior to this meeting Councillor K. Howard had attended a meeting in Wansford to discuss the exhibition and the planning implications. He reported that the plans for a proposed Incinerator close to Wansford are not being considered during this review. It is understood that the only additional proposals will be for low grade hazardous waste (asbestos, gypsum etc.) on a small area of the site which already has planning approval. Councillor Howard did, however, ascertain that this decision could be overturned by central government. The PC will be kept informed and continue to monitor the activities on these sites.

06/097 Other Correspondence Received

Various correspondence were discussed, circulated or earmarked for the agenda of the next meeting.

06/098 Any Other Business

Councillor J. Dixon commented on the street lighting in Bridge Street; there is a black spot opposite the old Police Houses and the pathway in bad repair. The Clerk will ask ABB Ltd for a quotation to have a light installed on the telegraph post at the bus stop at that point. Councillor B. Howard suggested that an additional light is needed on the corner of Station Road/Park Street. He has also written to Atkins, enforcing the numerous letters from the Clerk requesting numerous road repairs etc., which have been outstanding for years. He also complained about the lack of top-dressing to roads, which is resulting in deep cracks appearing in road surfaces. The Clerk will write to Atkins again, but these requests are normally totally ignored, apparently due to lack of funds.

Councillor B. Wyles reported that the pavement on Wood Road is in a dangerous condition. This will be reported to the Street Doctor. He also reported extensive graffiti damage in several parts of the village. He has reported this to the Police who have asked that all such incidents, however small, should be reported to them, which should help to ensure a more efficient Police presence in the area.

The Chairman thanked Councillors K. Howard, J. Dixon and B. Howard for attending the various

meetings mentioned in this minutes.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.10.pm. The next meeting will be in the Memorial Hall Parlour at 7.30.pm. on 14th December 2006