

KINGS CLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Kings Cliffe Parish Council held at the Memorial Hall on Thursday 14th December, 2006.

Before the meeting began, the Chairman introduced the new Community Policeman, PC Cliff Wilkins who will be taking over from PC Mark Hillyer Smith in a couple of weeks. He said he is looking forward to returning to the area which is very familiar to him; he has spent 10 years in Oundle and will cover the area from Woodnewton to Easton-on-the-Hill. He has been fully briefed by Mark and is aware of the village situation, knows many residents and is looking forward to his new post. The Chairman said that the Parish Council were grateful that they have again got a dedicated officer and thanked PC Wilkins for coming to the meeting.

The Chairman then introduced Carolyn Turner, Melissa Azure-Edwards, Rural Renewal Manager and Cheryl Arnold, Projects Officer from Northamptonshire ACRE to give a talk on the Pathfinder Project and who gave a presentation. A meeting had been held in the village on 11th December including a village walk at which the Chairman had been present to discuss this project and the areas which would be involved which included affordable housing, the new sports field, schools in fact everything which involves the village and its' residents.

The Pathfinder Project is basically a new idea, to collate the needs of rural areas and look into what is needed in areas which have been somewhat neglected in the past. Funding will be provided by the Northamptonshire Neighbourhood and Renewal Unit with a devolved budget which will reach grass roots areas. There will be a budget for each area. The team are well aware of the deprivation – not poverty – but lack of local services.

The matter of the withdrawal of funds for the Youth Club was raised. The team have already made contact with the Youth Manager at NCC regarding this. Lack of public transport is also under discussion. Kings Cliffe and linked villages will be the hub and spokes with partners waiting in the wings. There will be robust training methods for local people to assist the project. There will be a series of events to develop the network.

The Parish Council were then asked if they were willing to participate. The Chairman said this was an opportunity which must not be missed, but we need the weight of the project behind us to help. The adoption of a Parish Plan is essential in this. Carolyn Turner replied that the bonus is the use of a multi-agency group which ensures that issues get to County level much more quickly.

The Middle School will be constructing a 3-D model and will invite the community to mark any problem areas on this model.

Mr. Court suggested that as the Resource Centre is about to appoint a new manager there are ample facilities there for the project to use.

The Parish Council unanimously agreed to support the project along with the Parish Plan.

The Chairman thanked the ladies for their time and effort and opened the meeting.

06/099 Present : Chairman M.Day, Councillors N. Ford, B. Howard, D. Sharpe, L. Crane, J. Dixon and one parishioner.

06/100 Apologies for Absence : Councillors B. Wyles, T. Isaac and A.Howard.

06/101 Declarations of Interest: Councillors B. Howard and N. Ford declared an interest in Agenda item 10.

06/102 Minutes :

The minutes were of the meeting on 9th November were approved

Proposed : Councillor N. Ford Seconded : Councillor J. Dixon

06/103 Matters Arising : Apethorpe Road Footpath

Following a very optimistic report on the proposed footpath renewal it was reported to the Clerk that NCC had turned the proposition down. The Apethorpe Secretary and Parish Council wrote letters of complaint as

it was felt everyone had been thoroughly misled over this project. However, the Chairman had spoken to Simon Mutsaers at the meeting for the Pathfinders Project and all details have been sent to him, as this could be considered in this context.

06/104 Clerks Report

A telegraph post with a light on it outside 31 Wood Road had to be reported as very dangerous to Central Networks after ABB had inspected it and was removed efficiently and quickly by them. The light fitting has been given back to ABB who have quoted for a new light, as Central will not be replacing the pole as it was redundant. However, the power supply has been capped off and will be reused, which should save money. Mr & Mrs Pick have asked if it can be moved a couple of yards from their driveway, which ABB say is not a problem.

The broken wall at the garages in Coleman's Lane has again been reported to Spires. They have been asked to remove the fallen brickwork, which has been causing some problems and if they do nothing more, to make good the end of the wall, to end the problems with children allegedly kicking the bricks about.

Thank you letters have been sent to Wilfred Court for his hard work for the Burial Board and to PC Mark Hillyer Smith.

A letter was sent to Jim Fitzpatrick MP regarding the rumours of Post Office closures, now confirmed in recent newspaper articles. A reply has been received in which Parliament attempts to justify the closures.

06/105 Accounts Payable : The following accounts were approved for payment

Curators Salary (current month)	£ 140.00
Clerks Salary (current month)	£ 200.00
Smith Hetherington : grass cutting & various	£ 175.00
Resource at Kings Cliffe (Hire of rooms)	£ 18.00
Kings Cliffe Memorial Hall (Hire of rooms)	£ 53.00
Powergen : Lighting ¼ to November 2006	£ 423.48
ABB Ltd. Lighting maintenance ¼ to Dec 06	£ 319.02

Proposed : Councillor J. Dixon Seconded : Councillor D. Sharpe

06/106 Planning

Applications :

39 West Street : Side extension and internal remodelling : EN/06/02188/FUL : No objection

42 Bridge Street : Two storey side extension : EN/06/02449/FUL : No objection

KC Industrial Estate : Retrospective : Inert waste recycling and processing : NCC

There were no objections to the actual processing proposals but the Council was unanimous in the view that a Section 106 agreement must accompany these applications to ensure that any vehicles using this facility adhere strictly to the map included in the plans which routes traffic for this site from the A47 via Wansford and not use either the village or the junction from the A47 past the landfill site.

Granted

Hall Farm : Change of use from tennis court to ménage : EN/06/02059/FUL : Noted

06/107 Land for Cemetery Extension

The Chairman has spoken to Messrs. Adams requesting a larger area of land for the above. They have agreed to take measurements of the area and will come to an agreement regarding this.

06/108 Precept for 2007/2008

The Clerk has prepared a draft account for discussion and following a lengthy discussion it was decided that the Council will ask for an increase of £1,400 in the precept payment for the year

2007/2008 as there will be additional expense if the Cemetery extension goes ahead and the improvements in street lighting have taken a large amount of money from this years income.

Proposed : Councillor B. Howard

Seconded : Councillor D. Sharpe

06/109 Hill & Holes Pit

As the negotiations on either changing the ownership of this land or completing a long-term lease are being delayed by the Councils solicitors, and Howard Farms have indicated this is the time of year when they have time to spare, it was agreed to write them and give them permission to fence and protect this land as necessary pending the necessary agreements being signed.

06/110 Proposed Sports Facility : Update

The Chairman reported that all necessary agreements had been completed and the land will officially belong to the Parish Council in the very near future; work can then begin on this project. ENC had recently promised a large amount of financial help which will unlock various grants which have been applied for. A company has been set up to facilitate this project.

06/111 Allotments : Tenants Committee

There has been no meeting of the above committee; however the Orchard Land hedge needs trimming before the Spring. The Chairman will discuss this with local contractors.

06/112 Landfill Liaison Meeting : Report

The Clerk and Councillor K. Howard attended a walkabout of the Landfill site on 6th December and the Clerk attending a meeting at the Resource Centre afterwards. A progress report on the remedial works to the pod opposite West Hay Cottages was given and the work has been carried out extremely professionally. The Manager reported that substantial penalties had been paid for the past mismanagement of both the Kings Cliffe and Thornhaugh sites but all remedial works were now complete or in hand. The general opinion of Councillors from Collyweston and County Councillor P. Padley was that Augean are managing the sites very efficiently.

06/113 Police : Community Support Officers

The Chairman has perused the information received from the Police and the request for monies to fund Community Support Officers applies to larger settlements not to villages, therefore is of no concern to the Council.

06/114 ABB Ltd : Street Lighting & quotations

Quotations from ABB Ltd., for a replacement light outside 31 Wood Road and a new light next to the bus stop in Bridge Street were approved. It was decided not to erect a new light on the corner of Station Road and Park Street, but to ask NCC to pollard the trees, as it was felt these are obscuring the existing light. Councillor L. Crane suggested that a brighter light is needed in Coleman's Lane and this was approved.

06/115 Highways : Report from CC Padley

The following report has been received from Councillor Padley; most of the items have been reported to NCC numerous times over the past two or three years and completely ignored.

1. Pavements. Following your PC's site meeting with Andrew in Spring 2006 and the report in the PC minutes of July 2006, I asked him whether the pavements would be repaired as requested. He stated that the "Defect Criteria" that Atkins are working to does not allow them to repair Wood Road or any of the other pavements reported as defective. Obviously when Atkins contract is renegotiated

in 2007, this needs to be looked at.

2. Safety Railings at junction of Wansford Road and Stamford Road - good news: these will be installed by April 2007.

3. Slupe Clay Pit Highway requirements: Andrew will liaise with Chris Bond to ensure that the warning chevron signs on the Kings Cliffe approach and the works at the A47 junction will be carried out.

4. Apethorpe to Kings Cliffe Footpath: I have made every effort to progress this project, but the funding is very unsure. I asked the Head of Sustainable Development (i.e. Highways and Transport) Sue Flack for guidance and was not encouraged. However Andrew is hoping that the footpath can be created in stages and will let the PC have the necessary application forms to bid for support. I feel this is the only way to progress, although it will be slow. Andrew has tried hard on your behalf and if he has been too optimistic, then he does not deserve the castigation Apethorpe and yourselves have given him. Budgets are very tight as the Government have given us the lowest revenue grant in the country 2 years running.

5. Repainting White Lines: these will probably be done next summer.

This report was discussed and several other problems were raised including the need for top dressing to prevent the cracking of road surfaces following frost and/or extremely hot weather. This is considered to be a safety issue. A problem which has already been reported out 56 West Street has not been remedied. The speed humps on Wood Road no longer have visible arrows to warn of their presence. Councillor B. Howard, as the Councils Highways representative will write a further letter to all the necessary contacts.

06/116 Sub-Committee Reports

Burial Board

A Meeting of the Burial Board was held on 20th November 2006 in the Memorial Hall Parlour.

Present: Cllr Daphne Sharpe (chairman), Mr Norman Embleton, Cllr Tracy Isaac, Mr John Barratt.

Apologies: Cllr Brenda Wright, Mr Wilfred Court

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Matters Arising : Cemetery water tap. Mr. Embleton has repaired the leaking tap, which will be turned off as usual in the winter months.

New plots for ashes : The Parish Council agreed with the Burial Board proposal. 6 plots have been marked out. The churchyard railings have been painted. Mr. Wilfred Court has resigned from the Burial Board. The members thanked him for the many years of hard work he has undertaken.

Cemetery extension: The Parish Council Chairman, Michael Day, has discussed this matter with the land owners. Discussions about price and the area to be purchased are continuing. The clerk is discussing with ENC the details of interest free loans which are available to parish councils for this type of purchase.

Hedge Cutting: Daphne will arrange to meet Colin on site to discuss the hedges.

Queen's 80th Birthday Commemoration: A brochure and price for a granite seat has been received. It was agreed that this would be purchased.

Mrs Joan Berry No 86: Additional inscription on flat stone. Approved.

Neighbourhood Watch

Councillor B. Howard will liaise with Mr. Chris Jackson, Sub-Committee Chairman in waiting.

Councillor Howard reported that there had been several cases of graffiti in the village and several break-ins to cars. Chairman M. Day again asks that all crimes, however petty, must be reported to the Police; the latest crime figures from them show no increase; crimes will only reflect in these reports if parishioners report them at the time.

06/117 Other Correspondence Received : Various correspondences were discussed or circulated

06/118 Any Other Business

Councillor J. Dixon reported that part the wall between the Pitchell and Mr. Barnes property had collapsed. A letter will be sent to Mr. Barnes.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15.pm.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held in the Memorial Hall Parlour at 7.30.pm. on 11th January 2007.