

## **KINGS CLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of Kings Cliffe Parish Council held at the Memorial Hall on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2007.

The Chairman welcomed County Councillor Heather Smith to the meeting.

**07/121 Present :** Chairman A. Howard, Councillors M. Day, L. Crane, B. Wyles, J. Dixon, K. Howard, N. Ford, P. Lang Norris and C. Williams

**07/122 Apologies for Absence :** Councillors B Howard and B. Wright

The Chairman announced an additional item to the agenda regarding Kings Cliffe Landfill site would be discussed under Any Other Business. He explained that this concerned the Preferred Options correspondence from NCC; which included a proposal for a significant extension to the Augean Site. As this was new to the Parish Council and comments were required by 13 December this had been added to the agenda and Waste Watchers had been advised. Messrs. R. Coulthard and G. Smid will be representing Kings Cliffe WasteWatchers for this discussion.

**07/123 Declarations of Interest :** The Chairman and Councillors K. Howard declared a prejudicial interest and N Ford declared a non prejudicial interest in the additional agenda item. Councillors M. Day and P. Lang Norris for item 11 on the agenda.

**07/124 Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th November 2007 :** Approved

Proposed : Councillor N. Ford

Seconded : Councillor B. Wyles

**07/125 Matters arising :**

Representatives from the Rural Pathfinder Project who were scheduled to attend this meeting will now attend the meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2007.

PCSO Paul Webster joined the meeting.

He reported that there is a further problem with graffiti in the village; although there is a 'signature' on these, the perpetrator has not yet been identified; any information on this would be gratefully received by the Police and treated as confidential.

Oundle Police will ensure there is an increase in patrols and are hoping to liaise with the Resource Centre to have the use of this computer facility whilst on duty in the village to enable them to access the Police database when necessary. The PC felt this was a very useful way forward.

Paul warned that there have been several shed burglaries in the village; do not leave anything of value in sheds.

The results of the speed checks will be available shortly and there will be more checks in the future to determine where the main problems are and if the verbal warnings have been improved safety.

The Chairman thanked Paul and reconvened the meeting

### **07/126 Clerks Report**

A gentleman from Anglian Water has offered to go to the cemetery over the Christmas holidays in an attempt to reduce the rabbit population. The Council have give permission to allow this after Boxing Day .

Several street lights have been reported and repaired.

Spire Homes have been asked to contact a resident in Fineshade close who has problems with the paving in her garden; they have agreed to inspect this.

### **07/127 Accounts Payable**

Curators Salary (current month)	£ 140.00
Clerks Salary (current month)	£ 200.00
Clerks expenses : June – December 70	£ 79.69
Resource at Kings Cliffe : room hire for Liaison meeting	£ 12.00
Resource at Kings Cliffe : room hire for Youth Club	£ 144.00
Smith-Hetherington : grass cutting, pocket park etc.	£ 196.00
ABB Ltd : Lighting repairs	£ 23.47
ABB Ltd : Maintenance invoice ¼ to December	£ 354.97
Stephenson Smart : Preparing end of year accounts	£ 370.13

Proposed : Councillor K. Howard                      Seconded    :    Councillor    C.  
Williams

The payments for Youth Club Room hire was queried by a Councillor; the Chairman feels that we should continue to support this until there is provision for youth at the Sports Complex; however, this will be reviewed regularly.

It was agreed to Invite Mrs Balmer to our February meeting to update us on the progress and plans for the Youth Club

### **07/128 Planning**

#### **Applications**

**Endowed School : Various LBC improvements : EN/07/00218/EXT : No objection**

## **Granted**

**44 West Street : Demolition of front wall : EN/07/01896/CAC : Noted**

## **Refused**

**44 West Street : Various internal & external alterations : EN/07/01776/LBC & 01773/FUL**

With reference to the latter refusal, the whole Council expressed their disappointment that these minor, mainly internal alterations have been refused and feel this further enforces the view that the Planning Department lacks understanding of the situation regarding some of their decisions.

## **07/129 Highways Issues : report of meeting**

A draft letter to Highways, setting out priorities following a meeting and walkabout on 20<sup>th</sup> November with County Councillor H. Smith and Councillor B. Seery, the Chairman and a Councillor was circulated at the meeting.

The letter was reviewed in detail and several amendments were agreed the letter will be sent to Sue Flack, Heather Smith, our County Councillor and Bob Seery, Cabinet Member responsible for Highway requesting their response and any timescales

The main points are as follows:-

- 1. Junction of Park Street / West Street :** collapse of part of road surface
- 2. Station Road Footpath to Old Peoples Bungalows :** trees and tree roots making pavements very dangerous for residents
- 3. Crossing at junction West Street/ Wood Road :** safety issues which require some form of crossing or warning for safer access to and from West Street
- 4. 20 mph Zone near Primary School :** Control of speed as a safety issue for the Primary School.
- 5. Pedestrian Crossing :** At the junction of Coleman's Lane and Wood Road : need for some form of warning relating to this very busy crossing point for children

**6. Footpath Reinstatement :** Footpath from 57 – 59 Bridge Street, which has completing merged with the road.

**7. Parking Area outside 71-73 West Street :** This area needs tidying and resurfacing.

**8. Junction of Station Road and Park Street :** Request for sign “Through Traffic Avoiding Village Centre” to be reinstated and consideration by Highways to change priorities to direct through traffic along Wood Road.

**9. Heavy Goods Vehicles :** Assistance, in the form of signs and other solutions to direct HGV’s away from the village, especially the centre, including the possible re-naming of Kings Cliffe Industrial Estate on the Wansford Road.

The Chairman said that the policy for white lines was that at some point contractors would move in and reinstate road marking within an extensive area; but has been given no time-scale for this. There are no easy answers to any of the problems in the village, but he feels that the above suggestions do not involve large amounts of money and are all feasible propositions.

A motion to send the amended letter to Highways was proposed and seconded. It was also agreed that as this letter sets out the clear and agreed priorities of the Parish Council that no further letters be sent to Highways accept with the agreement of the Parish Council and that there was now no need for a Parish road Representative

Proposed : Councillor B. Wyles

Seconded : Councillor L. Crane

The question of speed on the narrow roads surrounding the village was raised but Councillor H. Smith said it has been proved in other villages that road widening schemes increase accident figures; also regarding the question of gritting the Wansford Road, although it was known that minor accidents occur during the winter months, these are not reported and therefore do not register in the Casualty reduction statistics. Only serious accidents and fatalities are recorded.

#### **07/130 Annual Audit : final approval and auditors comments**

The Audit Commission have approved the annual accounts and the necessary notice was posted on the notice board. The only relevant comment was that the auditors felt the Fidelity Insurance cover should be raised from £10,000 to £15,000. As the cost was less than £50 this was agreed and will be applied for.

Proposed : Councillor M. Day

Seconded : Councillor N. Ford



### **07/133 Purchase of Cemetery land**

A contract from the seller's solicitors is still awaited,

### **07/134 KC1 Site**

ENC Planners have indicated that the developers are satisfied with the suggestions for the Children's Play Area, the extended footpath in Willow Land and the provision of land to the north of the old Railway line .However there is still some doubt about the agreement for long term maintenance of the various facilities.

### **07/135 Burial Board**

BB Chairman M. Days said there had been no meeting as there were currently no outstanding issues. The Churchyard was looking very good and the cemetery grass had been cut again. There will be a meeting within the next month to discuss the measures which will be needed to fence the new extension when purchase is complete.

**07/136 Neighbourhood Watch** : Nothing to report

### **07/137 Other Correspondence Received**

An e-mail letter received from a resident in Church Walk, regarding trees he considers require trimming was discussed. It is understood that large vehicles have problems negotiating this narrow road, but as it is unadopted by Highways, it is unsuitable for HGV's .

Councillor H. Smith suggested no action should be taken regarding refuse collections if the gentlemen are happy to cope with the inconvenience of the narrow road as this has been proven to cause problems in other similar areas.

Various other correspondences were circulated.

### **07/138 Any Other Business**

#### **Stamford Road / Easton Hornstocks**

County Councillor H. Smith had been investigating the delay in the road improvement works from the A47 to the Landfill site on Stamford Road.

As mentioned at the Liaison meeting in September, safety measures on this stretch of road have been promised for some time. However this is complicated by an outstanding planning application by Cecil Estates for the old Bomb Dump site. It was initially agreed that the costs of highways improvement would be met by them, but there is considerable confusion as to

who is responsible.

Augean have now agreed to carry out some of the works i.e. chevrons on the first corner; there have been three accidents at this corner in the last few weeks. The Parish Council have asked repeatedly for warning signs at this corner to avoid another serious accident or indeed a fatality.

**It was agreed to add this as an urgent matter to our letter to Highways**

### **Terramundo Soil Cleaning Plant : Augean**

Councillor Smith has been on a conducted tour to the Olympic site in London with Augean and some Councillors from Collyweston to inspect the Terramundo soil cleaning plant which Augean have applied for permission to install on the Landfill site. The Kings Cliffe councillors who were intending to go had to cancel at the last minute.

She reports that the work done by this equipment is very impressive. If the equipment had not been taken to London, all the contaminated soil from that site would have been destined for the 'Cliffe site. 1,500,000 tonnes of soil need to be cleaned, 80% is to be reused on the site and only 20% will now come to 'Cliffe.

The equipment is not noisy and is not over large. It is an environmentally friendly installation and the way forward and she considered it would not be a problem to the community.

Councillor B. Wyles asked what would happen to the water used for soil washing. It will be tankered away from the site for safe disposal elsewhere.

The Chairman and Councillor K. Howard left the meeting at this point, having declared an interest in a further planning aspect for the Landfill site. Councillor N. Ford remained as he had a non prejudicial interest and is able to supply local knowledge if required.

### **07/140 : Options for Waste Disposal 2016-2025**

Councillor M. Day as Vice Chairman took the chair for the remainder of the meeting.

Roger Coulthard and George Smid from Kings Cliffe WasteWatchers were invited to join the discussion.

The following discussion concerns the Preferred Options for Northamptonshire Mineral & Waste. There are items in this extensive document which needs a response from the PC by 13<sup>th</sup> December.

The relevant item is an option for a substantial extension to the Western side of the existing sit, operated by Augean at West Hay. This option has been touched upon briefly at earlier Liaison meetings, but the actual reference within the mass of options documentation has only recently come to our attention.

There has been no response from Duddington PC and Collyweston have indicated that they have no objection.

Councillors H. Smith and M. Day stress this is just an option at the moment, but it is important to send our observations.

It was felt that the land in question is completely unsuitable as gas, water and an oil pipeline are below the land in question. Councillor B. Wyles considers this will be bringing the landfill too close to the village.

Roger Coulthard asked if this option had been deliberately placed deep within the consultation document in the hope that it would be overlooked.

The meeting agreed that Augean were far more open than previous owners of the site and she felt there was no intent to deceive. A similar situation occurred with Peterborough CC over the proposed Waste Incinerator in the Wansford Parish some time ago; no one noticed the small print until very late in the consultation.

Roger Coulthard suggested that the installation of the Terramundo and the subsequent reduction of contaminated soil would of effect lengthen the time the site would be active.

Councillor Lang Norris made a strong objection on the grounds that a cut-off point had been given for the landfill and it was now obvious it was going to be active far longer than anyone had anticipated. Councillor Williams agreed that the site was a much longer term project than most of the community were happy with.

Councillor Day said however much it was disliked, it is a fact of life and there to stay. The original objections by locals had been overturned by the Secretary of State as there are few suitable areas for such sites in the country and unfortunately we are such an area.

A strong response will be sent to the appropriate authorities from this Council.

Vice Chairman Day thanked Councillor Smith, Roger Coulthard and George Smid for attending the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.35.pm.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2008

Signed.....

Date.....