

KINGS CLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of the Parish Council was held on Thursday 14th August 2008 at 7.30pm. at the Memorial Hall.

08/057 : Present : Chairman A. Howard, Vice-chairman M. Day, Councillor L. Crane, B. Wyles, C. Williams, V. Wharton, K. Howard, B. Howard, P. Lang Norris, County Councillor H. Smith, District Councillor R. Glithero, J. Sweeney, Environment Agency, G. Wilson and Nigel Barton, Augean and parishioners Messrs. R. Coulthard and D. Hellard

08/058 : Apologies : Councillor J. Dixon

08/059 : Declarations of Interest : The Chairman, Councillors K. Howard, B. Howard and V. Wharton declared an interest in agenda item 4 – to follow. Therefore the Chairman asked Vice – chairman M. Day to chair this item.

08/060 : Augean : update on new permits : public discussion

Councillor M. Day asked John Sweeney to give the meeting an update on pending Planning issues.

Mr. Sweeney stated that he is the Environment Agency manager for Northamptonshire. Several years ago there were problems with the landfill site which caused inconvenience to the local communities and the EA were frequently blamed for these. With their authority they took enforcement action and raised case files. When these actions came before the lawyers, shortcomings were found with the Pollution Permits. One of the team leaders who signed these was found wanting and Mr. Sweeney removed his authority to sign permits, although he remained as part of the team. The EA were advised that this signatory weakened their powers and Augean should have complete confidence in their powers. The permits were sound but the signature reduced their efficiency. A new permit structure was required.

Roger Coulthard asked if this would be the full due process or just an amendment.

This will be full due process. Individuals report to Mr. Sweeney and there must be trust in the regulations, therefore this will be a totally new document to remove uncertainty.

Mr. Sweeney was asked to outline when this would happen. He said they were acutely aware of the cloak of secrecy in the past, the process will begin in the very near future. The documents will be thoroughly checked; the procedure usually takes 4 months, but the track record makes it more likely to be 7 to 8 months . Views will be sought and considered, it is hoped all will be in place by the end of this financial year.

David Hellard asked if the end result would be that an old agreement will be completely legitimised.

Mr. Sweeney said it will completely new, there have been improvements and new regulations have come into force since the original permit was prepared.

Gene Wilson for Augean said the EA will consider the monitoring to prove good practice. The new regulation decision documents including the Public Participation process can be seen on the EA web-site.

Councillor M. Day asked if the Press will be involved in this. Mr. Sweeney said they would, but re-iterated that this is not a planning application as such.

Councillor M. Day thanked the gentlemen for attending and handed the chair back to the chairman.

08/061 Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th July 2008 : Approved

Proposed : Councillor V. Wharton

Seconded : Councillor L. Crane

08/062 Matters Arising : None

08/063 Clerks Report

Each Councillor has been given tonight a form to complete to bring declarations of interest up to date. Also distributed is a 'Flow Chart' setting out the rules for declaring an interest in agenda items.

Stephenson Smart pointed out in the accounts that Barclays had overpaid by £30 on a cheque the PC had issued. After writing to Barclays, this has been repaid to us.

A letter has been sent to a resident of Wood Road asking if he would please trim back the buddleia overhanging Royce's Lane.

The blocked drains in West Street and Bridge Street have been reported several times, both to Highways and the Street Doctor. To date, these have not been cleared.

The fallen tree in the Pitchell has been cleared by the residents of 1 Church Walk. Several lights have been repaired.

Highways have been informed that the 'Give Way' sign at the cross roads end of Park Street is almost totally obscured by an overhanging tree. They have indicated that they will contact the owner.

08/064 Accounts Payable : Approved

Curators Salary (current month)	£ 150.00
Clerks Salary (current month)	£ 205.00
Smith Hetherington, grass cutting	£ 250.00
Stephenson Smart : audit payment	£ 387.75
ABB Ltd : lighting repairs	£ 27.58
BT : account ¼ to July 2008	£ 90.26

Proposed : Councillor C. Williams

Seconded : Councillor B. Wyles

08/065 Planning

Applications

9 West Street : Proposed first floor extension to existing room : EN/08/01410/FUL : No objection

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The Rectory : Removal and pruning of trees : EN/08/01441/TPO : No objection

KC1 Site : Decisions discussion : NE/05/00620/OUT

An amended planning application for the development to the rear of Wood Road has been approved by ENC. District Councillor Glithero explained that there would be gains for the Parish from this development including a Children's Play area and the field beyond the Railway line would be transferred to the Parish Council for a Cricket Pitch and a General Play Area. The Chairman asked about the request for a useable footpath from Willow Lane to both these areas for pedestrians. The issue of reviewing the drainage and sewage systems was also raised. Councillor Glithero will investigate these matters, but it was agreed that this development is all unlikely to happen any time soon due to the current slowdown in the building industry.

Granted : Noted

54 West Street : Detached garage & associated works : EN/08/01051/FUL

72 Park Street : Two storey extension & detached garage : EN/08/00879/FUL

08/066 Purchase of Cemetery Land : Preliminary completion

The draft contract for this has been received from Chattertons; the Chairman is happy with the content and they have been instructed to proceed with this purchase. He asked for a resolution authorising the purchase and the signature of all papers by himself and the Clerk

It was resolved that the Council purchase the area of land specified for an extension to the existing cemetery and that the council purchase this with a loan of £17, 500 from East Northamptonshire Council. The Chairman and Clerk be authorised to sign the appropriate documents

Proposed : Councillor B. Howard

Seconded : Councillor B. Wyles

08/067 KCEA & KC Community & Area Sports Project :Update

David Hellard, Chairman KCEA , who was present, gave a comprehensive report on the progress of this project. The initial aim is to complete the major works on football pitches and the kick-about area in the near future. The power through the site has been re-routed and all overhead cables removed. Four and a half miles of 'Geotherm' has been installed to eventually give free heating and hot water to the changing rooms etc. The parking areas will shortly be completed and the committee are delighted with the progress so far. Councillor K. Howard, as the PC representative, has been involved in all discussions and meetings. The Chairman thanked David for the report

08/068 Apethorpe footpath : update

County Councillor Heather Smith said the work on this footpath is now almost complete; in line with the final agreement, the area had been flattened, re-seeded and drained. This was a very expensive project; the last section between Kirks Lodge and the 2nd Drift is now almost complete. She has had long discussions with both NCC and the Apethorpe meeting regarding the complaints that the whole area had not been cut satisfactorily. A temporary compromise was reached to have one cut with a mower but subsequent cuts will be the standard one metre. It is felt if this is used regularly the three cuts a year should prove sufficient. Unfortunately, Apethorpe does not have a precept, therefore they cannot pay for it to be cut, and Kings Cliffe is not permitted to spend money on other parishes. District Councillor Glithero will suggest to Apethorpe that they could contact English Heritage for assistance as they have such a huge interest in the village.

08/069 Highways Issues

County Councillor Smith reported that she was pushing Highways over the twelve urgent matters raised earlier in the year regarding works in the Parish. In particular, the pavements in Park Street and the problems with tree roots in Station Road, which the Chairman says are getting worse. She asked the Clerk to send the original letter to the new head of services to ensure their attention is again brought to these matters. The chevrons at the Bomb Dump corner on Stamford Road were a real achievement after asking for them for years.

There were various complaints from Councillors on other highway issues. District Councillor Glithero said there had been a general lack of maintenance on the roads of East Northants, but it is hoped the new contractors will pull this together in the fullness of time.

The matter of overgrown hedges on rural roads was discussed; the onus is on individual land-owners, but if they do not trim their hedges a list will be sent to NCC asking them to contact them officially.

Councillor B. Howard complained about the condition of the roads in and out of the village; the Chairman suggested that as the whole village was re-surfaced in recent years we really should be

grateful for that and not assert pressure for roads to be surface dressed at this moment in time, the focus being the paths

08/070 Gazette Entry for August : Discussed and agreed

08/071 Burial Board

Councillor M. Day, BB Chairman reported that a problem had arisen when measuring out a grave plot recently. Some of the plots which appear to be available for purchase are in fact inaccessible due to incorrect grave spacing in the past. The Burial Board will inspect these and decided which plots should be removed from the master plan. This makes the purchase of the extension land more important than had been previously thought. The Curator will be asked to give a price for sympathetically trimming the hedge on the Eastern side as this is encroaching on existing graves. He will also ask Colin Smith if he can remove the weeds outside the railing of the churchyard in Church Walk.

A memorial application from Midas was approved.

08/072 Neighbourhood Watch

PCSO's Paul Webster and Mohamed (Taz) Thaseen gave a report on crime in the village and discussed the monthly crime report.

There had been no house burglaries in the village but as previously reported, garden sheds on Morehay Lane had been plundered. There were seven thefts from motor vehicles; in all cases the objects removed were on full view. This included SatNavs. PC Webster stressed that car owners should never leave any items on view in parked cars and always lock cars. It is thought the thieves pick their targets during the hours of 11.p.m. and 6.am. Forensics had found no fingerprints, so these are professionals not opportunists. Only Kings Cliffe has been targeted locally so far; other villages will be warned..

The village has had 18 hours of foot patrols in the last month and there will be more night time patrols.

Access for the Police at the Resource Centre will be completed on 8th September; this will be advertised and there will be an official opening. This will allow the officers to use a computer to access information and use this as a rural base for operations and give residents access to the Police, hopefully every other day.

Councillor B. Howard said that it had been reported there had been small raves in the village and suggested that the Inspector and Sergeant from Oundle should address the Parish meeting. PCSO Webster said these had been investigated, but they were actually private parties and no harm was done. The Chairman said that the Police were well aware of the problems in the village and policing was much improved since the inception of the PCSO's in the area

The Chairman thanked PCSO's Webster and Thaseen, County Councillor H. Smith and District Councillor R. Glithero for attending the meeting.

08/073 Other Correspondence Received : Various correspondences were discussed or circulated

08/074 Any Other Business

ABB, our lighting contractors, have been taken over by E-on, but we are assured that basically nothing will change. There is problem with the lights in Walkers Field; a resident asked for a faulty light to be repaired and as the road is not adopted it is not strictly speaking a PC problem. However, ABB have been asked for and given a quotation for servicing these lights and for repairing the one light. After inspection, they have also reported that one standard needs

straightening and have given a quotation for this of £67.87. The additional annual cost to the PC for maintaining these 3 lights would be circa £50 per light per annum. Although this should strictly have been an agenda item, the Chairman asked for a proposal to add these lights to our contract

Proposed : Councillor V. Wharton

Seconded : Councillor L. Crane

A further concern has arisen in Walkers Field. Two residents already rent the allotments behind their houses and it was agreed a third resident could also rent a plot. However, upon inspection, there is no longer a passable access from Kingsmead to this land and this must be rectified. The land is leased to the Parish Council by ENC. The lease will be inspected and this will be an agenda item at the next meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20pm. The next meeting will be held on 18th September – N.B. this is one week later than advertised.