

# KINGS CLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of the Parish Council was held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2009 at 7.30.pm. at Freestone Lodge, Bridge Street, replacing the meeting scheduled for 12<sup>th</sup> February (cancelled) The Chairman welcomed Councillor G. Kingston to her first meeting as a Councillor.

**08/160 Present :** Chairman A. Howard, Vice-Chairman M. Day, Councillors L. Crane, C. Williams, M. Wharton, G. Kingston, B. Howard, B. Wyles and Area Highways Manager, Mr. Woodhouse

**08/161 Apologies :** Councillors J. Dixon, P. Lang Norris and J. Dixon

**08/162 Declarations of Interest :** None

**08/163 Minutes of the meeting held on 8th January:** Approved

Proposed : Councillor M. Day

Seconded : Councillor C. Williams

**08/164 Matters arising :** none

**08/165 Clerks report**

There have been scores of complaints regarding lack of sufficient gritting and salting to the roads. These will be dealt with later in the agenda.

Councillor Lang Norris received a complaint from parishioner, Mr. George Scotney, asking that the Council should discuss the problems of buses getting through West Street and negotiating the Cross. This was discussed at length at the last meeting and there was a request in the Gazette to the community to be more thoughtful when parking, especially at the surgery, school and Post Office

Mrs. Barke from Orchard Lane has complained that some of the allotment holders are parking or turning on the grass outside her house. Although she acknowledges this is not her land, it is always kept neat and tidy by her. A reminder will go out with the tenancy renewal letters asking tenants to try not to mount the verges when turning. This also applies at the bottom gate, where the verge is badly damaged.

A letter has been received from Mrs. Milne Atkinson asking if there could be some form of drainage arrangements made as the lane floods badly after heavy rain.

Blocked drains in various parts of the village have been reported, one of the worse being by the signpost at the bottom of Wansford Hill; this has been dealt with; please report blocked drains to me.

A dangerously loose tile on the new houses in Forest Approach has been reported to the relevant Estate Agent for action.

Highways have been asked AGAIN to clean all signs throughout the village.

A dedicated Parish Council web-site is in progress to meet the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act. This will initially provide basic information, but can be expanded as and when necessary. Our thanks to Russell Brown for his help with this project.

**08/166 Accounts payable :** Approved

Curators Salary (current month)	£ 150.00
Clerks Salary (current month)	£ 200.00
BT : Telephone charges ¼ to Feb. 2009	£ 67.86



A letter received from Planning for Real has reported that there are funds available for village projects and the Chairman has replied, asking if it is possible to use these funds for a small children's play area within the new Sports Project. A play area had been provisionally agreed within the village as part of the KC1 housing project, but this is unlikely to materialise any time soon, and it is improbable that the play area will be constructed without the housing project. Therefore, he has spoken to David Hellard of the Sports committee and they are willing to discuss this. The estimated cost would be around £10,000 and the amount available is £4,000 but if further funds could be raised, a play area is possible.

It was pointed out that although this would not be as convenient as the original proposal, (adjacent to the Ex-Servicemen's Club) it would give small children a much needed playground; although out of the village, it is obvious that there would always be parents with small children at this site.

The Chairman asked for a proposal for this scheme to be investigated and this was carried

Proposed : Councillor M. Wharton

Seconded : Councillor L. Crane

### **08/170 Landfill Liaison Meeting : Report**

Vice-Chairman M. Day reported that he and the Clerk had attended a Landfill Liaison meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> January. Amongst items discussed were the on-going complaints of mud on the road. The meeting was assured that Augean are well aware of this; some drivers were not using the wheel washing facility; these drivers will now get two warnings, if these are ignored, they will be banned from delivering to the site. Augean are looking to improve the washing facility, this will involve a wet spinner and a secondary wheel spinner. They are also researching a new road sweeper. The site has now been renamed – the company is still Augean plc, but the name is “East Northamptonshire Resource Management Facility”. Simon Moyles reported that 500 newts were relocated from the site. A new flare has been installed with the agreement of the Environment Agency. Councillor Day asked if there would be an increase in traffic movements when the soil treatment plant is opened; there will be no increase.

Phil Watson for NCC reported the Core Strategy is going to an examination in Public at the end of March, and that an extension to the landfill site was not specifically proposed in the plan at present as it is considered there is enough provision at least until 2016.

The next meeting will be in July 2009.

The Council discussed the above report at length. The mud on the road is always the principle complaint. The Chairman says the County Council should be contacted with complaints, the Parish Council will log all complaints so a record is kept. We have done everything within our power and as reported earlier in these minutes, it is technically a Police problem

### **08/171 Invitation to Councillors**

Several Councillors have accepted this invitation.

### **08/172 Sports Project : PC representative**

The Council representative for the above, Councillor K. Howard, has been unable to attend several meetings; formerly, we had a second representative in reserve who is no longer a councillor, therefore the Chairman suggested we should elect another Councillor as a reserve member. Councillor G. Kingston who is familiar with the project and has been to several meeting, is agreeable to fill this position. This was agreed.

Proposed : Councillor C. Williams

Seconded : Councillor M. Day

The Chairman reported that hedging had been planted by volunteers around the site. A gate has been installed at the Willow Lane entrance. In the Spring, topsoil will be spread and the pitches seeded there these will be ready for use next year. KCASP are looking into the building of changing rooms, this will be followed by tennis courts and an all weather area.

Several issues arose from this, which Councillor Kingston will raise:-

- 1) The gate in Willow Lane is locked, therefore access is not easy; there is no hand-gate.
- 2) At the Kingsmead entrance, the bollards to prevent vehicular access are permanently raised; Parents wishing to accompany children to the skateboard area cannot enter the site with vehicles.
- 3) The request for volunteers to help with the tree planting did not appear to have sufficient publicity.

### **08/173 Burial Board**

Councillor M. Day apologised that no meeting had been called and will rectify this. He reported that quotations have been requested to fence the new cemetery area, but none so far received.

Requests for memorials were approved.

The format for "No Parking" signs for Hall Yard prior to funerals, weddings etc., were discussed. Advice will be sought from local sign writing companies.

Broken kerbs in Hall Yard will be reported to the Street Doctor.

### **08/174 Neighbourhood Watch**

The monthly crime report was circulated; nothing further to report

**08/175 Other Correspondence Received** : discussed or circulated

### **08/176 Any Other Business**

A reply will be sent to Mrs. Milne-Atkinson's letter, Morehay Lane road is unadopted and is in essence a green lane, there is therefore nothing we can do as regards water run off from this lane.

Councillor M. Day requested that warning "Deer Signs" be erected on the Wansford Road, as there were several carcasses of deer which had been killed on the road; they can cause serious accidents. The Clerk is to obtain a quote for such signs

Councillor L. Crane reported rubbish dumped at the Bottle Banks and also behind the notice board in Willow Walk. She also reported the drains in kerbs in various parts of the village which are blocked by grass growing in them, These problems will be reported.

Councillors B. Wyles and B. Howard are concerned about the many pot-holes appearing on the road. Highways are aware of these and are repairing as quickly as possible. Also again complained about the lack of gritting etc. The Chairman replied that NCC had made it clear that for the foreseeable future, trunk roads and motorways were the priority and country areas were the minority. He suggested that the community must seriously consider forming groups of able bodied adults to take the initiative when disasters such as the recent snow strike and form groups to grit pavements, check on the elderly etc., etc.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.20.pm. The date of the next meeting is to yet

be arranged, due to this meeting being held one week later than advertised.