

KINGS CLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Thursday 14th May 2009 at 7.30.pm. at the Parlour, King's Cliffe Memorial Hall.

09/001 Present : Chairman A. Howard, Vice-Chairman M. Day, County Councillor H. Smith, District Councillor R. Glithero, Councillors L. Crane, C. Williams, P. Lang Norris, B. Wyles, K. Howard, G. Kingston, M. Wharton, parishioners Wilfred Court and Katy Weeks

09/002 Apologies for Absence : Councillors J. Dixon and B. Howard

09/003 Declarations of Interest : The Chairman declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 15, (second item)

09/004 Election of Chairman

The Clerk asked for nominations for the position of Chairman. Councillor B. Wyles proposed Councillor A. Howard. There were no other proposals

Proposed : Councillor B.Wyles

Seconded : Councillor M.Wharton

09/005 Election of Vice Chairman

The Chairman asked for nominations for the position of Vice-Chairman. Councillor B.Wyles proposed Councillor M. Wharton There were no other proposals

Proposed : Councillor B.Wyles

Seconded : Councillor P. Lang Norris

09/006 Formation of Sub-Committees

Councillor M. Wharton joined the existing Burial Board Sub-committee.

09/007 Appointment of Wardens (No change)

Tree Warden : Councillor J. Dixon

Footpaths & Pocket Parks Warden : Mr. C. Smith

09/008 Nominations to Other Bodies

Bonney Law trustee nomination : Councillor K. Howard volunteered as nominee for the Parish Council.

Request from ENC for a Parish representative on the ENC Standards Board : No volunteers

09/009 Dates of Meetings for the Coming Year

Dates of meetings for the coming year were approved and list given to each Councillor. These dates have been provisionally booked.

09/010 Augean : Dr. Gene Wilson : discussed under Any Other Business

09/011 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 9th April 2009 : Approved

Proposed : Councillor B. Wyles

Seconded : Councillor P. Lang Norris

09/012 Matters arising

The Clerk will follow up the visit by the TPO to the Beech Tree.

09/013 Clerks Report

The Parish Council web-site is ready for public use, although we have more work to do to complete it. Go to www.kingscliffeparishcouncil.co.uk and have a look. Any suggestions will be welcomed.

Another reminder please, call the Clerk when street lights fail; reporting it to the Street Doctor means they have to send it back to me to report to E-on (formerly ABB) and delaying the repairs.

Spire Homes have again visited Mrs. Maureen Gow and told her they will repair the pavements in Station Road, but not yet, as there are more pressing tasks to be done. I received the comment that “We have looked at the paths and we will be looking at repairing in the near future. I will be visiting with our contractor very shortly”. I replied that it is the trees which need urgent attention, but have received no comment further from them.

PCSO Paul Webster informed me there had been a burglary at Hall Farm again, and the Rectory garage has been broken into so everyone should be aware.

There is also a rumour and he stressed this is only a rumour, reported to the Helpdesk, that a man in a white van was offering children money to go to the shop with him. The schools are aware of this – if anyone sees anyone suspicious, please call the Police Helpdesk on 08453 700700.

There was an incident in the Laws Lawn drive during this week. The gentleman in question was taken to hospital, no details have been given; the car in the gateway will be removed in due course.

The Curator is currently refurbishing the cemetery gates and feels they look far smarter without the “No Parking” sign. It was decided however, that this sign is essential, but a more suitable one will be sourced.

09/014 Accounts Payable : the following accounts were approved for payment

Curators Salary (Current month)	£ 150.00
Clerks Salary (Current month)	£ 200.00
E-on : Lighting charge ¼ to April 09	£ 578.07
Memorial Hall : Kings Cliffe : Room Hire	£ 100.00
BT : Phone charges ¼ to April	£ 87.34
Smith Hetherington : grass cutting churchyard etc.	£ 305.00
Resource at Kings Cliffe : Room hire for Youth Club	£ 366.00

ENC Precept ½ year payment of £ 7,500.00 was paid to the PC on 24th April 2009

Proposed : Councillor M. Day

Seconded : Councillor C. Williams

09/015 Planning

Applications:-

Sports Project, Kingsmead : Community Building : EN/09/0436/REM : No objection

Endowed School : Covered Play Area : EN/09/00023/CCD : Strong objection

It was unanimously agreed that the proposed covered play area is totally unsuitable in the conservation area, especially as it is so close to the school buildings which are listed. It is noted that the proposed construction, which, due both to its height and the fact that the playground is higher than Park Street will be visible from Park Street, within the conservation area near the centre of the village. A zinc roof is far too modern and obtrusive and will not only be unsuitable in this prime location but a complete distraction from everything that all groups have worked on for over many years to retain the character of the conservation area within our historic stone village Therefore the Parish Council would urge you to refuse this application.

Middle School : Mobile classrooms & toilets : NCC : No objection

For information only : Details of the adder gate for Kingsmead : ENC

It was noted that this gate will not be fitted until after the adder breeding season in August/September. The Clerk will contact Richard Hankins at ENC regarding the re-direction of the footpath, which must be marked and an alteration made to the wording of the lease for the land.

Granted by ENC :

62 Park Street : Internal alterations : EN/08/01079/LBC : Noted

09/016 Resource Centre : Youth Club : presentation by Katy Weeks

The Chairman welcomed Katy to the meeting and invited her to speak. She began by saying she would be talking mainly about Resource at Kings Cliffe, rather than the Youth Club, as they had just received the bad news that the funding for Resource will end at the end of June unless a miracle happens. They are now winding down the operation. The role of managing this is too great to rely on unpaid volunteers, the computers will be removed.

The Chairman said the PC should have been made aware of this before this happened. Katy replied that £10,000 or preferably £20,000 was needed to carry on. Mr. Court said that the matter had been discussed at length but it had not been made common knowledge. The Chairman asked what would happen to the facility the Police had been using as a rural outpost. C. Councillor H. Smith asked who had been the current fundee and was told it had been Lloyds TSB. A comment was made that it would have been sensible to charge for courses held at Resource; apparently it was a condition of Lloyds TSB that courses were free. The Chairman suggested this was not sound business strategy. Katy agreed that lessons have been learned, but the Youth Club must continue and they are in discussion with the Memorial Hall committee. CC Smith asked if the Police are prepared to allot funds to this. This will be pointed out to the MH committee. A letter will be sent to the Chairman of the MH committee. The Chairman said the PC were supportive for the Police and the Youth Club, but could not give further financial support. Katy asked if the PC will continue paying for the room hire for the Youth Club. This was agreed. CC H. Smith and DC R. Glithero both support these decisions. The Chairman thanked Katy for coming to the meeting to explain the problems.

The above discussion led on to the subject of KCASP. Although the PC had made no objections to the application in item 09/014 : Planning Applications:- Sports Project, Kingsmead : Community Building : EN/09/0436/REM, concern was expressed with regard to the funding of the running costs of actual buildings on the site, and there is a risk that this could fall onto to the PC, as the residual landowners. D. Councillor R. Glithero and C. Councillor H. Smith emphasised that their respective councils would not become involved in funding the actual running costs of the facility. Councillor K. Howard, the PC representative on their committee said there is a long term business plan. The Chairman feels there should be a meeting and David Hellard and Andrew Pick should be invited to the next PC meeting to ensure the whole PC is aware of how the running costs of the project are to be funded, this is obviously separate to the raising of capital to fund the project. Councillors Lang Norris asked if there is funding for the proposed second storey, and how is the current maintenance being organised? Councillor K. Howard said the work was done on a voluntary basis, but once the pitches are finished this will be too much.

Councillor G. Kingston and D. Councillor Glithero both suggested that the Football Club might agree to being involved, also the Middle School, as they will no doubt use the facilities once they are completed, especially as the Community Centre at the school will be lost once it is compulsory for schools to provide meals for pupils again. Councillor C. Williams submitted that it was all too ambitious.

C. Councillor H. Smith will enquire if there will be a refund for the loss of use of the Community Centre when the lease expires, but apparently the lease is close to expiry.

Following the report of some damage and burglary in the sports area, the question was asked if the area was sufficiently covered by insurance, including third party insurance. Councillor K. Howard will check on this.

09/017 Highways : update

Since the last meeting white lines have been re-painted throughout the village, the parking area at the top of West Street has been resurfaced and the kerb and footpath on Bridge Street has been completely rebuilt; the area of Park Street at the Cross has been resurfaced. The PC are delighted that at long last many outstanding issues have been completed. The Chairman thanked C. Councillor H. Smith for all her help with this and other matters in the parish. He said the overall state of roads in the village was very good, but will continue to pursue the request for a crossing at the West Street/Wood Road junction and for signs at the top of Coleman's Lane/Wood Road and in Park Street where school children cross the roads.

09/018 Request for use of Malting's Green : KCGA

Permission was given and the PC wished the Gardening Club good luck for their annual show.

09/019 Gazette entry for June 2009 : Discussed and agreed

09/020 Children's Play Area (additional agenda item)

The Chairman added this item as we have been granted £4,000 from the now closed Pathfinder Project towards providing a play area as discussed in last months' Chairman's report. An area will be allocated within the Sports Field for this purpose; although the original area adjacent to the Club would be more suitable, the landowner is not prepared to negotiate unless there are firm plans for the KC1 site to go ahead, which is unlikely at present. It is though around £10,000 will be needed; letters will be sent to village organisations asking for help to raise this. Mr. Wilfred Court reported there is a small amount of money in the (many years old) Playground account which can be used. The PC will be able to contribute a small amount towards equipment, but it was pointed out that this, and the requisite surfacing will be very expensive.

09/021 Burial Board : Nothing to report

09/022 Neighbourhood Watch : Nothing to report

09/023 Correspondence received : Discussed and/or circulated

09/024 Any Other Business

Agenda item above 09/010: Augean : was deferred as Dr. Gene Wilson felt unable to accept our invitation to speak at this meeting as it is a public meeting. East Northants Resource Management Facility is holding an exhibition in the Memorial Hall on 21st May to explain their forthcoming application to NCC to accept low levels of radioactive waste at the Landfill site. Parish Councillors are invited to a meeting the day before the exhibition, along with the various authorities involved in this application. When all facts are available this can be discussed at the next PC meeting in June.

However, as the County and District Councillors were in attendance, the Chairman felt this could be discussed at this point.

Landfill proposals : All residents have received a newsletter explaining brief details this; the Chairman stated all facts must be heard before any decisions can be made on these. The reaction of the whole community must be taken into account. The waste will be from de-commissioned Nuclear Power Stations. Safety of the community is the priority. Does this warrant a public meeting, as everyone has their own concerns? He urged Councillors not to speak to the press on behalf of the PC, until this had been fully debated.

C. Councillor H. Smith says NCC strategy makes no provision for this type of waste. The Wansford Wastewatchers Group is aware of this and she will be attending a meeting with them.

D. Councillor R. Glithero stated it is a very emotive issue; he is assured any waste will be in sealed containers and very safe. It is not an ENC decision, they will be asked for their comments only, and the final local decision is with NCC.

Councillor G. Kingston asked if there was any proposal to ask for an extension to the site. Councillor Smith replied in the negative and feels that the County feel they have done their duty re landfill sites and enough is enough. As she had been canvassing in the area, she had discussed this with residents and was disturbed by the apathy of some; although many were strongly opposed to the proposals.

Councillor B. Wyles asked for the drain at the bottom of Wansford Hill to be investigated, it is clear, but floods badly during heavy rain and is a traffic hazard.

Councillor G. Kingston asked if there was anything we could do about the totally inappropriate garage to the front of 72 Park Street. She also pointed out that a similar large garage in Bridge Street was equally unsuitably sited. Although planning has been granted for this, a letter will be sent to ENC to ask that in future more care is taken when examining such applications for a conservation village. D. Councillor R. Glithero announced he was back on the planning panel and would investigate, as too many complaints of this nature are coming forward. As he has said before, he feels there are not enough experienced planning officers.

Worries were again expressed regarding the speed of vehicles along Wood Road and the safety of children. It was agreed that the installation of flashing speed warning would be very helpful, these are very expensive, but will be investigated.

The Chairman raised the point that no volunteers had come forward to form an emergency plan for the village. It was suggested that a database of the elderly and needy should be compiled, but this would probably break the Data Protection Act and would be difficult to assess and maintain. He still feels a group of young volunteers is the best way forward.

The Chairman thanked Councillors H. Smith, R. Glithero and Mr. Court for attending and their very useful contributions to the meeting.

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

The next meeting will be on Thursday 11th June in the Memorial Hall Parlour at 7.30.pm.