

KINGS CLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

The monthly meeting of the Parish Council was held on Thursday 9th July 2009 at 7.30.pm. at the Parlour, King's Cliffe Memorial Hall.

09/045 Present : Chairman A. Howard, Vice-Chairman M. Wharton, Councillors L. Crane, C. Williams, B. Wyles, M. Day, G. Kingston, J. Dixon, B. Howard, P. Lang Norris, and K. Howard and one parishioner. PCSO's P. Webster and P. Dobson attended for part of the meeting

09/046 Apologies for Absence : None

09/047 Declarations of Interest : None

09/048 Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th June 2009 : Approved

Proposed : Councillor C. Williams

Seconded : Councillor M. Wharton

09/049 Matters arising

The questions which arose regarding the agenda item Any Other Business were addressed by the Chairman, who explained that no business requiring full Council decisions can be discussed under this item. Therefore he restricts this to one question from each Councillor and any items which can be dealt with by the Clerk without consultation, i.e. street lighting, blocked drains, planning queries. This was questioned by one Councillor, but the Chairman re-iterated that long discussions had fragmented too many past meetings.

09/050 Clerks report

Due to the FOI Act, Councillors are informed that all meetings will now be digitally recorded. This provides verbal record on computer in case of any future disputes regarding minutes.

A complaint was received regarding an overgrown hedge in Fineshade Close impeding pedestrians using the lane to Wood Road. The owner has promised to remove the growth in the lane, and will lower the height of the hedge when all fledgling have left their nests.

E-on have repaired the light outside 14 West Street; hopefully this will solve this on-going problem.

Anglian Water has again repaired the water pipe in Station Road/Park Close, but has asked to be informed if there are further problems. Mr. T. Smith will monitor this for the Council.

The Highways Engineers phoned to say the drains at the bottom of Wansford Hill and the ones at the Cross – Park/West Street, have all been jetted and are now clear. At this point, a Councillor reported that the drains in Park Street at the Cross are still blocked. This will be reported.

09/051 Accounts payable

Curators Salary (current month)	£ 150.00
Clerks Salary (current month)	£ 200.00
Smith-Hetherington : grass cutting etc.	£ 205.00
E-ON : Lighting repairs	£ 26.99
Stephenson Smart : Annual Accounts fee	£ 396.75
Richard Brown : refurbishing cemetery gates	£ 100.00
E-ON : Lighting repairs (second inv.)	£ 45.93

Proposed : Councillor L. Crane

Seconded : Councillor M. Day

09/052 Planning Applications

Bridge House, 17 Bridge Street : Two storey extension of office use : EN/09/00944/FUL : No objection

Granted

Middle School : Mobile classrooms & toilets : NCC : noted

Sports Project, Kingsmead : Community Building : EN/09/0436/REM : noted

At this point PCSO's Webster and Dobson joined the meeting

09/053 Audited Annual Accounts for approval

Stephenson Smart has carried out the internal audit which was approved for signature and submission to the Audit Commission approved accountants, BDO Stoy Hayward LLP.

Proposed : Councillor G. Kingston

Seconded : Councillor P. Lang Norris

Stephenson Smart also asked for the following statement to be clarified:-

'The Council have adopted an approach that is sufficient in relation to the needs, size and circumstances of the Council, namely Internal Audit once a year at the completion of the financial year end'

Proposed : Councillor M. Day

Seconded : Councillor J. Dixon

The Chairman instructed the Clerk to ensure that she and Mr. Richard Brown, cemetery curator completed forms P46 for HM Revenue & Customs.

09/054 Public meeting : Landfill issues : 2nd July : Report

The Chairman thanked all Councillors for attending the above meeting, which have proved the high degree of interest. Two hundred and twenty people attended the Augean exhibition and one hundred and fifty attended the Public meeting.

It is obvious from question and comments made that many are concerned by these matters. No submission has yet been made, but it is understood this is imminent. The time scale for any comments is officially six weeks, but it was made clear by NCC Planners that this application will not be rushed through. The PC will make their comments when appropriate and when we have gleaned had more information. We are hoping to have a meeting with Phil Hope MP and other relevant government representatives; there may be no necessity for a monthly PC meeting in August, any such meeting will replace this. It is thought it would be disadvantageous to have Augean representatives the meeting. Several Councillors had spoken to parishioners and all felt that the NCC and EA representatives at the Public meeting were not well prepared for the questions asked. The concerns about why the contaminate soil needs to be moved in the first place is a very major concern to everyone.

The Chairman also remarked that other local Parish Councils should be involved and the PC is well aware that there are very grave concerns within this and surrounding communities.

The minutes of the Public meeting will be summarised and circulated.

09/055 Children's Play Area : update

Councillor M. Wharton reported on the meeting called at the Cross Keys by Mr. Donald Pollack. All those attending were very enthusiastic. An area is available within KCASP and the newly formed Play Area committee will research what is needed and costs. A further meeting is planned in the near future. It was agreed this all sounds very encouraging and the Council thank Mr. Pollack for all his hard work to bring this forward.

09/056 KCASP : update

Councillor G. Kingston reported that she had been to a meeting and the proposed changing room plans had been discussed. The Football Foundation are willing to contribute but it is felt the plans need to be more economic at this time. Debbie Balmer is looking into funding for the MUGA. Councillor K. Howard reported that Phil Hope MP was very positive, but no funding was forthcoming.

09/057 Sheltered Accommodation

Reports on this are still outstanding from various organisations.

09/058 Speed Warning Signs

The Clerk enquired the costs of speed warning signs for the village and received the list below from Steve Barber, Collision Analyst for NCC :-

These are the two choices;

1. Temporary signs, similar to the type used for the Temporary VAS Scheme. These cost around £ 2,500, are portable and can be used at more than one location. On the downside they are labour intensive as the batteries have to be changed every week and they have to be erected and then taken down.
2. Permanent signs. These are similar to ones you see everywhere including Collyweston, and once they are put up they involve no more effort than the occasional maintenance check. The actual device costs around the same as a portable ones, but a lamppost style post is required to mount it on plus a power supply which can boost the costs considerably if the cable needs to come a long way. Around £ 5,000 in total but it could be a lot more.

The Chairman will speak to CC Heather Smith for ideas to obtain money for signs. Councillor P. Lang Norris suggested we should borrow the temporary signs which NCC offer to display for a few weeks. The Clerk will research this.

09/059 Youth Club request to use Malting's Green

The Youth Club asked if they could use the green for stalls to raise money for the Youth Club on the day of the Duck Race. Permission is given and the Council wish them good luck with this project.

09/060 Gazette Entry for August

Discussed and agreed.

09/061 Burial Board

BB Chairman M. Day will provide names of suitable fencing contractors to allow estimates to be requested for fencing and hedging the new cemetery area in the autumn. The "No Parking" signs for Hall Yard were discussed and estimates will be sourced for these.

09/062 Neighbourhood Watch

PCSO's Webster and Dobson attended and gave the following Police report:-

Paul Webster will begin his training as a Police Officer in September and he introduced Phil Dobson who will be taking over from him. At a recent Community Safety Panel meeting, the following priorities were made:-

- Speeding in all areas
- Parking in West Street, Kings Cliffe
- Anti-Social behaviour in Oundle

PCSO's will have a higher visibility in the village for the next 3 months. They will be doing a detailed survey of the parking problems in West Street, of which everyone is aware. The three main areas of concern are the Village Shopper, outside the Surgery and Post Office and the Cross in general.

They also gave a warning about 'knockers' – there have been complaints in surrounding villages that young men with hand written identity cards are bothering residents and are technically begging. They do not have Peddlers licences. Begging is not lawful and they ask that any of these are reported to the Helpdesk on 03000 111 222 immediately.

There have also been allotment break-ins in local villages, they ask no expensive garden equipment is left in sheds.

09/063 Other Correspondence Received : Discussed and/or circulated

09/064 Any Other Business

The Chairman informed the meeting that C.C. Heather Smith is the Cabinet member for Highways and the Environment at NCC.

Councillor B. Wyles had noted that in Wittering village, which is the Cambridgeshire C.C District, have their village hoed as opposed to in this village where weed-killer is sprayed fairly indiscriminately. The Clerk will ask if it is possible for manual weeding to be carried out in this village.

Councillor J. Dixon asked if the condition of some of the cottages in the village could be reported to the Enforcement Officer, as they are in a very dilapidated condition. The Chairman felt that if this happened, there was a danger, that these houses which are rented out a fairly low cost, would be sold and lost to the young members of the village, as has happened with so many of the traditionally rented properties.

Councillor G. Kingston requested that a large bush in Station Road, which overhangs the path, should be trimmed; the hedges around the sunken garden in this area also need attention.

The large tree at the Cattery junction into Wansford is again restricting vision at the Give Way sign. The Clerk will contact Cambridgeshire CC.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.25.pm. Next meeting to be arranged.