

KINGS CLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual Public Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Thursday 9th April 2015 at 7.30 pm at Kings Cliffe Active.

14/224: Welcome: The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and said it was good to see more people than normally attended.

14/225: Present: Chairman A Howard, Councillors J Atkinson, R Brown, A Day, G Caddick, L Crane, N Ford, G Kingston, C Leuchars, R Meadows, District Councillor R Glithero, and 25 members of the public.

14/226: Apologies for Absence: County Councillor H Smith, Councillor C Williams.

14/227: Minutes of the Public Meeting held on 10th April 2014: Circulated and approved. It was noted that the Women's Cycling Tour will pass through Kings Cliffe subject to the temporary removal of vehicles from West Street on the day.

Proposed: Councillor Kingston

Seconded: Councillor Ford

14/228: Matters Arising: none

14/229: Chairman's Annual Report

The Chairman stated that he wanted to both review the last year but also to look forward to the next year. He stated that there was a lot going on in the village and he felt the Parish Council was reacting to that in the best way possible. Grateful thanks were expressed to Hilary Blunt, the previous Parish Clerk for her hard work and commitment over the past 13 years and to Tony Blunt, for competently undertaking the grass cutting of the cemetery and the cemetery extension over the past 3 years.

He spoke about the following issues:-

Sovereign Grange

Nearly all the outstanding works have been completed and an on-site meeting will be arranged with Persimmon to discuss the outstanding work to deal with flooding, the footpath into Willow Lane, the chicanes in Wood Road and the transfer of the spare land between the railway line/Village Field to the Parish Council

Redevelopment of the Endowed School Site

The Endowed School will be closing in 2016 but the future of the site is as yet unknown.

Middle School Site

The Middle School has closed, has been decommissioned and will be demolished. A new Primary School will be built and it is likely that a new housing development will be built on part of the site. NCC will be submitting a Planning Application in due course.

Surgery

The Parish Council is keen to retain a medical facility in the village but hopefully an improved facility. NCC, ENC and the GPs are aware of this but ultimately the decision will be taken by the NHS and the GPs.

Willow Lane

The Parish Council would like a path to be laid to improve the access to Kings Cliffe Active and the Village Field. It has transpired that Willow Lane is a "Green Lane".

Willow Walk

The lease for Willow Walk has expired after 21 years and it is hoped that it will be renewed as there is a desire to create a footpath between Kingsmead to the back of the new Primary School site.

Neighbourhood Plan

A group of interested residents are looking into producing a Neighbourhood Plan.

Communication

Communication can be delivered in so many ways and it is always a challenge to ensure that it is both efficient and effective. Some of the different types of communication used by the Parish Council include Twitter, Facebook, Open Meetings, the Gazette, the Stamford Mercury and the Village Forum.

Thanks

Thanks are expressed to all the Parish Councillors for their interest and commitment and to the Clerk for her hard work and support over the past year. Special thanks are expressed to the retiring Parish Councillors who have decided not to stand for re-election in 2015.

14/230: County Councillor Heather Smith's Annual Report

14/231: District Councillor Roger Glithero's Report

District Councillor Glithero stated that 2014-2015 had once again been a busy year and it is likely that the next 3 – 4 years will continue in the same vein.

He praised the outstanding sports facilities in the village which would be the envy of many villages and towns.

He was unable to comment on the Planning Application at Jacks Green.

He stated that ENC had not increased its proportion of the total Council Tax Charge for 2015-2016. ENC has done well financially from the New Homes Bonus.

He had been pleased to offer small grants to the village through the Member Empowerment Fund.

He was keen to promote the excellent recycling work undertaken in the District.

He was keen to encourage shared services with neighbouring District Councils.

14/232: Guest Speakers: Mr D Hellard & Ms G Scotney, KC Endowed Primary School

Mr Hellard gave an update on the plans to build a new Primary School in Kings Cliffe and Ms Scotney explained how the extra class of children will be accommodated at the Kings Cliffe Endowed School. It was hoped that bi-monthly updates will appear in the Gazette.

14/233: Guest Speaker: Mr S Clark, Gigaclear

Mr Clark gave an update of the project as the projects delivery has slipped for several reasons including delays caused by Vodafone and the need to also provide services to Wansford, Nassington and Yarwell which added 10 km onto the original dig.

Gigaclear decided to connect the backhaul as soon as they could so that they could get as many customers in Kings Cliffe and Apethorpe live as quickly as possible. To achieve this, they re-allocated all but one of the gangs from the work in the villages to build the backhaul, leaving a single gang in the village connecting the properties up and this obviously slowed down the rate of progress in the village.

Meanwhile the gangs have been working on the internet backhaul link. This should have been completed by mid-March but was stopped as Gigaclear could not get an agreement from Peterborough City Council to start work in Wansford until w/c 6th April 2015 due to ongoing works by Western Power. In addition, the road closures for the bridge in Apethorpe and section at the end of Park Street were set as May not March as they had hoped.

Gigaclear plan to connect the backhaul to the cabinet and start testing the network on 13th May 2015, after initial testing they will be making their test customers live. Once these have been made live and end to end testing is complete, they will start to make all connected customers live. If all goes to plan this should be w/c 25th May 2015.

14/234: Open Forum

The Members of the Public raised the following issues:-

- Parking problems in Willow Lane
- Requirement for Traffic Calming at the junction of Oak Lane/Wood Road
- Requirement for a 20 mph speed limit in Park Street
- Requirement for the tidying up of road islands on Stamford Road
- Concerns about unnecessary spraying of weed killer within the village
- Overflowing waste bins in Oak Lane
- Requirement for the tidying up of the Pocket Park
- Importance of neighbourhood planning

These were noted and will be dealt with and reported to the relevant authorities accordingly.

There were no further issues raised and the Chairman thanked all those attending and invited them to stay for the monthly meeting if they so wished.

Signed _____

Date _____