

KING'S CLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 14th November 2002 at King's Cliffe Memorial Hall

02/93 Present: Cllrs. W. Court, D. Sharpe, B. Howard, M. Day, T. Hill, S. Gibson

Apologies: Cllrs. A. Howard, J. Dixon, I. Hetherington, L. Crane

02/94 The Chairman welcomed co-opted Councillor Stephanie Gibson and the Clerk accepted and signed Acceptance of Office and Declaration of Interest documents from her and from Cllr. M. Day.

02/95 Declaration of Interest: Cllr. Court declared his interest as a member of the Steering Committee of KCRC in any discussion regarding CAB, but considered it to be not prejudicial. Similarly Cllr Sharpe declared a non-prejudicial interest for the same reason.

02/96 Minutes: The minutes of the Meeting on 10th October 2002 were accepted and signed subject to an amendment that the Clerk had given notice of absence for that meeting.

Proposed: Cllr. M. Day Seconded: Cllr. D. Sharpe

02/97 Matters arising:

The Chairman is still awaiting an invitation to meet members of the PCC.

Nene Valley News. East Northants Council will be once again reminded that deliveries in the village are still not taking place.

The Slipe Pit Liaison meeting is reported later in these minutes.

02/98 Accounts

Curators Salary (November 2002)	£ 73.80
Clerks Salary (November 2002)	£ 166.66
W.R.Court (October expenses)	£ 12.57
Poppy Appeal Wreath for Remembrance Day	£ 25.00
Smith-Hetherington : Grass Cutting	£ 150.00
British Telecom (¼ to 17.10.02)	£ 37.97
NACRE (for Resource Centre – replacement cheque)	£ 13.00

Proposed : Cllr. B. Howard

Seconded : Cllr. M. Day

02/99 New Bank Mandate

The Bank Mandate was agreed and signed by the Cllrs. present and the Clerk will obtain the signatures of absent Cllrs. It was agreed that only two signatures would be needed in future

02/100 Planning

Replacement windows at 9 West Street EN/02/00893/LBC/PJK – No Objection

Demolition of extension etc 26 West Street EN/02/00953/LBC/PJK – No Objection

Replacement Picket Fence 48-50 West Street EN/02/00870/FUL/PRG – No Objection
(Letter had been sent to ENC asking that original pattern and design be maintained)

Two-storey extension rear of 109 Wood Road EN/02/00905/FUL/PRG – No objection

Report on Meeting at Thrapston on KC1 Site – Chairman to supply report

Report on Meeting of Slipe Pit Liaison Group and Site Meeting on 11th November

Cllr. B. Howard declared an interest in the above, but remained in the meeting. The Chairman and several councillors attended the meeting and were favourably impressed by the way the pit is being managed. It was obvious that the monitoring of the area is very strict and care is being taken to avoid any land contamination. The problems of the traffic movements and mud on the road were raised; the mud should be reduced by further 'hard surfaces' being created within the pit. Cllrs. have suggested widening of the road at the A47 junction, to avoid a build-up of traffic behind lorries waiting to turn right. The subject of sufficient road signs was again broached and it transpired that the contractors applied for road signs on the A47 in February 2002 but these have not yet been approved. However the need is for signs at both ends of the Wansford Road.

Permission Granted : Monopole tower Willow Lane EN/02/00706/FUL - Noted

Permission Refused : Two storey side extensions Rose Lodge EN/02/00581/FUL - Noted

02/101 Standing Orders : To be amended and circulated for a future meeting.

02/102 Freedom of Information Act

This was discussed at length, the Chairman raising all the relevant detail; a considerable amount of this information is already made available by KCPC; but the model documentation was considered to be badly drafted document. In particular the references to Councillors' Register of Interests appeared to be at variance from the procedures set out by ENC. A letter will be sent to the Information Commissioner requesting clarification and advice. The Council will then consider the matter again.

Proposed : Cllr. M. Day

Seconded : Cllr. B. Howard

2/103 Citizens Advice Bureau at the Resource Centre

There was a lengthy discussion regarding a donation to CAB; the early good attendance of clients has lessened but it is felt that many people do not understand just how CAB can assist with all manner of problems. Reminders should be put in the Gazette. There was general agreement that the Council should support this service. Cllr. B. Howard suggested a grant of £200 for the current financial year, to be reviewed in April 2003.

Proposed : Cllr. B. Howard

Seconded : Cllr. D. Sharpe

02/104 Review of Sub-Committee membership

Burial Board : Cllr. W. Court said he was satisfied with the sub-committee members as a whole, only one of whom did not attend many meetings.

Village Design Group : Initial co-opted members were now significantly reduced, but there are still many willing volunteers.

Community Safety : Cllr. Howard will speak to Bob Wyles to ask if he was willing to be co-opted. Cllr. M. Day volunteered to serve on the committee.

Amenities : Cllr. D. Sharpe stated that although she is no longer Sub-Committee chairman, she is still on the committee and very willing. Cllr. S. Gibson was asked if she would take the chair for this committee and agreed.

Absent Councillors will be asked if they can fill vacancies in the system. These sub-committees have the status of “advisory” which means that the full Council will review recommendations and approve expenditure and that co-opted members will not have to declare formally their interests, but would be expected to do so informally.

02/105 Amenities

Community Association AGM – The talk from a representative of the National Playing Fields Association was most interesting. This organisation is formed to secure the retention of playing fields and recreation areas in perpetuity. They are a simply organised non-profit organisation. They invite owners of such land whether clubs, local authorities or private individuals to vest the land in the NPFA. The NPFA are not permitted to sell the land or convert it to other use. Instead they set up a charity with a management committee which continues the existing situation, that is club, local authority or private ownership. This managing body is responsible for upkeep, maintenance, arranging hire, terms, schedules etc. In addition if they own the land NPFA will provide free public liability insurance, a free annual health and safety inspection and some limited technical advice. Many owners of such land are willing to donate it to the NPFA because it is the only arrangement which safeguards the future

of it. It is not known whether such a scheme would be relevant to King's Cliffe and the Chairman was asked to discuss this informally with Cllr Padley and the Community Association.

Cllr. T. Hill left the meeting

Clearance of the "den" in the Hill & Holes and pruning of the creeper in Park Street

Cllr. Gibson agreed to organise the den clearing, with Cllr. Day's help. Waste Management will be asked to remove the scrap garage doors.

Mr. Colin Smith (Smith-Hetherington) will be asked to advise on the treatment of the creeper

02/106 Community Safety

Street Lighting: Cllr. Howard provided a list of streetlights. He was requested to obtain quotations for any urgently needed additional lights and to replace a few of the Wood Road lights which are now becoming difficult to maintain.

Police: There has been a considerable amount of trouble in the village; this has included criminal damage and noisy and bad behaviour on various occasions. There has also been a lack of Police cover when they have been called to duty elsewhere. The PC decided steps must be taken to ensure we do have a designated officer. Letters will be sent to the Chief Constable, Phil Hope MP and Simon Peck the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator.

Road conditions: Following the Highways "walkabout" many things were promised by W S Atkins, but very little has happened regarding urgent repairs, blocked street drains and localised flooding, etc. It now appears that no work is scheduled in the foreseeable future unless the problem is considered a safety hazard. Cllr. Sharpe suggested that the "Clarence" number should be displayed in the Gazette and notice boards to encourage the public to complain themselves, as little or no notice seems to be taken when the Chairman or the Clerk report problems.

02/107 Skateboard Park

Cllr. D. Sharpe reported that the Planning Application was being submitted. Letters had been sent to all Kingsmead tenants.

02/108 Other Correspondence

A quotation had been received to prune the trees at the bottom of Wansford Hill; the details will be discussed with the Contractor but the quotation was considered to be acceptable. The Chairman proposed that work be instructed on grounds of safety.

ENC will be contacted regarding the alleged charging for collecting single large items. Cllr. D. Sharpe reported she had been told three items could be collected for the minimum collection fee.

The Precept will be discussed at the next meeting after Cllr. A. Howard and the Clerk have prepared the Annual Audit papers and a half-yearly budget forecast.

Both PC notice boards are in bad repair; quotations will be obtained to repair and/or replace one or both of these items.

Various other items of correspondence were discussed

02/109 Any Other Business

Cllr. B. Howard raised the urgent matter of road repairs and drainage matters. This had been covered earlier.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.15.pm.

Signed..... Date.....

The next meeting will be held at 7.30.pm. in the Memorial Hall on 12th December 2002