

KING'S CLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 9th January 2003 in the Parlour of King's Cliffe Memorial Hall

02/125 Present: Councillors W. Court, D. Sharpe, N. Ford, B. Howard, A. Howard, I. Hetherington, L. Crane. Cllr J Dixon (final part).

Apologies: Councillors M. Day, J. Dixon, and S. Gibson

02/126 By previous arrangement, Mr. Nicholas Turk, Area NCC Youth Worker addressed the meeting. He reported that they had started a Youth Club at Bulwick, but as there were very few youngsters attending, they were hoping to be able to provide a service at the King's Cliffe Resource Centre and to bus youngsters in from surrounding villages. Councillor A. Howard welcomed his attendance, and stated that as the village presently had nothing for young people, anything which could be provided would be welcome. Mr. Turk said they were hoping to conduct a survey at Prince William School to find out what the youngsters themselves wanted and will attend a future meeting to let councillors know the outcome.

02/127 PC Andrew Jeavons, the new village constable, introduced himself to councillors and said he will be on duty at least until April. The problems with juvenile crime were raised; break-ins to barns and stores and car crime were causing great concern. PC Jeavons asked everyone to be vigilant and report anything suspicious. Regarding vehicle crimes, he reported that arrests were expected shortly in this area. He is very aware that there is not enough policing allocated for this area and apologised that as he had been involved in the recent Harrier crash this had taken up a great deal of his time. The problem with queuing vehicles at the Slipe Clay Pit were raised; PC Jeavons said they were very aware of this and would be putting measures into force in an attempt to alleviate this problem.

02/128 There were no declarations of interest in items on the agenda

02/129 The minutes of the meeting on 12th December 2002 were accepted and signed

It was agreed that a wreath should be sent to the funeral of George Sansom and verbal tributes were made to him, as an extremely hardworking former Parish Councillor and Chairman.

Proposed: Councillor A. Howard

Seconded: Councillor I. Hetherington

02/130 Matters Arising

6.1 War Memorial: E-mail had been received from Rod Nipper at ENC regarding Jubilee grants. It is now too late to apply. Although the PC are sympathetic to this cause, this matter awaits information from the British Legion.

6.2 Nene Valley News: Most of the village is now receiving their copies of this publication

6.3 Stamford Road Plantation: A quotation had been received from Grosvenor Tree Surgery for removing tree stumps and for pollarding the trees in the avenue leading to the cemetery. More quotations will be sought for this work.

02/131 Accounts Payable

Curators Salary (January 2003)	£ 73.80
Clerks Salary (January 2003)	£ 166.66
W.R.Court (November expenses)	£ 7.42
Planning Fee for proposed Skateboard Park	£ 110.00
Anglian Water	£ 22.30
Powergen ¼ to December 2002	£ 424.63
ABB ¼ to December 2002	£ 254.46
Berry Skips (skip for allotments)	£ 150.00
ABB repairs & replacements	£ 24.43

The pro-forma invoice for the manhole cover in the new cemetery was discussed but deferred.

Proposed : Councillor L. Crane

Seconded : Councillor I. Hetherington

02/132 Planning

Change of use to nursery 66 Park Street EN/02/01059/FUL/PMAP

Councillor Court explained that Planning Authorities considered possible noise and parking problems in such cases. A letter from Tracey Isaac was read to the meeting, outlining the need for such a facility in the village; the maximum number of children would be 20 and the opening hours would be 8am – 6pm. It was decided that the Parish Council were supportive to this plan, but that the attention of the ENC should be drawn to any traffic problems and signs would need to be erected signifying the presence of young children.

Replacement gates – wrought iron to wooden 8 Bridge Street EN/02/00991/FUL/PRG

No objection.

Replacement gates – wrought iron to stained timber 37 Park St. EN/02/01096/FUL/PMAP

An illustration of the proposed gates was studied and it was concluded that these were actually garage doors, which would enclose the passage entirely, which would spoil the aspect of this archway. The point was raised as to whether these doors would open outward or inward, and their exact position, which might obstruct the pavement or internal door. More information will be requested including a more appropriate design of gate for the area.

02/133 Standing Orders : deferred to next meeting.

02/134 Freedom of Information Act : No reply has been received from the Commissioner in answer to our letter and therefore no action can be taken.

02/135 Flood Precautions

The Environment Agency state that they still retained the names of the previous Council for automatic flood warnings but no warnings had been issued for some time because no warning had been triggered. The warnings would be issued whenever the water at Weldon reaches a particular level. In particular they had no record of heavy rainfall or high water on 27 October, when Church Walk flooded. The Chairman has asked the EA to send a representative to investigate this further. A meeting will be held on 17 January. A note had been put in the Gazette inviting members of the public to apply for automatic warning if they wish. Councillors also should inform the Clerk. Three Councillors agreed to take responsibility for different aspects of flood action.

Councillor D. Sharpe believed there will be more problems from water running down from Willow Lane, as the drain grid at the top of the surfaced road is full of debris and not working efficiently. The Chairman will contact Mr Colin Gilder (NCC) regarding this matter.

02/136 Incident at Slipe Clay Pit

The explosion and fire at Slipe Clay Pit on Christmas Day was discussed in detail. A brief e-mail had been received from NCC explaining that it would appear this was a case of arson and there was no danger to the public. The Police and Fire Brigade attended, but the fire was actually extinguished by the night watchmen on duty on the site. The Council will ask to be provided with a copy of the final formal report on this incident.

02/137 Appointment of Trustee

The nomination of Mr Norman Embleton as Trustee of the Revd John Law and Charlotte Bonney Charities has expired and the Charity has asked for a nomination. Mr Embleton is prepared to serve further and was again nominated.

Proposed : Councillor I. Hetherington

Seconded : Councillor B. Howard

SUB-COMMITTEES

02/138 Burial Board

A written report had been circulated and was summarised and decisions were taken as follows.

Cemetery: Steps are being taken to put in hand soon the straightening of various gravestones, which are leaning seriously. A Faculty is required before changes such as removing kerbs can be made. This will take time. It is also proposed to write to Funeral Directors urging them to consolidate backfill thoroughly, and to make enquiries whether it would be in order to make a rule

that only traditional monolithic stones be used as these are less likely to move and are easier to re-fix. The Burial Board recommended an increase in the monthly rates paid to the Curator to become £135.80 (summer) and £75.65 (winter), paying the summer rate for 8 months (March to October) and the winter rate for the remaining four months. Sanction for necessary funding for making good to paths and removing surplus soil was agreed in principle and prices should be obtained.

Churchyard: No agreement has been reached with the PCC about repairing leaning and broken stones, and so no progress could be made at present. The present grass-cutting firm (Smith-Hetherington) has quoted £1350 for the annual cutting of grass as last year and the Burial Board recommended acceptance, with thanks for the excellent service last year. Some items of work are required such as repainting gates and tenders will be called for. Some repairs are needed for the west wall, and it may not be possible to get a lump sum price for this. Mr Embleton is continuing with voluntary work in clearing ivy etc and we are very grateful for this.

New Cemetery: The weather prevented the capping of the well last autumn and this will have to be done next summer. The expenditure has already been sanctioned.

Estimates: The estimated figures put forward for the precept have been agreed by the Board and are considered necessary.

The whole report, including proposed expenditure was agreed by the Council.

02/139 Village Design Group

The Group had met on 8th January and a written record had not been prepared yet. The meeting reviewed the current situation with the KC1 Site and recent Planning Applications and then discussed other matters put forward by the District Council.

Replacement DLP - Village Boundaries: The Group had discussed at length a letter and plan received at the end of November. Their comments were that they considered that the Parish Council should make strong representations on the complete absence of any reference to King's Cliffe as a "Key Village" or "Limited Development Village" or the work done on the KC1 Site Design Brief and commitments made regarding the KC1 Site. The reason for this was unclear. It was also suggested that:

- (a) the boundary at Park Street could well be taken right to the railway embankment foot, although there were practical reasons why housing development might be impossible on the SE side of the road
- (b) plot next to 76/80 Park Street: the query was raised whether there was an outstanding outline permission here, but if not it was agreed that this open view was beneficial and should be kept
- (c) the three areas on Bridge Street (north and south) where the boundary has been taken to the road are understood and it is agreed that there are good reasons for maintaining these open areas
- (d) it was considered that the exact line around Hall Yard could be discussed and ENC asked to explain to show its consistency
- (e) similarly the exact line for property along West Street and backing Church Walk should be considered if the policy is to restrict further backland development in this area

(f) with regard to the last two items, the open space around farm buildings on Wood Road and other green open spaces it is suggested that a hatching to mark “green open spaces within the boundary” might be a useful tool in recording policy graphically

(g) for consistency the boundary should be drawn on the south side of Mazewood Gate roadway.

Record of Workshops 25/9 and 3/10. This record, supplied by ENC was agreed as correct and certain comments were felt to be very significant and these should be confirmed to ENC.

Village Design Statement and other Revisions to District Local Plan. Discussion of these had to be deferred to a later meeting.

The Parish Council accepted the recommendations from the Village Design Group.

02/140 Amenities

Allotments : There had been objections from Parishioners to the skip provided over the holiday period for allotment holders to clear the rubbish from their plots. Several items of household waste had been dumped in the skip. Councillor Ford objected to the cost of the skip, pointing out that it had cost three quarters of the annual income from the allotments, and it was traditional for plot holders to dispose of their rubbish personally, not to expect help from the PC. The Parish Council would take a vote on any proposal to supply a skip.

Councillor J. Dixon joined the meeting.

02/141 Street Lighting

Councillor B Howard had been unable to complete proposals for improving street lighting and so it was agreed that Councillors Hetherington and Court would prepare proposals for the next meeting.

02/142 Community Safety & Neighbourhood Watch

It was again agreed that manpower for the adequate policing of the village is totally inadequate, but PC Jeavons had covered most points earlier in the meeting

02/143 Proposed Skateboard Park

Councillor D. Sharpe reported that she had applied for outline planning permission, but ENC had insisted that detailed plans were required for this project. A detailed plan will be drawn up together with brochures of the proposed skateboard structure. There had been a further letter of objection.

02/144 Precept

Councillor A. Howard talked the meeting through the draft proposal for the coming years' precept including the schedule of current and future expenditure and it was agreed to request £12,400, the same sum as last year.

Proposed : Councillor B. Howard

Seconded : Councillor I. Hetherington

Councillor B. Howard left the meeting

02/145 Other Correspondence Received

Grass Cutting : Atkins (Highways Agency) will be questioned by letter regarding their list of grass cutting tasks, which is most unclear.

NALC Information pack was noted

NCC Budget proposals were unclear and will be discussed at a later meeting

Various other matter were discussed.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.00 pm.

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

The next meeting will be held at 7.30.pm. in the Memorial Hall Parlour on 13th February 2003.