

KING'S CLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 12th February 2003 in the Parlour of King's Cliffe Memorial Hall

02/146 Present: Councillors W. Court, D. Sharpe, N. Ford, B. Howard, A. Howard, L. Crane, M. Day.
S. Gibson.

Apologies: Councillors T. Hill, I. Hetherington.

The Clerk left the room during discussions on the Freestone Lodge Appeal

02/147 Declarations of Interest

With regard to consideration of the Planning Appeal (Freestone Lodge, see Minute 02/151) all Councillors present declared a personal interest through friendship or employment links. Councillors then declared whether or not they regarded their interests as prejudicial in the terms of the Local Government Act 2000. Cllr Court declared a prejudicial interest, Cllr Sharpe non-prejudicial, Cllr A Howard prejudicial, Cllr Day prejudicial, Cllr Ford non-prejudicial, Cllr B Howard prejudicial and Cllr Crane non-prejudicial. As the three Councillors without prejudicial interests did not constitute a quorum the matter could not be considered. At a later stage in the meeting Councillor Gibson arrived and also declared a prejudicial interest and therefore the situation was unchanged.

02/148 The minutes of the meeting on 9th January 2003 were accepted and signed

Proposed: Councillor D. Sharpe

Seconded : Councillor N. Ford

02/149 Matters Arising

4.1 Slipe Clay Pit : There have again been numerous complaints regarding mud on the road and the danger caused by lorries awaiting entry to the pit. The Clerk had sent and received various e-mails to Richard Boyt at NCC; no satisfactory conclusion was reached, although it has been stated that a new wheel washer will be installed to alleviate the mud on the road. The Police have expressed concern about the waiting lorries and will inspect at the appropriate time of day.

The Council will ask for a copy of the final report on the incident on Christmas Day.

4.2 The quotation from Smith Hetherington to deal with the stumps in the Stamford Road plantation was accepted in the sum of £125.00.

Proposed : Councillor N. Ford

Seconded : Councillor B Howard

4.3 It is noted that the "elephant trap" drainage sump in Willow Lane has still not been cleared of sand to allow water to drain away. Some reshaping of the roadway is also needed. This has been reported twice.

4.4 Concern was expressed about the financial position of the County Council and its effects upon the rates for 2003-4.

02/150 Accounts Payable

Curators Salary (February 2003)	£ 73.80
Clerks Salary (February 2003)	£ 166.66
Clerks Expenses (Dec/Jan)	£ 38.12
W.R. Court (December expenses)	£ 23.64
British Telecom (1/4 to December 02)	£ 37.71
PDBA Annual Subscription	£ 70.00
Mrs. I. Middleton Refund on burial plot	£ 140.00 (Additional item)

The Annual Precept for the coming year at £12,400 has been sent to ENC.

To meet an audit requirement it is confirmed that the Clerk's salary was £2000 for the previous financial year 2001-2.

Proposed : Councillor A. Howard

Seconded : Councillor B. Howard

02/151 Planning

Four 2 Storey Dwellings: Former Filling Station EN/02/01072/FUL/PRG

This was discussed again and it was decided to leave in place the comments sent after the earlier viewing of this application, summarised as:

“The plans were discussed at length; it was decided this was a more sympathetic proposal than the original plan for two large houses. With the exception of some minor details of design there were no objections to this project.”

2 Park Street: Replacement gates: LB Consent granted: Noted

2 Park Street: Replacement gates: Planning Permission granted: Noted

37 Park Street: Replacement gates: Planning Permission granted: Noted

109 Wood Road: 2 Storey Extension: Planning Permission granted: Noted

8 Bridge Street: Replacement gates: Planning Permission granted: Noted

Work on Trees in Conservation Area

This applies to trees opposite the old garage site. In the opinion of the Council, this work is unnecessary as these trees cause no hazard, and there is far more urgent tree surgery required in other areas i.e. the Wansford Road. A letter will be sent to this effect.

On the topic of trees, the point was raised that the lime trees which have been pollarded in the grounds of Kings Cliffe house have been lopped too low and in such a way that it is unlikely some of

the trees will recover from the damage to bark. The tree officer will be told.

Renewal of Planning Permission EN/98/00392/RWL: Dwelling adjacent to 29 Park Street

No objections as the plans are identical to the original.

Councillor L. Crane gave her apologies and left the meeting.

Kings Cliffe Community Centre: Renewal of Entertainment Licence

No objection.

The Old Dairy adjacent to 45 West Street

A letter has been sent to ENC regarding the inappropriate fencing and gate that have been erected.

Single Storey Dwelling: Freestone Lodge (Appeal) EN/02/00362/FUL

In view of the failure to achieve a quorum as stated above it was agreed that the response of the Council should be to explain why we were unable to comment. On the suggestion of Councillor A Howard it was agreed that the Chairman should write to East Northants Council to request a dispensation so that the matter could be discussed at a later date if possible.

02/152 Approval of Accounts for Audit

Councillor A Howard had prepared the audit documents and talked the Council through this. A letter will be sent with the accounts to the effect that no external auditor has been employed to examine these accounts, as the amount is only £12000 the expense could not be justified and Councillor A. Howard is a qualified accountant. The Council thanked Councillor Howard for the work undertaken.

The procedures require that there is a system of internal control. One option is that a nominated Councillor should check the accounts kept by the Clerk at regular intervals, and Councillor D. Sharpe volunteered to do this.

The Accounts for 2001-2 were formally approved for audit.

Proposed: Councillor B. Howard

Seconded: Councillor D. Sharpe

02/153 Standing Orders

The Chairman set out the necessary variations required to adapt the NALC model Standing Orders to meet our particular needs. Some final decisions were taken and the document will be re-typed for adoption at the next meeting.

02/154 Freedom of Information Act

No reply has been received from the Commissioner in answer to our letter. It was unanimously agreed that this item should now be removed from the Agenda.

The matter of a Kings Cliffe Website was discussed, but Councillor Sharpe reported that there are currently no volunteers to set this Resource Centre project in motion. This will be raised in the next Gazette.

02/155 Flood Precautions

The original list of Councillors on the flood-warning list has been received and the names on this will be amended as requested by Councillors.

SUB-COMMITTEES

02/156 Burial Board

There has been no meeting of the Burial Board. Councillor W. Court has written to someone who might be able to accept this subsoil from the Cemetery. A notice for the spoil heap is being made.

The search to find owners of unsafe gravestones has been unfruitful. However as previously agreed about four leaning stones in the Cemetery will be straightened by Mr Colin Smith and the effectiveness and costs will then be evaluated.

Mr Smith will also give a price for pollarding the trees at the Cemetery driveway.

Some further discussions with the PCC about leaning and broken stones in the Churchyard may be expected.

It is suggested that the large old mower, which is no longer used, should be advertised for sale.

The above items were approved and confirmed for action.

Proposed : Councillor B. Howard

Seconded : Councillor A. Howard

02/157 Village Design Group

Residents of Walkers Field have expressed concern that although work has started the necessary prior conditions have not been met. It also appeared that in one respect a new dwelling did not conform to the approved plans. The Chairman has been to Thrapston to see the file and believes these comments to be true. It also appeared that the system of record keeping at ENC was flawed. These matters have been brought to the attention of the Head of Planning.

02/158 Amenities

Councillor S.Gibson reported that she had had a meeting with Sue Paice regarding the Pocket Park at the old railway line and it is being considered that this might be designated as a Nature Reserve, mainly because of the proliferation of adders. The point was raised that correspondence had been

received to say that grants to Pocket Parks etc were to be severely curtailed, due to cutbacks. Councillor D. Sharpe stated that the notice board in the Pocket Park needed attention. It was agreed that new magnets will be bought.

It has been reported that there are rats in the allotments, possible caused by the keeping of chickens in the area. This will be investigated.

Councillors A. & B. Howard were asked and agreed that they would arrange for a dangerous fallen branch across the footpath through the Hills and Holes to be dealt with and made safe.

02/159 Street Lighting

Councillor Court has completed a survey of street lights in the village and proposed some additional lights. This was discussed and it was decided to add one light and replace up to three lights along Wood Road.. In addition the light on the side of the Memorial Hall would be replaced by a brighter light on a bracket. It was therefore proposed to set aside £2500 for this project, to be effective for this financial year if possible.

Proposed : Councillor B. Howard

Seconded : Councillor N. Ford

Councillors agreed to prune around the lights in Coleman's Lane and at Station Road junction.

02/160 Community Safety & Neighbourhood Watch

Councillor B Howard produced some copies of Police Newsletter for distribution. Some leaflets on Car Crime have also been received. Councillor B. Howard has asked the Chief Constable of Northamptonshire to address a PC meeting. The Chairman hopes to meet Phil Hope MP soon to discuss the lack of policing in the area and also our problems on housing.

02/161 Proposed Skateboard Park

Councillor D. Sharpe reported that she had is still waiting for the manufacturer's drawings to enable the Planning Application to be submitted. It is understood that an approach to the Gardeners' Association could be made for help with funding.

02/162 Other Correspondence Received

A letter received from NCC gave details of the proposed cuts to their budget. The Council considered this to be a very serious situation.

An e-mail received from David Hellard on behalf of the Community Association asked for a representative from the Council to be on their committee. After discussion, it was decided the best way forward was for the CA to invite a councillor to attend meetings which have any relevance to the PC. The situation could be reviewed by the new Council.

The ENC Standards Board Minutes were noted.

A quotation from Howards Packaging for two new notice boards was discussed. The quotation was considered to be satisfactory, but Councillor Sharpe suggested that the residents of 46 West Street and the Post Office should first be approached to seek their agreement to siting.

Concessionary Bus Tokens : The Clerk has arranged with ENC that the Postmistress, Mrs. Angie Hurcombe, who has a supply of forms, can now validate the application forms herself, therefore saving applicants the trouble of taking these elsewhere for verification. There will be a note to this effect in the Gazette.

A letter had been received from ENC explaining why the Polling Station for the forthcoming election had been changed from the Endowed School to the Community Association. The Parish Council had expressed their concerns regarding access for disabled, invalid and older parishioners. A note will be put in the Gazette.

Bus Timetable changes were noted, and will also be put in the Gazette.

02/163 Chairman's Statement

Chairman Wilfred Court stated that he will not be standing for re-election to the Parish Council in the forthcoming elections but if the PC so wishes he will continue his work with Burial Board matters and would be prepared to be co-opted to the Board and the Village Design Group if the new Council so wished. He re-iterated it was essential that a number of candidates stand for election, to ensure that an election does occur. He also urged Councillors to discuss among themselves who should take on the Chairmanship, so that a candidate with good support will emerge at the May AGM.

Councillor Andrew Howard gave a vote of thanks for the long service and hard work given by Councillor Court.

02/164 Remuneration of Clerk

The Clerk having left the room it was agreed that bearing in mind the very satisfactory performance of the Clerk and the possibility of a greater workload in the future her salary be increased to £2250.00 pa with effect from 1st April 2003.

Proposed : Councillor A. Howard Seconded : Councillor B. Howard.

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

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

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