

KING'S CLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Thursday 11th September 2003 in The Parlour, King's Cliffe Memorial Hall.

03/070 Present: -

Councillors M. Day (Chairman), D. Sharpe, N. Ford, B.Wyles, L.Crane, B.Wright, T.Isaac, B. Howard and A. Howard

Apologies: - Councillors J. Dixon and K.Howard

03/071 Declarations of Interest - None

03/072 Clerks Report

A letter was written to Mr. Lawrence Hakes regarding Health & Safety issues; Ruth Sleigh from H & S had visited the site following a complaint from a member of the public, regarding the sawmills being open to the footpath. No report was issued and no action will be taken.

Mr. Smith has cut the various areas of grass in the village which are ignored by the Council as requested

A letter was sent to a tenant regarding non payment of rent of three allotments.

A letter was sent to a resident asking for a tree to be trimmed that was obstructing the street light in Willow Lane.

A request for help Letter sent to County Cllr. Padley regarding grants for road repairs no reply has yet been received.

The British Legion wrote thanking the PC for their donation towards a Memorial Plaque in the church; their target has been reached and Bowmans have accepted the order

03/073 The minutes of the Meeting held on 14thth August 2003 were accepted and signed

Proposed: Councillor B.Wyles

Seconded: Councillor A.Howard

03/074 Matters arising - none

03/075 Accounts

The following accounts were approved for payment

Curators Salary (Sept 03)	£ 135.80
Clerks Salary (Sept 03)	£ 187.50
Smith Hetherington – grass cutting Aug	£ 216.00

Proposed : Councillor A.Howard

Seconded : Councillor B.Wyles

03/076 Planning

The following Planning Decisions were noted:-

Skateboard & biking facilities: Kingsmead: Refused

Enclosed garden from cellar foundations: Wellington House: Granted
Loft Conversion : 9 Bridge Street : Granted
Land Adj. 29 Park Street : Renewal of Planning Permission for house : Granted

03/077 KC1 Site /Housing Issues

Following a report in the Nene Valley News regarding new draft guidance on “Plans to Slow Down Housing Growth”, Chairman M. Day had held an emergency meeting with Councillors A. Howard, D. Sharpe and Mr. Wilfred Court (VDG) to discuss this matter as a tight time limit had been given for comments. A letter was sent to ENC outlining the PC’s views, that King’s Cliffe has been regarded as a key village for development, affordable housing is urgently needed and requesting an urgent meeting with senior planning officers and the District Councillor to allow the PC to express their views and discuss how existing policy can be implemented.

03/078 Housing Association

A reply from the Housing Association regarding the use of a bungalow in Fineshade Close as a site office explained that the building will be used as such from the next financial years for work being carried out in the village and anyway is in need of structural repairs; also, in their opinion, there was no call for one-bed roomed dwellings in the village. Councillors were unanimous in condemning this attitude as nonsense. A further letter will be sent, and ENC will be asked if the Housing Association have applied for change of use for this property to be used as a site office.

03/079 Street Lighting

A quotation has been received by ABB Ltd., to install a further street light in Forest Approach. This has been accepted in principle, but the Chairman will contact ABB regarding the positioning of this light. He will also check the “aged” lamppost outside 67 Wood Road, which cannot be replaced as it apparently carries an overhead supply to a property.

03/080 Children’s Play Area

A meeting of the Play Area Sub-Committee was held on 26th August, attended by Councillors T. Isaac, L. Crane, Miss C. Ibbotson and District Councillor R. Glithero. The size and site location of the proposed play area was agreed. It was suggested that the NRH would be asked to donate the equipment from the Millwood Way area to the new playground. The area would be fenced and safety surfaces installed where necessary. A further very positive meeting was held on 27th August with Barbara Jenkinson, Head of Amenities and Administration, who will present the case to the Asset Management Panel at ENC. The ENC Resources Committee will be informed of these matters on 29th September and asked for their opinion.

03/081 Slupe Clay Pit

The minutes of the NCC Liaison meetings held at the Pit on 31st March and 15th July were circulated to Councillors. The proposed meeting on 15th September has been postponed until 22nd October. Reports of dust and offensive smells have been reported by the residents of Westhay Cottages and Councillor A. Howard reported that P C Howard had

been visited by a representative from the Environment Agency who had pronounced there did not appear to be a problem. However, the PC will write to the Environment Agency, ENC Environmental Health and District Councillor Glithero to insist that any toxic fall-out must be monitored with regard to the health, both now and in the future, to inhabitants and workers in close proximity to pit. The comment was made that all the hedges and trees within a large area of the pit are covered in dust. Wastego suggest this will decrease when the cells close to the road are closed. There were also further complaints regarding road conditions after the recent rain.

03/082 Sub-Committee Reports:

Burial Board

There was no meeting of the Burial Board. Councillor N. Ford reported that both the strimmer and large mower need servicing and this is in hand. Mr. Smith has asked to use the mower for the heavier grass-cutting jobs he has been asked to undertake and this was agreed.

Further quotations to repaint the Church Gates will be asked for. An estimate for repairs the church wall has been accepted and work should begin shortly.

Village Design Group

A meeting was held on 4th September and Councillor D. Sharpe reported that the possibility of creating a Parish Plan was discussed. Basically this would be a complete portrait of the village, helping to predict the local needs of all sectors for the next ten years. This would be achieved by analysing questionnaires sent to each household. The results of this could then be used as ammunition for planning decisions, schools. However, many volunteers would be needed to accomplish this. Councillor A. Howard pointed out that a similar survey had been carried out some 14 years ago and had sadly made little difference to the village and if ENC are changing their plans for rural areas, there would be little to be gained. Councillor B. Howard said that Kings Cliffe must be considered as an expanding village and the aim should be controlled development, not controlled restraint. Councillor D. Sharpe will contact Alice Townshend, the Rural Officer for Northants ACRE regarding the Parish Plan.

Amenities

Sub-Committee Chairman, Councillor B. Wyles report there had been no improvements on the uncultivated allotment plots and rats had been reported in the area. One of the houses on Blatherwycke Road had no fence to the allotment area; EN Housing will be asked to re-instate this.

On the derelict allotment at Kingsmead a hedge, trees and a fence has allegedly been cleared by the owners of a property in Walkers Field; it is believed there are also bee hives on this land. A letter will be sent, asking that the fence and hedge be re-instated and stating that the Parish Council own this plot of land.

There has been fly-tipping on ENC land and at the top of Willow Lane. It was pointed out that the Council will collect bagged garden rubbish if requested to do so.

03/083 Community Safety & Neighbourhood Watch

The re-launch of Neighbourhood Watch was held on 10th September at the Community Centre. Organised by Sub-Committee Chairman Brenda Wright, the Area Co-ordinator Simon Peck and Community policeman Phil Conaty addressed the meeting which was well attended by Parishioners and a good number volunteered to assist in the fight against crime in the village. This will be reported in the Gazette and appropriate telephone numbers and e-mail addresses will be given. The PC would like to thank especially Councillors Crane and Isaac who delivered flyers to every house in the village, and to Councillor Wyles for the benefit of his extensive local knowledge and vigilance. This good work must continue with regular meetings to maintain interest in the project.

03/084 Other Correspondence Received

ENC : Invitation to a Civic Service at Higham Ferrars on 12.10.03
NALC : Update : to be circulated
ENC : Tourism Strategy : Draft : e-mail address to download the same
NALC : Invitation to AGM at Northampton on 25th October 2003
KCCA : Letter from David Hellard regarding Duck Race
EMDA : E-MAIL magazine : to be circulated
DEFRA : Rural services standards 2003 : to be circulated
ENC : Local Transport Plan Meeting invitation
ENC : Tourism Sub-Group Meeting invitation
CAB : Invitation to AGM on 25th September
Village Viewpoint : to be circulated
ENC : Councillors Information Circular : to be circulated
KC Neighbourhood Watch : Minutes of meeting on 14.07.03
KCCA : Sports Training facilities in Kings Cliffe : Meeting summary
ENC : Standards Board : Meeting report
Forestry Commission : Review of Fineshade and Wakerley Woods
ENC : e-mail : Housing Development in Kings Cliffe
The Local Channel : Information on Community Web-sites

03/085 Any Other Business

Councillor D. Sharpe has agreed to continue to be the PC representative for the Resource Centre

Proposed : Councillor M. Day Seconded : Councillor A. Howard

The Resource Centre has been a great success; from next year the existing grants will end and it will hopefully become self-supporting.

Councillor B. Howard reminded the Council of the War Memorial Events to be held on 20th and 21st September, which have been well covered by the local press, and asked that everyone remember the part played during World War II by Kings Cliffe aerodrome. He will lay a wreath at the memorial on behalf of the PC

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10.pm.

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

The next meeting will be held at 7.30.pm. on 2nd October 2003 in the Parlour of the Memorial Hall
NB : This meeting is one week earlier than normal