

KING'S CLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Thursday 8th January 2004 in The Parlour, King's Cliffe Memorial Hall.

The Chairman welcomed PC Phil Conaty and his colleague PC Chris Wearing, Colin Bulliwell, Youth Team Leader from Rushden Youth Service and four parishioners.

PC Conaty gave a brief resume on his career in the Police Force and an interesting talk on crime in the Kings Cliffe area, supplying details of the unfortunate rise in crime of 83% overall during the last year. He agreed that the Police presence in the area is inadequate but made it obvious that the force do the very best they can under difficult circumstances. He is responsible for 8 other villages but during quiet times he can be called upon to cover shifts in Oundle and Thrapston and occasionally in Corby and Kettering. He is hoping this will alter for the better in April, when changes are to be made in the local area. Councillor B Howard stated there were major crime problems in the village; PC Conaty replied that all recent crimes at Kingsmead had been detected. He stated that criminals frequently travel extensively and often forensic evidence is the only way to trace them. Companies must take some precautions i.e. by using their own security schemes; the rate of crime is not high enough to warrant surveillance by the police. Councillor B Wright suggested it would be helpful if, along with the crime statistics, detection rates should be included. A Parishioner suggested it would be interesting to see how the increase in crime compares with urban catchments areas. PC Conaty admitted that in towns CCTV was a great aid in crime control and frequently as few as 5 officers in Corby were on duty on any given evening. The countryside is less secure and the residents far more "laidback". Response times following a telephone call are graded, grade one, urgent, response time is 17 minutes; grade two, say a burglary discovered upon returning home – 1 hour, grade three, non-urgent, response is when time and crime allows, grade 4 is purely telephone advice. Councillor B Wright suggested special constables could be the answer and this is endorsed by the police. Councillor B Howard requested that duty policemen should go into local shops as an obvious presence; apparently this is regularly practice. Councillors and parishioners all agreed the police did their best under difficult circumstances.

Colin Bulliwell from the Youth Service gave advice on the problems with skateboarders on the village roads. The Clerk explained to him that many elderly people in the village had complained about the youngsters, but were afraid of repercussion if they actively berated them. Colin replied in his experience, most of them would respond favourably if asked politely to move on. He then suggested if the youngsters were identifiable, a word with their parents might help. PC Conaty said he had spoken to all but two sets of parents, but no-one could actually control what children do away from home. The fact that the Parish Council had applied for permission for a skateboard park, but were refused, had taken away one line of defence. A Councillor who leases a unit at Kingsmead said he had found the "softly, softly" policy worked as far as he was concerned in that area and he felt at least if the youngsters were there, they were not in such danger of being injured as they are throughout the village, with the hazard of parked cars. Another tenant at the estate who had constantly harassed them had suffered as a result of moving them one. Another Councillor stated that he had almost collided with a lad on a board after dark in West Street recently. A further note will be published in the Gazette asking parents to control skateboarding activities in the street, or at least monitor where their children are and what they are doing. Councillor D Sharpe also suggested that the excellent facilities at Rockingham Speedway should be more publicised and possibly trips in the Church mini-bus could be arranged.

The Chairman thanked the visitors for their helpful advice and then welcomed Alice Townsend from Northamptonshire ACRE, who would speak about the Parish Plan scheme.

Ms. Townsend explained that the scheme encouraged small communities to develop a Parish Plan in which all members of the community could be involved in working together for various projects. Northamptonshire is changing and a Parish Plan could be used to help youth, the elderly and community liaison. The Parish Council would be asked to form a steering committee with other

members coming from other areas of the village. Grants are available and evidence must be gathered to prove need so surveys and statistics are very important and must be representative of the community as a whole.

She outlined the steps needed to get this in motion; the main issues would evolve from a series of meetings outlined in the relevant help sheets and literature. If a grant is received, it is paid into the PC account as a safeguard. Parish Councillors, also District and County Councillors would also be involved in this project, which could take up to a year to be up and running. She suggested the PC should make a decision if they wished to produce a Parish Plan, get a group together and apply for a grant as soon as possible. Councillors and Parishioners appeared to be very enthusiastic and this will be discussed again at the next meeting.

The Chairman thanked Ms. Townsend and opened the monthly meeting.

03/137 Present: - Councillors M.Day (Chairman), D. Sharpe, B.Wyles, B. Howard, A. Howard, L.Crane, K.Howard and N. Ford, Councillor B.Wright

Apologies : Councillors J. Dixon and T. Isaac

At this point, Chairman M. Day told the meeting that Councillor T. Isaac had given birth to a baby daughter, Jasmine, and had the distinction of being the first PC for Kings Cliffe to have a baby whilst in office. A congratulatory card had been sent on behalf of the Council.

03/138 Declarations of Interest: None

03/139 Clerks Report

The Clerks report was short as she had been on away on holiday over the Festive Season.

The Police had been informed about the problems with parking at the Primary School, but as yet no reply had been received.

A number of Councillors had attended the dedication of the Royal British Legion Memorial Plaque at the church on 14th December.

An e-mail request for further dog litter bins at Kingsmead had been sent – no reply to date.

A letter had been received regarding some minor points in the annual audit; this had been resolved.

A letter had been sent to County Councillor Padley, explaining that the PC felt they could not be involved in signing the “STOP” campaign petition.

The Gardeners Association were given permission to use Maltings Green for their proposed Flower Show in the summer, with the usual stipulations regarding insurance, rubbish removal etc.

An apology had been received from Barclays Bank after they sent a new chequebook to the clerk with misleading information on the envelope.

03/141 Matters arising

Chairman M. Day is still looking into the matter of a replacement seat for Hall Yard

03/142 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting on 4th December 2003 were accepted and signed

Proposed : Councillor A. Howard

Seconded : Councillor B. Wright

03/141 Accounts

The following accounts were approved for payment:-

Curators Salary (Nov 2003)	£ 75.65
Clerks Salary (Nov 2003)	£ 187.50
Clerks expenses (Oct – Dec 03)	£ 41.92
Kings Cliffe Memorial Hall charges	£ 60.00
Powergen (¼ to December 03)	£ 424.63

Anglia Water (cemetery)	£ 34.82
ENC Election fee	£ 178.98
ABB ¼ to December 03	£ 302.08

Proposed : Councillor A. Howard

Seconded : Councillor B. Wright

03/143 Planning

Outline: Erection of 4 bedroom Dwelling & Garage 33 Wood Road: EN/03/01552/OUT/PRG

No objection

Granted: LBC for Various Works at the Primary School: EN/03/00746/NCC: Noted

Refused: Variation of planning condition: 43B West Street EN/03/01358/VAR: Noted

A letter from Peterborough Homes regarding affordable housing was discussed and a suitable reply will be sent to them

03/144 Boundary Review: Conservation Area

The existing boundary map was circulated and discussed. It was decided that one house in Park Street at the edge of the boundary should be included, otherwise no change. The accompanying questionnaire will be completed and returned to ENC.

03/145 Housing Land Report

This report was been circulated and discussed by Councillors.

03/146 Children's Play Area

A reply was received in response to the Clerks inquiry into the result of the Wildlife Trust conservation study on the land in question; ENC are hopeful that the results will be available for discussion by the Council's Asset Management Panel at a meeting scheduled for 22 January. Once action has been agreed, the PC will be informed

03/147 Kings Cliffe Landfill Site

There had been a totally unacceptable level of noxious odours from the site throughout the Christmas period and since. The Chairman stated that Environmental Health and the Environmental Agency and been very helpful; however, although the smells are being controlled, this is still not acceptable. Wastego said the cause was an accidental load of untreated rubbish. Councillor A. Howard said the one thing against the PC is that the only real complaints have been made by P C Howard and the residents at Westhay, therefore all villagers who find this offensive should complain. The relevant numbers will again be given in the Gazette, and the Council urges people to make their complaints known to the authorities. A meeting is proposed by Wastego on Wednesday 14th December, to which parish councillors from Kings Cliffe only are invited and the Chairman urged all Councillors to attend.

The road surface from the site to the A47 is again causing concern and a strong letter will be sent to NCC demanding action.

03/148 Burial Board

Chairman N. Ford reported that a meeting had been held on 15th December to discuss proposals for two memorials. These were both accepted. The Chairman will speak to the curator to ascertain whether he would be willing to occasionally assist with other tasks.

03/149 Village Design Group: Nothing to report

03/150 Amenities

Mr. Smith will be asked for a quotation to repair the chestnut paling at the top of the Hills & Holes. The Clerk will again ask Waste Management to clear the rubbish beside the Bottle Banks at Kingsmead.

03/151 Community Safety & Neighbourhood Watch

Sub-Committee Chairman B. Wright reported that the papers for zone co-ordinators had been given to Chloe Martin of Northants Neighbourhood Watch. A further meeting is to be arranged

03/152 Other Correspondence Received

ENC: Quality Parish & Town Council Scheme: This correspondence will be circulated and will be an item on next agenda.

An interesting letter was received from Mr. Jack Norton regarding repairs undertaken by him and Mr. Len Hercock to the Laws Tomb during the early 1950's.

Various other correspondences was read and discussed. Several items on Planning, Strategy etc., were circulated to Councillors for their perusal.

03/153 Any Other Business

The Chairman suggested everyone should write to ENC to express their feelings regarding "Design for the Future" article printed in the Nene Valley News

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.05pm.

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

The next meeting will be held at 7.30pm. on 12th February 2004 in the Dining Room of the Cross Keys.