

KINGS CLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Public Meeting of the Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Thursday 8th April 2004 in King's Cliffe Memorial Hall

03/189 Present : Councillors M. Day (Chairman), B. Howard, K. Howard, B. Wyles, D. Sharpe and J. Dixon.

Apologies : Councillors N. Ford, L. Crane, A. Howard, B. Wright and T. Isaac

03/190 Welcome : The Chairman welcomed eight parishioners to the meeting.

03/191 Chairman's Statement

I would like to welcome you all to the 2004 Annual Parish Meeting of Kings Cliffe Parish Council.

Firstly I should like to thank the members of the Parish Council for electing me to the position of Chairman.

I should now like to mention a few items that were raised at last years Open Meeting.

Mr Wyles raised the issue of standing water on our roads, especially Wood Road. All I can say is that we regularly write to both the ENDC and NCC regarding the state of our roads and pavements. Mr Cohn Gilder, the area maintenance manager, attended one of our meetings and gave a comprehensive report on work that has been completed and ongoing work in the village. I suggest that we don't hold our breaths for any major improvements, but we will continue to harass the authorities!

Catherine Ibbotson presented a petition for the development of a Children's Play Area. We subsequently had a meeting with the District Council and ear marked an area in the field off Wood Lane. However in the last few days we have received a letter from the Council saying that before proceeding a Wildlife Survey has to take place during the summer. For the life of me I cannot understand why this could not have been carried out last year!

There was the problem of HGV's travelling through the village. I believe we have reduced the numbers by erecting the signs at the foot of Wansford Hill. There is still some traffic due to the confusion arising from naming the old KSR site 'Kings Cliffe industrial site'.

Now to some of the work completed during the year:

We have erected new notice boards. ENDC have installed two new waste bins at our request. We have installed new lights in Forest Approach and replaced two in Eagle Lane that had been destroyed by vandals. We have a new seat ready to replace the seat in Hall Yard that was once again destroyed by probably the same vandals.

The village web site, although still in its infancy, is up and running. Find at www.kingscliffe.org.uk. I understand that most of the allotments have now been taken and the neighbourhood watch is also moving ahead.

Through good housekeeping the Parish Council have managed to keep their share of the Council Tax to the same level as last year.

The Parish Council would like to thank Arthur Wooding and Cohn Smith for keeping the churchyard, cemetery and all the other grassed areas in the village, for which we are responsible, neat and tidy.

As a Parish Council we have no determination on planning issues, but we are consulted over all plans. We have had limited success on the site of Miss Bailey's land, although this is now going to appeal. We will again be opposing the construction of so many houses on this land.

A positive point as far as planning is concerned; Mr Court has indicated an interest in carrying the village plan forward, with our help.

In the last few days we have received a letter from the District Council asking for our views on the village framework and boundaries. They require comment on this from the whole village. To hear all your views the Parish Council will be calling a public meeting in about 10—12 days time. This item is on the agenda of our normal monthly meeting which follows.

The waste dump on the Stamford Road continues to raise concern. Goodness knows how many letters and telephone calls have been made! One hell of a lot! I really do not know what else we can do. It is up to the Police to monitor the mud on the road and other highway issues. Environmental Health, The Environmental Agency and the County Council monitor the site. They all state that the site is regularly inspected and everything is within the planning consents. The Parish Council do have meetings with Wastego and I believe that the situation is improving, albeit very slowly.

Lastly I would like to say that I have enjoyed my first year as Chairman and would like to thank our clerk, Mrs Hilary Blunt, all the Parish Council Members, and the members of all the committees for making my job a lot easier than it could have been.

03/192 Open Forum

Councillor B. Howard opened the Forum by congratulating his own Council for the street lighting in the village; he had recently visited a nearby village for an evening meeting and realized just how good the lighting is in Kings Cliffe; good street lighting is an excellent aid to crime prevention.

Parishioner Mr. W. Court asked if the PC would consider supporting recently formed Youth Club, which meets in the Resource Centre each week. The funding for this was for one year only and a crisis was looming. The Chairman suggested that the Youth Club should contact the PC directly; advice can be given, but financial assistance was not possible.

Mr. T. Peacey stated that the Resource Centre would reach the 3 year limit in October and although they were hoping to become independent, financial support would still be needed. The PC agreed that this was a most useful asset to the village; but were in no position to give financial support. Councillor B. Howard suggested, after gleaning information from an ACRE meeting, that one way forward might be to apply for a completely new financial grant and every means should be used to keep this very useful facility in the village.

Mrs. Lorna Haseler, from Alder Farm, asked if it would be possible to have warning signs at the entrance to the Farm, as it is a very dangerous concealed entrance. Apparently District Councillor Glithero had suggested she should approach the PC, but it was possible for Mrs. Haseler to write directly to NCC Highways. Councillor B. Wyles said that a property on the Wansford Road had asked NCC Highways for road signs – their reply was there were no plans provided further road signs; however, it was also pointed out that Blatherwycke now has 30 mph limit signs when it is patently obvious it is almost impossible to exceed this speed in that village.

Mrs. Haseler then drew attention to the bad condition of the grass verge between nos. 71 to 75 West Street, which is being badly scarred by parking cars and suggested that this area could be converted into a lay-by for residents. Mr. W. Court said that this had been looked into in previous years and NCC Highways had considered it beyond their budget; could “grass blocks” provide an answer and were there minor grants which could facilitate this? Mrs. Haseler said she considered this a road safety issue.

A resident of Walkers Field asked if there was any likelihood of another application being made for a skateboard park in the village; children were taking a short cut through Walkers Field to Kingsmead to use that area and causing a nuisance. Councillor D. Sharpe replied that this would ideally be with a playing field, if a large enough area of land should become available, but this was unlikely unless the newly formed Kings Cliffe Environment Association could help with this project. She suggested the committee should consider this. Skateboard and biking nuisance was also reported in Willow Lane.

A resident of West Street muted the idea that the Bottle Bank area could be turned into a SB Park, as bottles could now be deposited in the blue boxes; this was rejected, as this area is part of the Pocket Parks and in any case, not large enough.

A question was asked about affordable housing; Chairman M. Day said that this had been an on-going problem for 30 years; the PC had worked extremely hard to bring the KC1 site to fruition, but the situation had reached stalemate at the moment.

Residents of Kings Forest had approached a councillor regarding lack of parking near to the Middle School; it was suggested that they should write to the PC or speak to the Chairman with specific ideas, although this is a Highways issue and this department always pleads lack of funds.

This led to a question regarding the dreadful road conditions in the County as a whole. County Councillor Padley is again talking to the Highways Agency about this. Councillor B. Wyles reported that he had phone Highways about the pot-holes from the Landfill site to the A47; these had again been patched, but these temporary repairs are very short-lived.

Chairman M. Day thanked the public for their comments and opened the monthly meeting

03/193 Declarations of Interest

Councillors B. Howard and K. Howard declared an interest in the Planning Application for 41 Park Street EN/04/00462/FUL & LBC

03/194 Minutes : The meeting of the meeting held on 11th March 2004 were approved

Proposed : Councillor B. Howard Seconded : Councillor K. Howard

03/195 Matters arising and Clerks Statement

The Clerk was asked to contact ENC again regarding the litter at the Bottle Bank

Councillor K. Howard reported real problems with skateboarders at Kingsmead; he had evidence of this on CCTV.

Councillor B. Wyles had carried out a very efficient survey of traffic using Royces Lane which had proved the case for keeping the lane open. The PC thanked him for his hard work.

Curator A. Wooding and Mr. Smith have agreed to re-site the new seat in Hall Yard.

The Clerk reported the following items:-

A letter was received from East Northants Housing in reply to a request for an update on the house in Fineshade Close; they are still awaiting a planning decision, but the Planning Department have said that this will be refused therefore we will continue to pursue this matter, until the house is re-instated.

Liaison with ENC and Gill Corner at ABB Ltd., to have to redundant pole in Hall Yard removed and the box replaced on the Memorial : ENC will fund this.

A letters has been sent to ENC Dog Warden, Sue Johnson, with amended "dog fouling area" map. She will arrange to visit the various areas in the near future.

Mike Bailey of the ENC Waste Recycling department visited the village on Wednesday last and we inspected the Bottle Bank area. He was less than delighted with the way it had been cleared, as a partial litter pick had been achieved and he will arrange for more picking to be done.

Councillor B. Howard is pursuing the re-painting of the mail boxes; I have attempted this in the past and been told we must wait our turn maybe Councillor Howard will have more success.

The Association for the Blind will be putting an exhibition vehicle in Hall Yard at some point in May; they will inform us when and will handle their own publicity for this.

I have reported many lights out as usual and these have been repaired.

03/196 Accounts Payable

The following accounts were approved for payment:-

Curators Salary (April 2004)	£ 135.80
Clerks Salary (April 2004)	£ 187.50
Clerks Expenses (Jan – March 04)	£ 39.60
ENC Cemetery rates 2004	£ 97.45
ABB Ltd. ¼ to March 2004	£ 304.70
Howard Packaging (New Notice boards)	£ 352.50

Powergen Energy charges ¼ to March 2004	£ 424.63
Smith-Hetherington (Grass cutting & pollarding)	£ 471.00
W.R.Court (expenses and petrol for mowers)	£ 21.51

NB : ABB Ltd. have notified that their fees have increased for lighting maintenance

Proposed : Councillor J. Dixon Seconded : Councillor B. Wyles

03/197 Planning

Erection of 4 new dwellings, 14 West Street EN/03/00605/FUL : Appeal correspondence
Previous objections to this will carry forward to the appeal.

Single Storey garden room : 41 Park Street EN/04/00462/FUL & LBC : No objection

Applications granted & noted:-

Erection of 4 bedroom detached dwelling 33 Wood Road : EN/03/01552/OUT

Warehousing new build, Framples Field : EN/03/00494/OUT (KCPC not consulted on this)

Application refused & noted:-

Erection of single dwelling to rear of 27 West Street : EN/04/00067/OUT

Application withdrawn & noted:-

Demolish properties at 79 West Street/rebuild: EN/04/00232/FUL

03/198 Village Framework Draft Consultation

Following a letter from ENC regarding this, the Chairman explained that a Public Meeting must be held to discuss the matter of changes in the village boundaries to enable affordable housing to be considered if the KC1 site is no longer a viable proposition. The PC had been given very short notice by ENC for this but it is hoped to announce the date of this meeting in the near future.

03/199 Cleansing Consultation

The Clerk and Chairman will complete the questionnaire regarding this.

03/200 Children's Play Area

The Chairman read a letter from ENC which explained that the Wildlife Trust are to carry out a survey throughout the summer months, as the proposed area is a "site of scientific interest" but they think it is unlikely that this site will be considered. The PC as a whole expressed their disgust at this premature decision and a strong letter will be sent to ENC disputing their expected decision. It was again agreed that a children's play area is long over due and this land belonging to ENC would be an ideal site.

03/201 Landfill Site

Councillor A. Howard had attended the Local Liaison Meeting on 23rd March; Wastego had not attended this meeting and the usual protracted discussions achieved very little in the way of progress.

All the now very familiar points were raised and ENC Environmental Health and the Environment Agency promised to do everything possible to monitor the problems and deal with complaints from the public.

Councillor B. Howard reported excessive clay deposits both on the Stamford Road and the A47; Councillor B. Wyles reported a large quantity of wood chippings on the road from the site; also a chemical smell in West Street and Willow Lane; it was suggested that this was the smell from the deodorisers; this however, was disputed as the wind was not coming from the direction of the site.

03/202 Village Web Site

Councillor D. Sharpe reported that the web site is up and running but needs more content. Everyone involved is working hard. Fifty businesses have been identified in the village and these will all be contacted with a view to having advertisement/pages on the web. It was suggested that a small charge for this would do towards the annual expense of hosting. The name of the site belongs to a parishioner and it was proposed that the PC should buy the name and contribute to the financing. The Clerk expressed a wish that she and the PC should have control over their page and this was agreed.

03/203 Sub-Committee Reports

Burial Board

A meeting of the Burial Board was held in March 2004, at 19 West Street, Kings Cliffe at 8pm.

Present: Tony Peacey, Wilfred Court, Nigel Ford, Jenny Dixon, Norman Embleton,

Apologies : Bob Wyles.

The water has been turned on in the old cemetery.

It has been decided to use 10mm pea gravel to resurface drive and paths. 10 tonnes have arrived but a further 4 tonnes needed.

The price for cutting the top hedge and leaving vital trees is £200.00 and Colin Smith will clear debris. The hedge has been on our side, Adams's side to be cut next week. The cemetery is clear of rubbish.

If applications for head stones are not approved the fee is to be returned.

As the Howard Seat Slabs still have not been leveled it was decided to take them up and put down black polythene membrane and cover with pea gravel.

The mowers have been serviced.

Church Yard Gates and Posts : Nigel Ford will draw up list of names suitable for tendering for the work.

A debate followed over access to the New Cemetery.

It was suggested that a ramp was not needed and that a new gate should be cut in the wall at the bottom of Gaudern's Lane. There is concern over the very narrow bit of Church Walk by the Old Church Yard Gate. Mr. Court will ask Mr. Gunn to give his opinion on the suitability of this route as it is very narrow for two men and a coffin. It was proposed to accept Mr. Gunn recommendation. The path from the Church to the small gate will have to be widened, the old yew tree will have to come out and a new one planted further over.

The new pump has been installed over the well and is self draining.

Councillor B. Wyles reported that chickens are again invading the cemetery. The Clerk will write to the owners of the fowl.

Amenities

Sub-committee Chairman B. Wyles reported that the hedge had been partially trimmed at the bottom of the allotments. He will be putting pegs at the boundaries of the bottom plots to indicate to tenants where their plots end, as several have encroached onto the footpath not allowing room for the hedge to be trimmed mechanically.

It is reported that litter from the Lovell's skips is being thrown onto the Willow Walk. The Clerk will check who is responsible for this being cleared.

Mr. Smith is to erect the new fencing to the Hills and Holes park.

Village Design Group – nothing to report.

Community Safety & Neighbourhood Watch

Councillors B. Howard and B. Wright attended a Neighbourhood Watch meeting in Nassington and Councillor Howard gave a brief report.

A meeting of co-ordinators was held recently which was well attended. The village is divided into about 20 areas and all except 2 of these areas now has a volunteer co-ordinator. Someone is still needed for Kings Forest and someone to cover Blatherwycke Road. Order forms for 'Beat the Burglar' items available at a discount are being distributed to those households who have joined the scheme. The returned order forms will be collated and a bulk order will be sent off soon. Sub-committee Chairman B. Wright asked if the PC were willing to cover small expenses and this was agreed.

03/204 Other Correspondence Received

A survey on Wildlife in the Parish has been received and the questionnaire will be completed and returned.

A number of other correspondences were noted and will be dealt with

03/204 Any Other Business

Chairman M. Day was asked for information on the new Kings Cliffe Environmental Committee. He explained that at present it was a steering group. There will be a meeting in the near future giving a presentation about the Landfill Tax and its' implications. Meanwhile, Gary Lang-Norris is willing to talk to any organisations who would like more information. The Parish Council will not be directly involved in this committee.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25.pm.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be the AGM on 14th May

Signed.....Dated.....