

KINGS CLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Kings Cliffe Parish Council held at the Memorial Hall on Thursday 12th August 2004

04/44 Present: Chairman M. Day, B.Wyles, B. Howard, L.Crane, D.Sharpe, T. Isaac, N.Ford, A.Howard, and K. Howard

Apologies: Councillors B. Wright, J. Dixon

04/45 Declarations of Interest: Councillors M. Day, L.Crane, T. Isaac and B. Wyles declared an interest in Planning Item regarding 100 Wood Road therefore Councillor A. Howard will chair that discussion

04/46 Minutes : The minutes of the meeting held on 8th July were read and approved

Proposed : Councillor A.Howard Seconded : Councillor N.Ford

04/47 Matters arising : None

04/48 Clerks Report

The Clerk had been asked by the Clerk of the Almshouses Charity to enquire if there were any properties available for rental for an elderly parishioner who had been made homeless by the recent flooding. It was pointed out that this was not a Parish Council issue but that Councillors with any relevant information would contact the Charity in this instance.

Arrangements were made for the car which had been involved in an accident and subsequently vandalised on Wood Road to be removed; this has clarified the problems of not having a local Police contact. The Wellingborough Helpline was not very helpful in contacting the local police to sanction this. However ENC have said cars should be reported to them after seven days and they will deal with the police aspect.

The new PR representatives for the Landfill site literally arrived on the Chairman's doorstep 10 days ago; together with the clerk an impromptu but really and helpful meeting with them clarified matters regarding the temporary closure; the site will be holding an open day in September which will be well publicised.

A complaint has been made that the gravel in the cemetery gateway is too deep; the Chairman will arrange for this to be rectified.

Councillor Wyles had an "odd" map from NCC pushed through his door; no information could be given by NCC so it will be disregarded.

ENC have been clearing drains in the village today; had this happened a week ago, possibly the floods could have been a little less dramatic.

It has been reported to Clarence that there are many, many kerbstones adrift in the village; hopefully they will deal with this promptly.

An e-mail was sent to Wastego that on Monday 9th August their sweepers were still filling up on the road. The contractors have now been told to fill only on site, although several Councillors say this is still happening; they will be contacted again on this subject

04/49 Accounts

The following accounts were approved for payment

Curators Salary (Current month)	£ 135.80
Clerks Salary (Current month)	£ 187.50
Smith, Hetherington Grass cutting	£ 171.00
ABB Ltd: Lighting : lighting repairs	£ 26.26
British Telecom ¼ to June04	£ 50.09
Nigel Ford petrol for mowers	£ 18.50
Bullimores Ltd : Gravel for cemetery	£ 123.86
Bob Wyles : Wasps Nest treatment	£ 19.04

Proposed : Councillor A. Howard

Seconded : Councillor B. Howard

6. PLANNING

Applications:

Additional antenna : Telephone Exchange : EN/04/0124/FUL : No objection

Entertainment License : Memorial Hall : EN/04/00248/COMPEC : No objection

Proposed dwelling with garage etc., 100 Wood Road : EN/04/01346/FUL : Objections below:

- 1) This would be overdevelopment of a small site
- 2) Access is a driveway to a farm which was the reason for the garage only to be on this site
- 3) The wall to Colemans Lane is shown to continue in respect of the garden, there is no evidence of this retention
- 4) Photographic evidence of nearby houses; these cottages were considered appropriate only to that development.

This decision was put to the vote which was 4-1 against

Granted :

Extensions and alterations : The Walnuts, Bridge Street EN/04/01165/FUL : Noted

Restore beams etc : 72 West Street : EN/04/00867/LBC : Noted

Renewal of PP : land adjacent to 38 Wood Road : EN/04/00923/FUL : Noted

Strip & restore Oak beams, 72 West Street: EN/04/00867/LBC : Noted

Replacement windows , 90 West Street : EN/02/00423/FUL : Noted

Land Adjacent 48 Bridge Street : Conditional variation : EN04/01105/VAR : Noted

Information :

Portakabin adjacent to Telephone Exchange : EN/04/00097/PPD

The Enforcement Officer has informed the Council that Planning Permission will not be granted for this and 21 days notice has been given to the owner to remove it or risk prosecution

Housing proposals (Corby) :EN/04/01326/OUT/PJEC

A letter will be sent to Corby Borough Council requesting that the obvious road congestion this will cause should be thoroughly considered and roads improved accordingly

Refusal : Proposed detached garage with accommodation 66 West Street EN/04/00851/FUL

04/50 Any Other Business

Recent Flooding

The Chairman said the following statement will be published in the Gazette:

‘During the torrential storms on 9th and 10th of August more than 5” of rain fell; speaking for the whole community a tremendous vote of thanks must go to everyone who turned out to help divert water, bale out cellars and helped with the clearing up. As so succinctly put on “About Anglia” by Clive, our leading local thespian, ‘the true Dunkirk spirit prevailed’. The Parish Council are in contact with all relevant departments of ENC and NCC to hopefully ensure that flood prevention and defences are put into place to avert another such disaster in the future’

The whole meeting endorsed these sentiments.

He asked what the Council felt was the way forward and asked each member to give their views:-

Councillor A. Howard said these had obviously been freak weather conditions; the community reaction has been first-rate. He felt that sandbags should be made available to anyone who wants them and feels ENC/NCC should be approached to provide them.

Councillor K. Howard remarked that there was a lot of water! He endorsed the idea of sandbags, but said better drainage was the answer and as an example said that the land behind Walkers Field used to be waterlogged during adverse weather conditions until the new houses were built with a better drainage system, which had cured the problem.

The Chairman said he believed that in the past the PC had wanted the water from Willow Lane to be diverted into the railway cutting and asked Mr. Court to recall this. Mr. Court said ENC as the landlord of Kingsmead had objected, but it had been done, but obviously was not completely successful, perhaps a ‘hump’ on the bridge would help.

Councillor B. Howard said the flooding under the Stamford Road bridge could be cured by a larger drain being installed. He also thought sandbags were a good idea and would also have helped the residents of Bridge Street; these should be somewhere where the public had easy access to them, but vandalism must be avoided.

Councillor B. Wyles said he had telephoned the council help lines at both ENC and NCC but there was no reply. The Police had been very helpful and had sent a fire appliance. Although it was rumoured that the Elephant trap at the top of Willow Lane had been blocked – it was not and this was endorsed by Councillor D. Sharpe, but the culvert at Millwood Way was blocked and this should be checked. He also reported that a resident of Wood Road had had their gas boiler condemned after the ingress of water into the flue. He said the Red Cross should be commended

for their excellent services in looking after Mrs. Bould when her house was flooded. He also suggested that the 'speed bumps' on Wood Road had slowed the water in that area.

Councillor N. Ford said it was purely a freak storm and probably would not happen again for at least a decade.

Councillors T. Isaac and L. Crane felt everything had been said and it must be accepted as an accident of nature.

Councillor D. Sharpe stated that the field below the bridge on Willow Lane was frequently flooded and boggy even during dry weather which undoubtedly added to the problem.

Councillor A. Howard added that in a similar incident some years ago an emergency trench had been dug above the bridge to allow the water to flow into the railway cutting, was that the answer? It was pointed out that this then aggravated the problems as the water then added to the floods in Kingsmead and subsequently into Park Street.

It was generally decided that sand and bags must be made available and notices displayed to tell householders where to obtain these from.

It was also decided that parishioners be invited to form an Emergency Committee to deal with disaster such as this and the entry in the Gazette will ask for volunteers and suggestions. ENC have an officer who will help to co-ordinate such a committee.

Community Policing

It has been announced that the Parish are to lose the Community Policeman. Although the PC was aware of this yet another letter will be written to the Chief Constable condemning this move.

Road conditions will be discussed at the next meeting.

The ragwort at Kingsmead will be reported to ENC.

Several Councillors questioned the legality of a party held at the Pitchell. The Chairman pointed out that this land was leased to the tenant as a Pleasure Garden and no tenancy rules had been broken.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.20.pm.

The next meeting will be held on 9th September in the Parlour of the Memorial Hall at 7.30.pm.

