

KINGS CLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Kings Cliffe Parish Council held at the Memorial Hall on Thursday 10th November, 2005.

05/095 Present: Chairman M. Day, Councillors B. Wyles, D. Sharpe, J. Dixon, L. Crane, B. Howard, K. Howard and N.Ford, T.Isaac and B. Wright.

05/096 Apologies for Absence: Councillor A. Howard

05/097 Declarations of Interest: Councillors B & K Howard and Councillor N. Ford declared an interest in agenda item 8.

05/098 Community Sports Centre

By prior arrangements Andrew Pick and David Hellard gave the following report on the proposed Community Sports Centre:-

The Chairman welcomed Andrew Pick (Chair of the Project Action Group) and David Hellard (Project Coordinator) and invited them to present the Council with an update on this ambitious village project which the Parish Council had agreed to support. Andrew showed an outline plan of the 10 acre site available for purchase on the edge of the village, across the railway line from the Middle School Playing field and its planned facilities. The project, promoted by King's Cliffe Community Association (representing a wide range of village sports groups) aimed to fill a long term gap in provision of proper facilities for this large village and the surrounding area.

The scheme sought to meet the needs of as many village interest groups as possible – initially it will provide two football pitches, an all weather multi use floodlit sports training area, a children's playground, a skate board/bike park, tennis courts, an indoor sports hall (for badminton, circuit training, indoor cricket nets etc) plus club facilities (e.g. changing rooms, bar, meeting room) and a large community room able cater for aerobics, keep fit, table tennis and wider community use.

It was noted that Land Fill Tax credit amounting to nearly £1/4 M had been allocated via King's Cliffe Environmental Association. This very week East Northants Council had pledged more than £24,000 which would unlock this initial funding. Detailed plans would be drawn up over coming weeks before an application for planning permission was lodged. It was hoped that work could begin during 2006.

The vital role of the Parish Council was noted in that it would be beneficial owner of the site, once acquired, thus keeping the facility in community ownership – a real village resource – for all time.

An enthusiastic discussion raised several issues included access via Kingsmead, car parking, lighting, security, lorry loading, impact on Willow Walk, management, revenue generation, unsupervised access, tree planting and the possibility of catering for bowls and swimming. Andrew and David stressed that this is a community project and all ideas and the widest support would be welcome. The overall scheme in this phase was anticipated to cost £2M...but it was an attainable and practical vision for King's Cliffe. The Parish Council was thanked for its continuing enthusiastic support.

The Chairman thanked the gentlemen for a most enlightening talk.

05/099 Minutes: Minutes of the meeting held on 13th October were read and approved.

Proposed : Councillor J. Dixon

Seconded : Councillor B. Wyles

05/100 Matters Arising : all these are covered in the Clerks Statement

Clerks Statement

Street Lights – Wood Road. ABB were contacted with a view to replacing the existing bulbs with larger ones. This was done, but orange lights were fitted, which gave no more light; also a bracket was fitted to give more direct light, again with an orange bulb! I have asked Gill Corner to please fit higher wattage white lights and am awaiting her reply. Various other light failures were reported and repaired.

The comments from Mr. Summers made at the last meeting with regard to the speed humps channelling water into his driveway have been sent to Highways, so far no response.

Traffic calming: Mr. Kirk has indicated that he will put a note in the Gazette to inform the signators of his petition that it appears to have had no reaction from Highways. Although we have asked for traffic calming measures, it seems unlikely to happen.

A broken drain reported in Hall Yard has been reseated. Highways have again been asked to repair or replace the damaged barrier at the bottom of Wansford Hill.

Elephant trap in Willow Lane needs repairing; the Chairman will discuss this under AOB

Mark Hillyer Smith is to be moved from the area; again, to be discussed under AOB

05/101 Accounts : The following accounts were approved for payment

Curators Salary (current month)	£ 140.00
Clerks Salary (current month)	£ 200.00
Clerks expenses – April 05 to October 05	£ 100.62
Smith Hetherington : Grass cutting & various	£ 196.00
ABB Ltd. : Lighting maintenance	£ 64.65
Powergen ¼ to September 05	£ 423.48
BT ¼ to October 05	£ 55.43
Resource at Kings Cliffe : Youth Club	£ 18.00
Mr. & Mrs. Mitchell : refund for grave spaces	£ 230.00
Royal British Legion : wreath for memorial	£ 35.00

Proposed : Councillor J.Dixon

Seconded : Councillor B.Wright

05/102 Planning

15 Wood Road : Front & rear extension : EN/05/01980/FUL

This application was discussed at length; no objection was raised on the rear extension but it was felt that the front extension was not appropriate, especially the glass roof.

2 Park Close : Erection of front porch : EN/05/01829/FUL : No objection

05/103 Hills & Holes Pit : various correspondence

The PC is in negotiation with Howard Farms regarding the future of this land, which has fallen into disrepair and the costs of reinstating it is prohibitive. A letter has been received from them, offering a donation of £500 toward the cost of transferring this land to them. They are prepared to fence the land and preserve the existing trees. A letter has been received from Mr. Clive Ibotson offering to purchase this land for £50 and also offering to rent the Pitchell for £50 per annum.

A letter will be sent to Mr. Ibotson asking what his intentions for the land would be. With regard to the Pitchell, this has tenanted to the same person for several years and as with the allotments, this lease is automatically renewed annually unless the tenant indicates a wish to vacate it. When this land was originally acquired by the Council, the tenancy was advertised for 6 months in the Gazette and no interest was shown by other parties. The present tenant keeps the land in excellent condition at no cost to the Parish Council.

05/104 Wood Road : Traffic calming measures

The Chairman and Clerk have completed the request to NCC for traffic calming measures in Wood Road and have asked for their advice and assistance in this; the request form asks for specific schemes, most of which we have been advised are unlikely to be approved, as this is not an accident blackspot.

Councillor B. Wyles suggested that a further light would be much appreciated on Wood Road; the subject of street lights will be raised as an agenda item at the next meeting. The Chairman asked all Councillors to note and report any areas they felt additional street lighting would benefit the community.

In the letter mentioned in **05/103**, Mr. Ibotson also raised a point regarding the possibility of 20 mph speed limits in certain areas of the village. This request will be forwarded to Highways.

Councillor J. Dixon spoke to a HGV driver having problems negotiating his way through the village and learned that the reason he was in the area was that the Satellite Navigation system in his cab had suggested it was the shortest route from the A1 to Corby. As there is no weight limit in the village, there is little to be done to avoid recurrences of this problem.

Annual Audit

The Audit papers have been returned from LBDO with a few queries to be addressed, as usual.

05/105 Green Waste Collection

The petition from MP Phil Hope for Green Waste collections to be resumed has been circulated and returned to him with 115 signatures.

05/106 Sub-Committee Reports :

Burial Board

A meeting of the Burial Board was held on 7th November 2005.

Various memorials were discussed and approved.

The Parish Council are willing to buy back any unused grave plots in the cemetery upon production of the appropriate documents.

PGR Construction has said they are not satisfied with their work on the cemetery drive and have therefore not sent a bill. They recommend that the only solution for the slope is a tarmac surface.

The Churchyard railings will be painted after the winter.

Councillor Kevin Howard has volunteered to fix the weather boarding on the Old Fire Station.

A further application for gravestone for the late Mr. Roy Dolby had been received by the Clerk; this was approved and the Burial Board chairman will reply to this request.

The next meeting will be 14th December.

Neighbourhood Watch : Nothing to report.

05/107 Other Correspondence Received

Various correspondences were noted or circulated.

05/108 Any Other Business

PC Mark Hillyer-Smith has personally informed the Chairman and the Clerk that he is being moved to Wellingborough for a minimum of 3 months, leaving the village with no personal point of contact with the Police. This move has shocked the Council as Mark has done a great deal of valuable work in the village. A letter of thanks will be sent to him and a very strong letter of objection will be sent to the Chief Constable.

Councillor B. Wyles volunteered that he had found the Wellingborough Police call centre was prompt in their response to a telephone call.

The Chairman is still in negotiation with Messrs Adams regarding buying more land for the cemetery in Bridge Street.

A report that the Elephant trap in Willow Lane is in bad repair has sent to Highways; it may be necessary to completely rebuild this.

Councillor B. Howard has again reported the lack of bollards and lights on the island at the Stamford Road turning to the A47; this will again be reported to Highways. They will also be reminded that we have asked for street signs and signpost to be cleaned.

Councillor N. Ford said he had received a complaint that the allotments were being used as a dumping ground for garden rubbish; this will be investigated.

It was noted that the sweeper lorry had been in the village collecting dead leaves.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.00.pm. The next meeting will be on 8th December 2005.

