

KINGS CLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Public Meeting & Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Thursday 11th May 2006 at 7.30.pm. at King's Cliffe Memorial Hall.

PUBLIC MEETING

05/176 Welcome

The Chairman Michael Day welcomed 44 members of the public, two Senior Police Officers, three County Council members and several representatives of the Press and Media to the meeting.

Parish Councillors present : Chairman M. Day, Councillors A.Howard B. Wyles, D. Sharpe, B. Howard, N.Ford, and B. Wright, K.Howard, L. Crane, and J.Dixon

05/177 Apologies for Absence : Councillor T. Isaac, District Councillor R. Glithero

05/178 Declarations of Interest (for both meeting) : None

05/179 Minutes of the Public Meeting held on 14th April 2005 : Approved and signed

Proposed : Councillor B. Wyles Seconded : Councillor N. Ford

05/180 Matters Arising

Mr. W. Court raised the point that the white lines on the road from Station Road to Wood Road and under the Railway Bridge had still not been re-painted. The Chairman replied that Highways had been asked on three occasions to carrying out these works, but it still had not been done. County Councillor P. Padley offered to look into this.

Mrs. Johnson complained that the drains outside her house were causing problems during heavy rain. This will be reported to the Street Doctor. She also asked for an update on the Green Waste Collection controversy as did Mrs. Caddick. An update of this is reported in the May edition of Nene Valley News.

05/181 County Councillor's Statement

County Councillor Priscilla Padley read the following statements:-

Report to the Kings Cliffe Annual Public Meeting

The new Slipe Clay Pit Planning permission was granted on 6th December 2005 and was a tidying up exercise to complete all the changes to an exclusively Hazardous Landfill site which happened in the previous July. Augean now pay £5,000 a year to the county council for maintenance of the road (a realistic upgrade on the previous £2,000 annually). Some of the tipping levels have been reduced, in accordance with new conditions and this has caused some unpleasant smells to be released from the site. Landscape planting will start this year, which should improve the look of the site. Traffic problems have considerably reduced and warning signs were agreed to be installed from the Kings Cliffe direction.

In the last fortnight, a new hazard has appeared in the form of the Draft Mineral and Waste Plan for Cambridgeshire. This lays out the possible extensions to existing quarry sites, some of which are as close as Thornhaugh and Cross Leys farm and worst of all suggests the possibility of a "Waste Management Facility, incorporating energy from waste" - i.e. incinerator - at Wansford. A monitoring protest group has been formed at Wansford. I have alerted Northants County Council, who are not consultees, and all the parishes in my division adjacent to Wansford. I have sent my own response rejecting the incinerator and objecting to the size of the new sites. I will keep a watchful eye on the plan as it develops.

Last July to August. Kings Cliffe streets were largely resurfaced, which had been long awaited. However there had been 2 accidents to people on footpaths that I had been made aware of during the year and I asked Andrew Leighton, the new Highways Community Engineer, to meet Atkins, the council's contractors in the village to look at footpath surfaces. They met on 13th March this year and I am awaiting the outcome.

I have been trying to gain County Council support and funding for the Kings Cliffe Community Sports Project, which would deliver much needed sports facilities to the village. Kings Cliffe is a "Focus Village" in the Rural North [Plan as](#) proposed by East Northants District Council and the new Delivery Framework for the county's expansion plans under MKSM. It is extremely important that leisure facilities such as these are built to accommodate the new housing expansion planned for Kings Cliffe -150 houses by 2021. These would of course include a set proportion of affordable homes - one third - much needed by the village.

Report to Parish Council – March 2006

Since the Conservatives took control of the County Council following the May elections last year, it has been a busy year embedding new members into the Cabinet, Scrutiny Committees and key positions in the administration. The party was elected on the mandate to become a smaller and more enabling council and to hold the council tax to a maximum of 3%.

This has been achieved despite the Government giving to Northants the second lowest revenue grant in the country at a mere 2.1 % rise on last year. Inflationary pressures on the council are 4.9% (public sector pay rises and oil prices being significant). Unfortunately the shortfall has meant we have been forced to reduce some services - an overspend of £8 million in adult social services not budgeted for by the previous administration added to our problems. The result has been we have announced about 747 redundancies across all services, but particularly in the Youth Service. The Inspection of the service last year rated it as very poor and pointed out that we reached only 5% of young people. We now plan to deliver the service by commissioning the voluntary sector, but the transition from the old to the new service will be difficult.

It was proposed that the Mobile Library Service should lose 4 out of 6 vans, which would have removed the service altogether from the Prebendal Division. I successfully contested this, aided by a Petition organised by Kings Cliffe, which we presented to Council on February 23rd. Now the service will continue to all my villages as before, except that the vans will come 3 weekly instead of every 2 weeks

The Country Parks Service will only lose 4 jobs instead of the 23 originally proposed and although maintenance will be a little less, the parks will remain open for all to enjoy. We are currently looking at the eligibility criteria for adults with Learning Disabilities to receive help and several respite centres have been threatened with closure. These are difficult decisions, but with less money available we have to be more careful in how it is spent.

The council have invested more in the care of the elderly at home and have built more specialist care centers. We have increased allowances for Foster carers who look after our children in care. This is one of our most important duties and we can now be confident that increasingly only children with the most complex disabilities will need to be cared for in residential homes and not in a family. It has been one of my new tasks this year to chair the Corporate Parenting Group, which monitors how we indeed look after children in care and I can say that we have a robust service.

Highway Maintenance has definitely improved. Many B roads have been resurfaced and many villages have now had all their streets resurfaced as well. This is not before time - the Labour administration underspent on roads consistently over 8 years.

The Northants Waste Plan is finally adopted, which again was long overdue. We have improved recycling and have removed the limit on the number of bags that can be taken to Household Waste sites. We are also prosecuting Fly tippers using the evidence of CCTV cameras at particular blackspots

The level of revenue funding which goes directly to schools did increase in line with inflation, so our schools should be able to budget successfully this year. Glaphorn School suffered a major fire on 14th February, which damaged a classroom, toilets and office. Luckily the new hall and original old school building were not badly affected and mobile classrooms were delivered within not much over a week.

I continue to chair Complementary Education, which delivers schooling to excluded children in the county and now also chair the Personnel Committee, which undertakes Staff Appeals against dismissal and looks at the quality of Human Resources in the council.

I look forward to the coming year as your representative on the county council

County Councillor Padley then asked if there were any questions.

Councillor B. Howard asked about the proposed Waste Incinerator at Wansford and said several around the country had been closed by public pressure. She replied that NCC was against this.

Councillor B. Wyles said that it was too close to the SSI Wood.

Mr. A. Bradshaw asked about the status of Walkers Field, which is a road unadopted by the Council.

Chairman M. Day replied that this had been researched thoroughly by the Parish Council and the facts were that the road is unadopted and not the responsibility of NCC Highways.

Mr. Coulthard stated that the Waste Strategy of NCC and CCC did not appear to be compatible.

County Councillor Padley replied that the proposed incinerator was far too close to Wansford and too close to the Kings Cliffe Parish Boundary.

Mr. Court asked why the Parish Council had not been informed of the proposals earlier. Chairman Day replied that Kings Cliffe learned of the proposals following a meeting in Wansford and immediately contact Peterborough and Cambridgeshire Districts asking for details.

05/182 Chairman's Statement

Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to the Annual Public Meeting of Kings Cliffe Parish Council.

I should like to welcome our guest speaker- Superintendent Simon Blatchley and Inspector Andrew Thomason who will give a response to the criticisms of various local 'groups' during the incident that took place over the Easter Weekend. I also welcome The County Councillors guests, County Councillor Liz Taverner, Cabinet Member for Public Protection & Community Safety and County Councillor Derek Lawson (Police Authority)

However before that I shall give you a brief report on the work of your Parish Council over the last 12 months.

Last August, after many years of hard work, hundreds of phone calls and letters, we managed to get most of the roads in Kings Cliffe re-surfaced. I am sure you will all agree that the contractors did an excellent job. We now need the same work done to repair our pavements.

The Churchyard and Cemetery have been maintained by Mr. Colin Smith after Mr. Wooding resigned suddenly in April last year, and I should like to thank him for all the hard work he puts in, not only at the Churchyard and cemetery, but all the other various jobs he does on our behalf.

As most of you know we are negotiating with James & Guy Adams for additional land to increase the area of the Cemetery site, hopefully this will be concluded in the next few months.

Also we are in the process of fixing some of the Gravestones in the Churchyard; this will be on going for a few more years.

Local vandals had destroyed the seat at the bottom of Wood Lane but a new one has now been put back in its place. It is supposed to be vandal proof so we will wait and see!

During the year we were informed by Northants County Council that funding for the Youth Club, whose meetings were held on Thursday nights in the Resource Centre was to be discontinued. Also the Mobile Library Service was to be discontinued. Thanks to local 'people power' the Library Van still visits the village, although only every three weeks not every other week as before. We are still waiting for a decision on the future of the Youth Club.

Kings Cliffe is a village of keen gardeners and all our allotments are let; it is a pity that we have not got any more land because we now have a waiting list of applicants.

We have replaced a few of our streetlights and, at this moment in time we are negotiating with our supplier to increase light in the village and to upgrade some of the older lights.

While talking about spending money, the Parish Council have managed to keep our council tax requirement exactly the same for three years – would the County Council did the same!

During the last twelve months myself and other members of the Parish Council have attended numerous meetings. Some, like the East Northants preferred options for the area of North Northamptonshire will have a great impact on Kings Cliffe, and others not quite so important, such as liaising with Apethorpe over a proposed footpath link between the two villages. Going back to the meeting on the preferred options that will affect our area; one of those meetings was held in the School Hall at the beginning of this year and was attended by many Parishioners and Parish Councillors. We have not yet had the reports from this meeting but I sincerely hope that the 'powers that be' in the County will listen to our concerns and take into account our observations.

We have given wholehearted support to the Community Centre in their work to provide a new Sports and Recreational Centre to the North East of the village. The Parish Council supports this and, only last week, the planning application was approved. Now progress can be made and the land purchased. When it is completed the land will be in the ownership of the Parish.

In March we were informed about the Cambridgeshire Draft Mineral and Waste Plan. We were not informed as of right because we are in a different district but heard about this from Wansford Parish Council. The original objections had to be put in by March 16th but I understand that this was later put back to April 16th. We put in a very strong objection to the quarrying of stone on the 'Cross Leys' site and equally strong objections to both the quarrying and proposed waste incinerator on the site closer to Wansford. This was not a planning application, just landowners and individuals expressing their interests. Cambridgeshire County Council will discuss the options and they will then produce their draft proposals. If the sites are still included in this proposal I can assure you that Kings Cliffe Parish Council will vigorously oppose the plans.

In the meantime Councillor Kevin Howard is on the committee formed by Wansford and other interested Parish Councils to oppose these activities. Before I leave this subject I must mention a group called 'Wastewatchers' headed by Mr. Roger Coulthard. At times we have not always seen 'eye to eye' but despite this they do have my whole hearted support. I hope it is understood that I am restricted as to what I can do or say as Chairman of this Council by the Standards Board. I believe that Roger understands this.

At this point, Mr. Roger Coulthard interjected to thank the Parish Council for their co-operation in creating people power with other Councils; he also thanked parishioners who had completed and returned the objection forms delivered to all households.

The Chairman continued:-

Now to mention what I believe most of you are here for; the incident over the Easter Weekend at the old bomb dump. I do not intend to say too much about it because Superintendent Blatchley has a lot more

information about it than I do. There are one or two things that must be said. Firstly the site of the incident or 'Rave' is not within our Parish so as the Parish Council we are limited in our remit.

Secondly the Police, I believe had about 40 calls from 30 'odd' people complaining about noise levels etc. and East Northants monitored the proceedings. Both bodies acted in a way that they believed was in the best interests of the whole community, and which was proved to work when a similar incident took place two weeks later and was effectively stopped.

Finally I would like to thank our clerk, Mrs. Hilary Blunt and all Parish Councillors for their support and hard work over the last twelve months.

The Chairman asked if anyone had any questions regarding his report. There were none.

05/183 Open Forum

The Chairman said he was giving the floor to Superintendent Blatchley as he realised the majority of those present were interested in what the Police had to say about the Easter "rave" at the old Bomb dump.

Superintendent Blatchley introduced himself and explained that from 1st April the Police have been restructured, under Area Superintendent Deane.

He was well aware of the concerns of the public and the press. He was on duty on the night in question and would give one to one interviews if required at the end of the meeting.

The first call to the Police was 12.08.am.on 16th April. At 12.30.am. a call was received from Cambridgeshire Police via Suffolk traffic police. Although they endeavoured to monitor movements through various website, they could not initially identify the site.

By the time it was identified and the Police helicopter arrived at 1.am. they estimated there were already in excess of 2,000 people on the site. Various actions were considered; there had been an attempted murder in the area which reduced available numbers of officers. Blocking the entrance to the site was tried, but revellers were then parking on the road and this was considered too dangerous, so the site was reopened.

The situation was reviewed during the morning and there were officers constantly in attendance and numbers were monitored, by this time quite a number had left the site. However, the resources needed to safely empty and close the site would have been phenomenal to guarantee the safety of all involved.

On Monday 17th April, East Northamptonshire Environment Services were called and an abatement order was served, at considerable risk to both Police and the ENC Officer involved.

[Note from Clerk : A full report was received by the Parish Council from Mr. M. Deacon, Environmental Officer for East Northamptonshire Council, who was unable to attend this meeting]

Although the Police take vehicle numbers, the organisers rarely use vehicles belonging to them and are therefore not identifiable.

Inspector Andrew Thomason stated that there is an enquiry is now ongoing and he is the investigating officer for this.

The "rave" finally broke up on Monday and interviews with the landowners and other parties began. One crime was recorded.

The second "rave" on 29th April was broken up before it started and ended up being held in Suffolk.

Superintendent Blatchley stated that the Police can only act if they are informed early enough, then a standard operations procedure comes into force.

He then asked for any questions.

SPEAKERS : Superintendent S. Blatchley (**SB**), Mr. G. Wagstaffe (**GW**), Councillor B Howard (**BH**), Ms. S. Winfrey (**SW**), Mrs. Carol Randall (**CR**), Councillor A. Howard (**AH**), Dr. G. Mason (**GM**),

Inspector A. Thomason (**AT**), Councillor D. Sharpe (**DS**), Councillor P. Padley (**PP**), Councillor L. Taverner (**LT**), Mr. H. Anstey (**HA**), Mr. R. Coulthard (**RC**), Chairman M. Day (**MD**) Councillor D. Wilson, Police Authority (**DW**) Mr. G. Adams (**GA**)

GW : Who are the owners of the bomb dump?

MD : It is owned by Burghley Estates, Stamford.

BH : There was damage to barriers on Howards Farms land, cars burnt out and he was personally threatened.

SB :: The Police had no record of threats or criminal damage. The car fire was accidental.

SW : What are the established priorities?

SB : Public Safety; for examples, football crowds are manageable as they are a 'known' quantity; 4,000 people who are not immediately threatening public safety cannot be dispersed without danger to the Police and themselves, too many officers would be required. The Police do not put their officers at risk by entering a situation understaffed.

Unknown Member of the Public: How many were there to begin with?

S.B : Due to no early warning, by the time the convoy was on the A47 2,000 had already arrived.

P.P : Regarding the second rave, how many calls were there?

S.B. : One, which was enough for the Police to stop it before it started. For the first rave, the first call reported the rave had been going on for 3 hours. There were 40 calls recorded in all, 30 from the Public, some were repeat calls, the remainder from the Press and Media.

B.H. : The Bomb Dump is actually in Collyweston Parish Boundary, not Kings Cliffe.

C.R. : Queried the number of phone calls, considers there were more than the numbers given.

S.B. : These were the numbers logged and taken from Police records.

A.H. : This meeting can spend hours dissecting facts, but the important message is vigilance. He saw the beginnings of a rave last October and the Police response was immediate. His brother, Mr. P. Howard had reported the 2nd rave in April and again the response was immediate. If any one sees cars arriving or anything suspicious – don't ignore it – report it. The 2nd rave was going towards the Beech tree. Are they the same organisation.?

G.M. : Can we have the name of a Police Officer to contact?

A.T. : Constable Mark Hillyer-Smith is the officer in overall control of this incident, but the telephone number to call is 08453700700. Meetings are taking place. Landowners are being asked to help. The Bomb dump event was organised from the Norwich area, the second one from the Peterborough area. The Police realise more work is required on this front.

S.W. : What difference will this make?

S.B. : There will be extra officers on duty for the next Bank Holiday. If early call s are made we can stop it. Police are very much against these events as they use up too many resources.

D.S. I am speaking to oppose those people who have made a fuss about the recent rave

I consider it to be a minor inconvenience to the people of Kings Cliffe and other nearby villages.

Music is loud nowadays. The technology is there to make it loud. The days of the wind-up gramophones are long gone. In my youth our record players played 45s 'loudly' according to our parents. In fact if you turned

up the volume too much the whole box would vibrate and the needle would jump off

I personally know 4 young people who attended this rave. They called in on their way back from Stamford, which is where our young people have to go for entertainment as there is nothing for them here. They found the event was well organised, no alcohol was on sale, and there were portable toilets.

I asked one of these people to come here tonight to speak. He said 'Waste of time. Nobody listens to us. It wasn't illegal anyway'.

As for the noise which could be heard in the village, I don't consider it was loud here. Did you hear the birdsong at dawn this morning? If there had been a rave last night the noise would have been drowned out.

Police Resources are limited. You have to ask yourselves - Do you rather the police attended a rave, or a shed burglary, because they can't do both. What if your shed or garage was broken into, and no police were available because they were attending a rave.

I'll leave you with this question - Do we want the police to attend crime incidents in our village or do we want them to be miles away in the middle of a forest ?

D.W. : A risk assessment is carried out and the scene and this goes up to the Duty Supervisor. The next morning a Public Order warrant is issued.

B.H. : What about drugs?

S.B. : People were searched leaving the scene, nothing was found.

D.S. : As residents of this village well know, drugs are available everywhere, there is no risk because a rave takes place.

C.R. : There was a good response on the 2nd rave, but this was more by luck than judgement. For the next Bank Holiday, how can villagers support the Police?

A.T. :Police have networks countrywide; everything pointed to the rave being in Suffolk, so the organisers switched to Peterborough then to Kings Cliffe; they are aware they must change their tactics quickly. As reported earlier, by the time the Police received the first call, they had been here 3 hours. If there are no reports, how can they improve, blanket surveillance is not possible. This applies to all crimes, not just this one.

P.P. : It might be an idea to set up a local "Rave Watch".

G.A. : Re the 2nd rave, are there any suspects for the criminal damage?

A.T. : No, the main priority was to clear the site, not detain anyone.

L.T. : Having to spoken to **BH and PP** - people power can be achieved. Is it correct to assume that call from Kings Cliffe will be taken seriously?

S.B. : Yes if they are identified as Kings Cliffe : tel : 08453700700

H.A. : I can accept that the car blocking the site had to be moved, but why was the A47 turning onto 'Cliffe Road not blocked.

S.B. : Purely lack of resources.

C.R. : How many officers were on site on Sunday night.

S.B. : An Inspector and various officers, an immediate response team and cars in attendance all day.

B.H. : If the Police charged a £25 entrance fee it would pay for the resources

M.D. : It is not possible for the police to do that, it is not part of their remit.

R.C. : Was the Police response adequate? Please don't lose sight of the bigger picture, rapes, beating, murders – the response to this problem is out of proportion.

S.B. : If Daventry called with a similar problem tonight, we could not do anything differently.

As the discussion had come to an end, The Chairman said he had been please to see so many people and thanked everyone for attending. He announced a 10 minute break before the AGM began.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

06/001 Election of Chairman

Proposals for Chairman were requested. Councillor B. Wyles proposed Michael Day. There were no other proposals.

Proposed : Councillor B. Wyles

Seconded : Councillor N.Ford

06/002 Election of Vice Chairman

The Chairman asked for proposals for Vice-Chairman : Councillor B. Wyles proposed Andrew Howard. There were no other proposals.

Proposed : Councillor B. Wyles

Seconded : Councillor N.Ford

06/003 Formation of Sub-Committees

Burial Board – it was agreed there should be no change on this committee

Neighbourhood Watch – Sub-Committee Chairman B. Wright regretted due to work commitments she would be resigning. A new Chairman will be elected at the next meeting of NW.

06/004 Appointment of Wardens – present Wardens will remain the same

06/005 Nominations to other Bodies – no nominations are required in coming year

06/006 Dates of Meetings for the Coming Year

These were briefly discussed. A decision as to 12 full meetings are required will be made at the next meeting.

06/007 Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th April 2006

The minutes were read and approved

Proposed : Councillor D. Sharpe

Seconded : Councillor A.Howard

06/008 Matters Arising & Clerks Report

There were no matters arising

Clerks Report

The Clerk had little to report as she had been away.

A letter of thanks had been sent to the Police Authority for their prompt handling of the proposed rave on 16th April

06/009 Accounts Payable

Curators salary for current month	£140.00
Curators salary for April 06 (unpaid last month)	£140.00
Clerk salary for current month	£200.00
Smith Hetherington – grass cutting etc.	£221.00
BT Telephone account ¼ to April 06	£ 56.22
Allianz Cornhill – Insurance renewal	£387.12
Resource at Kings Cliffe – Youth Club	£ 24.00

It is noted that the precept for the first half of the year has been received

Proposed : Councillor A. Howard

Seconded : Councillor N.Ford

06.010 Planning

Extensions : 55 Bridge Street : EN/06/00188/FUL – Granted - noted

Front porch (revised) : 2 Park Close : EN/06/00489/FUL – Granted - noted

New Sports Facility : off Kingsmead : EN/06/00475/OUT – Granted - noted

06/011. Easter weekend ‘rave’

It was agreed this matter had been fully discussed at the Public Meeting. Letters of thanks will go to County Councillors and the Police Officers who attended the meeting.

06/012 Police : Invitation to evening event

Councillor A.Howard will be attending to this event.

06/013 Sub-Committee Reports

Burial Board

Minutes of a Meeting of the Burial Board held at 7:30pm. on 18th April 2006 in the Memorial Hall Parlour.

Present: Cllr Daphne Sharpe (chairman), Cllr Tracy Isaac, Cllr Nigel Ford, Mr Wilfred Court, Mr Norman Embleton. Apologies: Cllr Jenny Dixon, Mr John Barratt

Minutes of the last meeting : Approved.

Added: It was agreed that payment should be sent at the same time as memorial applications.

Cemetery : Progress is being made on the purchase of land for the cemetery extension. This land is L-shaped and is approximately one acre. Berry Brothers are acting as the land agents. There was a discussion about removing the hedge on the southern boundary (except for mature trees) and planting a replacement hedge on the new southern boundary. Further details of paths, fencing etc will be discussed when the land purchase has been finalized. Bernard Howard will be contacted regarding the whereabouts of the Howard seat, which was removed for renovation some months ago. A request has been received for permission to place a seat in memory of the late Terry Curtis. It was agreed that the south-east corner would be a suitable location. The existing seat will be relocated, probably to the new extension.

Memorial Applications The BB chairman was contacted by J.G.Cross Memorials. They find it inconvenient to send payment with applications, and would prefer to wait for approval. They are then able to request the payment from the customer. It was agreed that they could do this, as the parish council will receive the money before the memorial is erected. It was agreed that in the future the minimum size grave plot sold will be half a plot. Grave of Helmut Schuleit. This has a broken kerbstone. Wilfred agreed to write to the family requesting that it be repaired as soon as possible. Flat tablet on existing kerbed grave. David C. Harman-Brown Approved.

Churchyard : Nothing to report.

Any Other Business It was reported that a black plastic sheet has been put over the fence by the residents of 48 Bridge Street. The chairman will contact the residents and ask them to remove it. Rabbits are continuing to cause problems by burrowing. Nigel volunteered to investigate the latest reported incident and repair the holes with material from the spoil heap. Colin Smith will be asked to back fill behind the

new path edging with material from the spoil heap. . He will also be asked to remove the debris in the area in front of the west hedge and reseed it.

Next Burial Board meeting will be on Monday 5th June in the Memorial Hall Parlour at 7.30pm.

Community Safety & Neighbourhood Watch

Sub-Committee Chairman B. Wright gave a copy of the following report to Councillors:-

Neighbourhood Watch Report 2005/06

Benefits of Neighbourhood Watch

- Reduce crime
- Encourage vigilance
- Reduce fear of crime
- Foster community spirit
- Improve home vehicle and personal security

After setting up 18 zones in the village each with a zone co-coordinator, we organized 2 major activities and a number of targeted activities.

Property marking

A team of police were available to mark any property large or small with the owners post code. One person took advantage of this.

Personal security meeting

We still keep a watching brief on issues that come under the Neighbourhood Watch remit and will respond where appropriate to the needs of the village.

After canvassing for the type of information the village wanted, we set up an evening when the County Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator and the Northants police officer in charge of home security were invited to give advice on home and personal security, only one member of the public attended.

This was most unfortunate; these activities take a long time and a good deal of work to organize. It does not reflect well on the village when despite extensive advertising no one bothers to turn up

The focus was changed therefore to concentrate on those known to be vulnerable, with information on the new "Nominate a Neighbour Scheme", and the Lions Club containers for personal details to be kept in the fridge.

Neighbourhood watch information has been placed in the post office and the doctor's surgery.

Sub-Committee Chairman B. Wright regretted due to work commitments she would be resigning. A new Chairman will be elected at the next meeting of NW.

06/014 Other Correspondence Received : Various correspondences were noted or circulated.

06/015 Any Other Business

Councillor B. Howard complained that there are still problems with the footpath at the bottom of the Moors. The Chairman replied that he understood the problem had been addressed. Councillor N. Ford said he would inspect the same and report his findings to the Clerk. If necessary she will inform Bob Birkett, Footpaths Officer at NCC.

Councillor B. Wyles reported that vehicles are entering the village from the Blatherwycke Road far too fast. A speed check had been carried out last year and Andrew Leighton, the Highways Engineer had said he would inspect this. A letter will be sent to him asking for further comments.

He also reported a Parcel Force lorry which was regularly seen in the village but not delivering. He will take the number and this will be reported to them.

Councillor N. Ford reported articulated vehicles rat-running from the A47 to Kings Cliffe Industrial Estate. The Clerk will contact the Manager of the Estate.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.35.pm.

Hilary Blunt,
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