

# KINGS CLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of the Parish Council was held on Thursday 10th July 2008 at 7.30.pm. at the Memorial Hall parlour.

Vice Chairman M. Day who chaired the meeting welcomed new Councillor Mary Wharton to the meeting.

Prior to the meeting, Councillor B. Wyles gave a report on the recent break-ins and thefts from the gardens on Morehay Lane. Despite heavy locks on sheds, many items were stolen, including rotavators and garden tools. The locks, which he displayed at the meeting, had been cut through with bolt croppers. He emphasised the need to be vigilant at all times and asks that anyone seeing strange vehicles in the area should report these immediately to the Police. This was the second burglary in this area within a week; items had earlier been stolen from farm buildings in the area.

**08/039 Present:** Vice Chairman M. Day, Councillors L. Crane, J. Dixon, B. Howard, P. Lang Norris, M. Wharton and B. Wyles

**08/040 Apologies for Absence :** Chairman A. Howard, Councillors K. Howard and C. Williams.

**08/041 Declarations of Interest : None**

**08/042 Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th June 2008 : Approved**

Proposed : Councillor B. Wyles

Seconded : Councillor L. Crane

**08/043 Matters Arising :** All matters arising will be covered in Clerks report or the agenda

**08/044 Clerks Report**

CC Heather Smith and DC Roger Glithero will be attending the August meeting; the Chairman had wondered an August was necessary, but this, together with the possible attendance of an Augean representative and John Sweeney from the Environment Agency, make a meeting necessary.

A letter has been received from Wilfred Court regarding the cost of the new direction signs to the Resource Centre and the Memorial Hall. This was briefly discussed several months ago and he promised to come back to us with a price; however, the signs have been erected and the Memorial Hall are asking if the Parish Council will pay for the signs. This is £108.10. All other costs have been met. This was proposed and agreed

Proposed : Councillor L. Crane

Seconded : Councillor B. Wyles

Mrs. Morley of 1 Church Walk has asked for permission to clear a tree which has fallen from the Pitchell on to her land. This has been agreed.

A complaint regarding the general state of Eagle Lane has been sent to ENC with a request to clear the weeds and leaves

Several parishioners have complained that they are not receiving the Nene Valley News. I telephoned the paper and they have asked for street names and post codes. Anyone not receiving the paper should telephone 01522523515.

Complaints to both DC Glithero and ENC regarding the state of the Willow Walk in Kingsmead and the haste with which the new plans were passed have been answered. Trevor Watson, Chief Planning Officer, wrote a long letter to justify the speed of this, but since then DC Glithero has said it is extremely unlikely they will be built in the near future due to the present economic climate. Richard Hankins from ENC has agreed to a temporary measure to overcome the problems in

accessing the walk; a hard-core ramp will be built up to the adder fence to enable walkers to cross this obstruction and will level the area which floods, with hardcore within the next few weeks.

**08/045 Accounts Payable : Approved**

Curators Salary (current month – new curator	£ 150.00
Clerks Salary (current month)	£ 200.00
Clerks expenses Jan/Jun 2008-07-02	£ 104.47
Smith Hetherington, grass cutting	£ 250.00
Chattertons Solicitors : Search fee for cemetery land	£ 55.23
E-on : Lighting charges ¼ to June	£ 561.84

The increase in Curators salary was agreed by mutual consent ( see minute 08/0 below)

The Annual accounts have been prepared by Stephenson Smart for the Audit Office : before these can be signed, the following minute is required:

**08/045(i) Approval of audited accounts**

Stephenson Smart have carried out the internal audit which was approved for signature and submission to the Audit Commission approved accountants, BDO Stoy Hayward LLP . The system of Internal Council, as advised by Stephenson Smart is also adopted by this Council.

Proposed : Councillor B. Wyles

Seconded : Councillor L. Crane

**08/046 Planning**

**Applications :** None received

**Granted : Noted**

100 Wood Road : Two storey dwelling, garage conversion etc : EN/07/00284/FUL

99 Wood Road : Two storey extension : EN/08/01003/FUL

**08/047 Purchase of Cemetery Land : Update**

This is going ahead, albeit very slowly. Chattertons have advised that a Chancel and Environmental search are necessary. This was approved and a cheque will be sent in payment.

**08/048 Kings Cliffe Website : Update**

This will all happen in the fullness of time when Mr. Brown has the time to spare to instruct the Clerk. It was agreed there is no immediate urgency for this.

**08/049 KCEA & KC Community & Area Sports Project :Update**

There is much activity on the site and it is hoped the grass will be sown on the pitches to make them useable next year.

**08/050 Augean : request to attend August meeting**

Nothing more has transpired, however there is a Liaison meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> July which will be attended by Councillor M. Day and the Clerk when we will hopefully under the issues more fully.

**08/051 Highways Issues**

County Councillor Heather Smith will attend the August meeting; she is pushing Highways very hard to complete all the tasks we outlined during the Spring of this year; if this is not possible, she has asked for a timetable of when these tasks are likely to be done.

## **08/052 Gazette Entry for August**

Items for the Gazette were discussed and agreed

## **08/053 Burial Board**

Mr. Hakes has resigned as curator for the cemetery and after phone calls to other Clerk and Councils we have been very lucky to find and appoint new curator, Mr. Richard Brown. He is very enthusiastic and has been working almost non-stop for the last week; he is happy with the moderate increase in salary (as mentioned briefly in Accounts, above) which was mutually agreed. Councillor L. Crane, as a member of the BB committee, has kindly volunteered to put the bin bags out for the dustmen each week. Sadly there are still complaints that flowers are being thrown into the hedge; please will mourners put dead flowers etc., in the bins provided, if they are full, please leave rubbish beside these bins. The gravel paths in the cemetery have been sprayed to destroy the weeds.

## **08/054 Neighbourhood Watch**

Councillor P. Lang Norris will post an entry in the Gazette regarding crime prevention etc., in the village when appropriate.

**08/055 Other Correspondence Received :** Various correspondences were circulated.

## **08/056 Any Other Business**

Councillor Lang Norris raised the point of the sad state of the new footpath to Apethorpe. As previously reported, there is no provision for a full cut (up to the bordering hedges) to be done by NCC; it is hoped that some compromise can be reached with Apethorpe to have this cut right back to the hedges thus making a more user friendly and tidy walk.

Several Councillors raised the issue of weeds and self-seeded flowers on the pavements in several parts of the village; unfortunately Highways no longer deal with this problem. Several overgrown bushes are obstructing pavements, Councillor M. Day will speak to the respective residents.

Councillor B. Howard asked if the grass behind the barriers at the bottom of Wansford Hill and behind the fence opposite can be dealt with. Councillor M. Day will ask Mr. Colin Smith if he can do this.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.20.pm. The next meeting will be on 14<sup>th</sup> August, venue to be posted depending on the nature of the meeting.

**Hilary Blunt, Clerk**  
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