

# **KINGS CLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL**

The Annual Public meeting of the Parish Council was held on Thursday 8th April 2010 at 7.30.pm. at King's Cliffe Memorial Hall

## **09/177 Welcome**

Chairman Andrew Howard welcomed five members of the public and councillors to the meeting.

**09/178 Present :** Chairman A. Howard, Vice-Chairman M. Wharton, D. Councillor R. Glithero, Councillors M. Day, C. Williams, P. Lang Norris, B. Wyles, K. Howard, B. Howard. Mr. D. Gilbert, Canon L. and Mrs. G. Caddick, Mr. G. Bladen and Mr. T. Williams.

## **09/179 Apologies for Absence**

County Councillor H. Smith, Councillors L. Crane, G. Kingston and J. Dixon.

**09/180 Minutes of the Public Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2009 :** Approved

Proposed : Councillor M. Day

Seconded : Councillor C. Williams

**09/181 Any Matters Arising :** matters arising will be discussed throughout the meeting.

## **09/182 Chairman's Annual Report**

The Chairman commented on the lack of attendees, but has taken this as a sign that we must be getting things right !

The Augean submission for depositing Low Level Nuclear waste has had a high profile during the last year, attracting the attention of the media, County and District Councillors and Phil Hope MP. After much hard work by the Parish Council and Waste Watchers both of whom held Public meetings, this was eventually refused by NCC; it is understood that this will go to appeal, but as the site officially only has three more years of active life, it is hoped the appeal will fail to overturn the decision.

The Council would like to thank Waste Watchers, especially Kirk and the other members who worked so hard to achieve the final result.

The cemetery extension has not yet been fenced; the bad winter has delayed work and although it is hoped it will be fenced shortly, no hedges or trees can now be considered until the Autumn. The rabbit problem is being addressed and when rabbit fencing is in place, it is hoped the problem will diminish, although it is accepted it is unlikely these pests will be completely eradicated.

KC1 Site : The Council have had two meetings with the prospective buyers of this site, and have recently received a revised plan. It is unanimously felt, by the Parish Council and many residents that this site will be very overcrowded and that the 150 houses proposed are far too many in one area. The increased traffic movements will not be acceptable in this already traffic challenged village. However, the site is developed, there are several bonuses for the village, the main one being a Children's Playground adjacent to the Club, which would be very welcome.

It has been agreed with Highways that Children Crossing signs will be re-instated on Wood Road, a sign to divert heavy traffic onto Wood Road avoiding the centre of the village; however, the County do not consider a pedestrian crossing a priority at Wood Road/Wood Lane. We will continue to press for flashing speed warning signs at the entrances to the village.

The adders in Kingsmead caused considerable problems; and to top this, the smart gates to protect the adders were stolen; they have now been replaced.

There are still concerns that there is no sheltered accommodation for the elderly in the village. A warden-supervised complex would be ideal, but it is understood that travelling wardens are now used.

### **09/183 County Councillor Heather Smith : Annual Report**

County Councillor H. Smith was unfortunately unable to attend and sent her apologies.

### **09/184 District Councillor Roger Glithero : Annual Report**

District Councillor R. Glithero said that the Chairman had already mentioned most of the salient points for the year.

ENC have kept Council Tax at the same level as last year; they will be making large savings, feeling the sector has expanded too much. There will be no salary increases for two or possibly three years. He said the staff have been very cooperative. Vacant posts will not be filled. The use of IT will be increased; e-mails instead of post wherever possible.

The Recycling Campaign is proving to be very successful and receiving credits.

### **09/185 Open Forum**

Mrs. Caddick queried the number of houses planned for the KC1 site, saying she felt she was speaking for most of the village. She also asked if the parking regulations per home were still officially one and a half spaces per home.

DC R. Glithero said this was still the case; he also felt that 100 – 110 houses was a much more realistic number of dwellings. Any plans will come before the Planning Panel before any decision is made. However, we must be aware of the planning gains, the Play Area is agreed and there will be contributions to KCASP and other organisations.

The Chairman replied that although Tim Slater from Charles Church Homes had attended two meetings to assess local feeling, it would appear from the draft plan received that they were still intending asking for 150 dwellings. He also felt that the Planning Committee frequently ignored local opinion, using the new shop front at the Village Shopper as an example; this was originally refused on conservation grounds, but after Councillor Glithero had spoken in favour at a planning meeting, commonsense ruled the day and permission was granted, which has altered the appearance of this building in its' favour.

Councillor B. Wyles is concerned about the clearing of the Huskissons Lodge site; he feels there should be a barrier. However, it is understood that landscaping by way of a hedge and mature trees is imminent.

Mrs. Caddick said that she agreed with the Chairman's thoughts earlier on sheltered housing; sadly, the existing almshouses are in the wrong part of the village. Allegedly some years ago, it was discussed that the almshouses should be sold and new ones built within the village, but nothing had come of this.

DC R. Glithero said it could be useful to invite someone from Spire Homes, who own most of the bungalows for the elderly in the village to discuss this.

As there were no more questions, the Chairman closed the Public meeting, thanking those who had attended and opening the monthly meeting.

## **MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**09/186 Declarations of Interest** : None

**09/187 Minutes of the Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2010** : Approved

Proposed : Councillor K. Howard

Seconded : Vice Chairman M. Wharton

### **09/188 Matters arising**

A letter was sent to D Councillor R. Glithero and ENC Planning asking them to follow up a planning issue of a garage being used as a dwelling without permission. He replied that the Enforcement Officer had been reminded to deal with this as a matter of urgency.

### **09/189 Clerks report**

Spire Homes have been contacted with a request to repair the wall at the top of Coleman's Lane.

The owners of the Butts Cottage were politely asked to trim back their hedge, which is overhanging the pavement on Wood Road. However, the report of this problem was wrong and we have apologised to Mr & Mrs Lumsden. Can Councillors please inspect any problems reported (other than failed street lights) before reporting them to the Clerk

The light outside the Primary School has been repaired.

A formal letter has been sent to ENC regarding a Give Way sign from Kingsmead (Station Road) onto Wood Road. They had refused this initially, but it was agreed at the last meeting a sign is needed there. CC Heather Smith is funding the Give Way sign from Station Road onto Park Street.

The item on gravestone repairs in the minutes : Finnemores did the last repairs, but the repairs failed and they refunded our costs. See Burial Board below.

### **09/190 Accounts payable** : Agreed

Curators Salary (current month)	£ 150.00
Clerks Salary (current month)	£ 200.00
Nicholas Evans : repair to handrail in Eagle Lane	£ 101.63
NCALC : Annual subscription	£ 227.91

Proposed : Councillor M. Day

Seconded : Councillor K. Howard

### **09/191 Planning Applications**

31 West Street : Request for tree pollarding : EN/10/00530/TCA/ : No objection

#### **Granted by ENC**

9 Wood Road : Two storey extension : noted

### **09/192 Speed warning signs**

Despite NCC saying that flashing speeding signs are not necessary at the village boundaries, it is still felt these are needed. A letter will be sent to C Councillor H. Smith, asking for this to be reconsidered. Otherwise, the Council feel they should consider funding these from the precept.

### **09/193 Landfill decision by NCC**

The Chairman attended the meeting at NCC and spoke against the application. There were 20 speakers against and after a meeting lasting over 3 hours, the application was unanimously refused, despite the recommendation was to allow it. It is understood this will go to an appeal.

### **09/194 Highways : Works update**

The Clerk will again chase up the addition of a sign at the Park Street/Station Road turning to use Wood Road “avoiding village centre” which has been promised by Highways. In addition, the “Children Crossing” signs requested for Wood Road. The Police have unofficially informed the Clerk that “Beware, Horses” signs will be placed at all entrances to the village. There is already a sign in Bridge Street, which was erected 17 years ago at Mr. Blunts request.

Councillor B. Howard raised the issue of potholes, and pointed out that £100,000 was earmarked for these repairs. Some have been repaired and the repairs have failed; it was pointed out that this is a nationwide problem, following the hard winter; Highways are making this a priority issue.

**09/195 Gazette Entry for May edition** : Discussed and agreed

### **09/196 Burial Board**

BB Chairman M. Day reported that the fencing would be done as soon as the contractor can get to us; because of the hard winter, he is behind with essential works. Rabbit fencing : this will be done not by digging into the ground, as this will prove almost impossible in some parts of the cemetery, but by securing wire on strimmed grass. This is considered very successful.

Rabbit traps are now in place in the cemetery and are inspected daily. The warrens in the grounds will be filled once it is felt the problem has been dealt with.

Gravestones : Mr. John Barrett is looking into this and a risk assessment will be carried out.

The tender for grasscutting has been approved.

### **09/197 Neighbourhood Watch**

An act of senseless vandalism was carried out during a performance of My Fair Lady by the Players. The handrail in Eagle Lane was ripped out of the wall. This has since been repaired.

The monthly crime figures are again up in number. The largest area is theft. Councillor M. Wharton will be attending the forthcoming Community Safety Panel meeting in Oundle.

We ask residents to be suspicious of cold callers and to keep doors locked against opportunist criminals. Do not open the door to strangers. Always lock parked vehicles, even if only briefly leaving them to post a letter or buy a newspaper; hopefully these precautions will help to reduce the crime rate in the village. Report anything suspicious to the Police on 03000 111 222.

**09/198 Other Correspondence Received** : Discussed or circulated

**09/199 Any Other Business** : None

The meeting closed at 8.55.pm. The next meeting will be the AGM, to be held in the Memorial Hall Parlour at 7.30.pm. on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2010.