

KINGS CLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING

The Annual Public Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Thursday 11th April 2013 at 7.30.pm. at the KCA Community Centre, Kingsmead.

Prior to the meeting, from 7.pm. the Community Centre was open for anyone to have a look round and complimentary tea and coffee will be served. Thank you to Trevor and Margaret Burton.

12/224 : Welcome : The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, saying it was nice to see so many people. He explained there was no Clerk present and wished her a speedy recovery.

12/225 : Present : Chairman A. Howard, Vice-Chairman M. Day, Councillors L. Crane, G. Kingston, C. Leuchars, N. Ford, R. Brown, G. Caddick, C. Williams, and J Atkinson. A number of parishioners attended.

12/226 : Apologies for Absence : County Councillors H. Smith, District Councillor Glithero, Councillor R. Meadows, Clerk H. Blunt and Mr. L. Caddick.

12/227 : Minutes of the Public Meeting held on 12th April 2012 : Circulated and approved

Proposed : Councillor Ford

Seconded : Councillor Crane

12/228 : Matters Arising : none

12/229 : Chairman's Annual Report

During the last year we have again had a demanding time as we have seen our village develop and your Parish Council has been working with various bodies to ensure that we get the best outcome for the community.

Sovereign Grange : The development of this site will significantly increase the number of houses and parishioners – over 30 of the 145 houses are already occupied.

Play Area : The children's play area is now complete and is well used – we have been trying for over 100 years to get a play area – now we have two!

In due course this should be transferred to the Parish Council who will then maintain this area.

Chicanes on Wood Road : We are still talking to the County Council with regards the chicanes which have been promised – we hope to see these in place during the coming year, which should slow traffic significantly in this area.

Village Field : The legal papers for the transfer of the Village Field to the Parish Council were completed at the last meeting – we hope to have confirmation shortly that this is now formally in the hands of the Parish Council and space for the village to use.

Schooling : We understand that the Middle School and the Endowed School will be joining together as an Academy from September. There is speculation as to the implications of this for the future of the existing sites within the village.

We have written to the Chair of Governors of both schools asking to be kept informed of developments. We understand that a number of ideas are being considered and that in due course there will be consultation on this.

12/230 : County Councillor Heather Smith's Annual Report

I must apologise for not being with you this evening but we are in the period prior to the County elections on May 2nd. I am however allowed to give a report on the previous year.

The County Council has been making sustained progress on a number of fronts since my report last year. For the third year running we have managed to continue a freeze on council tax which means that over the last eight years of the administration the average council tax rise has been 2.3%.

We are in the second year of our four year financial plan and this year we have had to absorb a central government revenue cut of £33m, we have managed to absorb this reduction whilst still funding essential frontline services. Whilst 600 libraries nationally are expected to close, the County Council have managed not only to avoid any closures but are investing and expanding the range of services offered by libraries in the county including free wi-fi facilities, the opening of job clubs and Sunday opening.

I am pleased to announce that the council have chosen BT as their partner to roll out our new Next Generation Superfast Broadband programme which will see help for rural communities where broadband is so slow. We are scheduled to have 90% county coverage by the end of 2015 and full coverage by 2017. This will give a huge boost to rural communities and businesses.

The damage to our roads has been enormous throughout the County and has been particularly bad within our area. The huge amount of water coupled with freezing conditions has caused thousands of potholes. These are now being repaired but the continuing need for overnight gritting has meant repairs have taken longer than intended.

The Kings Cliffe (East Northants Resource Centre) hazardous waste site continues to cause anxieties in the area. LLW is now imported but is in small quantities to date. The County continues to ensure that our policies do not welcome the importation of this waste from outside the County but cannot overturn the Secretary of State ruling. We apply pressure on other Counties to try to ensure their policies include acceptance of waste created within their counties. We are being successful with Inspectors refusing to accept policies from elsewhere where no provision has been made. I hope over time this will ensure that only small quantities do come into our County.

From the election in May this County Division name changes from Prebendal to Oundle and at the same time the number of County Councillors reduces from 73 to 57 meaning each councillor will have around 10,000 electors to look after. This will contribute towards the future reduction in costs for the County Council.

I hope to see you all again soon.

12/231 : District Councillor Roger Glithero's Annual Report

District Councillor was unable to attend; but he had attended the March meeting, when he had reported any current matters to the Council.

12/232 : Open Forum

The Chairman gave the floor to the audience.

Trevor Burton voiced his concerns regarding traffic problems at the junction of Wood Road and Oak Lane. He is concerned that the gate on Wood Road to the new play area is locked; and children are kicking this and climbing over the wall. The PC will investigate this.

He is also concerned about the demolition of an asbestos garage at 72 West Street, adjacent to his property. The Chairman replied that this planning application was to be discussed later in the agenda and the Enforcement Officer would be contacted if any problems were found.

David Hellard welcomed the PC to KCA. He expressed concerns that once the chicanes are on Wood Road, large vehicles and tractors will have problems negotiating them. He also asked if the residents would have any benefits from the broadband cables being laid through the village. The Chairman replied unfortunately there are no benefits to the community; this cable from Corby to a large data-base centre in Cambridgeshire..

George Smid said that 90% Northamptonshire has been promised super-fast broadband by 2015. The Chairman said we were on the list for this.

Angus Jurkschat commented that his car had been damaged twice when parked in West Street due to cars being parked thoughtlessly and HGV's have problems getting through. There are also speeding issues. Large vehicles should be encouraged to use Wood Road. The Chairman replied that most of the lorries in West Street are delivering to shops, otherwise they should follow the signpost on Park Street indicating them to use Wood Road to get to Corby. The PC will speak to Highways regarding the parking problems. Mr. Jurkschat said he spoken to his GP and they would be delighted to have a surgery at Kingsmead to alleviate some of the parking problems in West Street.

MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

12/233 :Declarations of Interest : None

12/234 :Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th March 2013

Proposed : Councillor Ford

Seconded : Councillor Caddick

12/235 : Clerks report

A letter of support has been sent to KCA to help their application for a grant.

SWEET are happy for us to combine fallen gravestone repairs with the re-building of the wall in the Pitchell when applying for a grant for these works.

Letters have been sent to all relevant parties regarding our concerns on the future of the village schools.

We have confirmed, on advice from E-on and NCC, that we will adopt the street lights in Sovereign Grange only once the roads have been adopted by NCC.

Please help to make everyone aware that the Polling Station for the County Council election will be the Village Hall.

12/235 : Matters arising

We have no further information regarding proposed barriers at the Endowed School.

12/236 : Accounts payable

Clerks Salary : current month	£ 300.00
Richard Brown : Cemetery & Churchyard	£ 320.00
Parish Gazette : annual subscription	£ 75.00
E-on UK : New Bulkhead light to 106 West Street	£ 336.00
NCALC : Annual subscription	£ 249.61
E-on UK : Lighting charge to April 2013	£ 607.44

Councillor Russell questioned the E-on lighting charge; this will be verified with the Clerk and signed.

Proposed : Councillor Atkinson

Seconded : Councillor Kingston

12/237 : Financial Position : noted

Bank balances:- Current account £3232.95; Deposit account £3137.68, Bequest account £6160.43

12/238 : Planning Applications

72 West Street : Demolish existing and erect new garage/workshop & car port : 13/00427/FUL

ENC Planning will be asked to ensure that random rubble stone will be used to match the existing building.

45A West Street : Single Storey extensions to rear and side of building : 13/00349/LBC/00348/FUL

The Parish Council are pleased that our previous comments on the roofing materials have been taken into consideration, but object even more strongly to the lack of parking spaces and a turning area for this large dwelling; there now appears to be no vehicular access to the rear of the property, therefore no turning space and vehicles will need to reverse in or out into this already extremely congested part of the village.

We feel this is quite unacceptable adjacent to two of the busiest shopping areas in the village.

Granted (by ENC) : noted

49 Park Street : First floor extension to provide master bedroom with ensuite bathroom :
13/00104/FUL

12/239 : Childrens' Play Area : Chicanes on Wood Road

Councillor Day said that there was flooding on the playground site, causing water to come through a manhole in Wood Road; Trevor Burton agreed with this. The Clerk will report this to ENC and Anglian Water.

12/240 : New Homes Bonus : meeting to be arranged with Mike Greenway

The Clerk will arrange the above meeting, if necessary.

With regard to the Section 106 documentation : the Endowed School was expecting to receive a large amount of money from this, but there is a clause in the agreement which states this will only be received if the school is over subscribed. A letter will be sent to ENC and to Councillor Smith, as NCC will also received £200,000 plus but it would appear now that the schools will be given nothing.

A bid will be sent to ENC for a footpath from Willow Lane to the entrance to the Village Field and the gateway into KCA. Councillor Leuchars also suggested a notice board at Willow Walk giving information about the old railway station.

12/241 :Village Field land transfer – see Chairman’s report.

12/242 : Parish Plan : Update

There will be an Open Day at the Village Hall on 23rd June; all village organisations will be asked to have a stall and there will be questionnaires asking what residents would like for the village.

12/243 : Pitchell Wall : quotations for KCEA application

The quotation from King's Cliffe Properties was felt to be the most suitable one. We will apply to KCEA for funding for this project.

12/244 : Allotments

It have agreed that two allotments of Kirks may be used by Transitions, who will invite people to take a small area for their own use, once it is cultivated following the removal of the willow trees which have been on the plots for some years. It is unlikely these plots will be viable during the coming year. There is still a waiting list for full allotments.

12/245 : Gazette entry for May 2013 : discussed and agreed.

12/246 : Burial Board : nothing to report

12/247 : Police : Monthly Crime report : noted

12/248 : Other Correspondence Received : circulated by e-mail to all Councillors

12/249 : Any Other Business : none

The Chairman thanked everyone and closed the meeting. The next meeting will be the AGM in the Village Hall Parlour on Thursday 9th May at 7.30.pm.