

KINGS CLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

The monthly meeting of the Parish Council was held on Thursday 12th September 2013 at 7.30.p.m. in the parlour of the Memorial Hall.

13/081 : Present : Chairman A. Howard, County Councillor H. Smith, District Councillor R. Glithero, Councillors M. Day, L. Crane, N. Ford, G. Kingston, C. Williams, C. Leuchars, R. Brown and G. Caddick and J. Atkinson .

13/082 : Apologies for Absence : Councillor R. Meadows

13/083 : Declarations of Interest : None

13/084 : Minutes of the meeting held on 8th August 2013: Approved

Proposed : Councillor Ford Seconded : Councillor Atkinson

The Chairman invited Councillor Heather Smith to address the meeting. For the last few months, there has been confusion, both with NCC and ENC regarding the Section 106 agreement monies which the PC believed were due to local schools. Councillor Smith had been totally misinformed by both Councils regarding this; she was informed and had reported to us that no money would be available, although the Section 106 agreement states that this is due.

However, Councillor Russell Brown did not accept this and relentlessly investigated the matter. The outcome is with both NCC and ENC now believe that the money is still due to the School. Councillor Smith has received a written apology from NCC for misinformation given and ENC are now pursuing the matter. The PC will also follow this up for regular updates on progress.

Councillor Smith said that all respect should be given to Councillor Brown for his uncompromising determination; the meeting congratulated him with a round of noisy applause, which is a rare occurrence at a PC meeting!

13/085 : Clerks Report

Highways have been contacted regarding the problems with the lane leading down from Hall Yard to the river. They were asked to contact Mr. Atkinson directly if necessary – I have had no further correspondence from them.

An e-mail was sent to Apethorpe Parish meeting asking if they would contact the landowners of the land between Apethorpe and Second Drift to trim back hedges which were encroaching on the road. This has been done.

Chairman Howard has placed traffic warning signs throughout the village. We understand that this had made some people aware that they do actually exceed the speed limit.

A letter was sent to a resident in Royce's Lane/Wood Road, regarding the overhanging buddleia tree; this has now been cut down.

The overhanging bushes at Kingsmead : a letter was sent to Richard Hankins asking for these to be cut back; no reply and the offending bushes are still there.

James Adams has been officially thanked for cutting the Village Field FOC.

Complaints have been received regarding the Mobile Library which has not visited the village for three months; all manner of excuses were offered; passed this on to Heather, who has had similar complaints from other villages; Kettering Library have now promised it will visit 'Cliffe on 21st September (scheduled for 3rd Sat in each month).

Mr. Chris Jackson asked permission to partially prune a tree on Malting's Green to facilitate the use of a thermal image camera given by the Crime Prevention guys to the Village Hall; this was given with a caveat to be careful.

There has been some vandalism in the Park which has been reported to Persimmon Homes. We have had a reply from the Land Manager saying the transfer of this land is in hand. A query re the entrance to the Park was received from a resident of Oak Lane, but he was referred to Persimmon, as we can do nothing about this at present.

A resident of Wood Road has complained of a cellar flooding badly, even during the dry spell we have had, since the houses were built in Oak Lane. Persimmon has promised to investigate this.

13/086 : Matters Arising

James Adams has refused any payment for cutting the Village Field, but asked for a donation to be sent to Riding for the Disabled. This was agreed and will be on next month list of payments.

The discussion regarding the revamping of the Horsewater; Councillor Day will mention this at the next KCEA meeting, with a view to obtaining a grant.

Although we have informed Persimmon we wish to take possession of the Park, it was agreed that all remedial works must be completed by them before they sign it over to us. ENC will be informed of this decision.

Willow Lane : advice was sought from NCALC regarding applying for ownership of the stretch of Willow Lane from the houses up to the entrances to the Village Field and KCA. Although there were reservations regarding the maintenance of this road if we take possession, it was decided a useable access road was of greater importance. Advice will be sought from the Councils' solicitors.

The consultation of the future of local schools will be held in the coming months.

13/087 : Accounts Payable : agreed

Clerks Salary (current month)	£ 312.00
A. E. Blunt : Grass cutting etc., burial grounds : August	£ 320.00
ENC : Annual loan repayment on cemetery extension	£ 1,750.00
E-on : Replacement box on light : 67 Wood Road (as per quote)	£ 300.00
E-on : Quarter electricity charge to Sept 2013	£ 372.10
HMRC : Clerks PAYE for month	£ 3.00
Anglian Water : Cemetery water charge ½ year to August	£ 17.04
Kings Cliffe Active : Grass cutting cemetery extension	£ 50.00
BDO LLP : Audit Commission accountancy fee	£ 240.00

Proposed : Councillor Day Seconded : Councillor Caddick

13/088 : Financial Position : noted

Bank balances:- Current £ 3,647.23; Deposit £3,138.46; Bequest account: £ 6,173.37

13/089 : Planning

Applications

Old Rectory, 21 West Street : Works on trees in front garden : 13/01432/TCA : no objection

Granted (by ENC) : noted

24 Bridge Street : Demolition of old and erect of new timber barn : 13/01200/LBC/ 13/01199/FUL

63 West Street : Replacement of windows and doors : East/South elevations : 13/00841/FUL
Two Hoots, Church Walk : Two storey front and single storey rear extension : 13/01090/FUL

13/090 : The Park/Village Field/Section 106 agreement : Various : CC Heather Smith

All the above subjects covered in Clerks Report or Matters Arising.

13/091 : Royce's Lane : Letter from NCC

The matter of a request to close this lane by a resident has been discussed at length with NCC Highways and Councillor Smith. Apart from the legal complications of closing any highway, Councillors feel that any closure would be strongly resisted by the majority of residents of 'Cliffe. They have discussed this locally and there is a strong feeling that this must remain as part of the public highway; the safety issues of speeding are governed by the narrow aspect of the lane and the bollards. The Chairman asked for a show of hands in favour of leaving things as they are and only one Councillor refrained.

13/092 : Parish Plan : Update

Councillor Atkinson reported that consolidating the survey responses is going well, albeit it is hard work! The deadline for surveys for anyone who has not completed theirs, or feels it is too late, is 10th October. Please post your survey through the letterbox of 30 West Street.

13/093 : Gazette entry for October 2013 : discussed and agreed

13/094 : Burial Board

BB Chairman Crane said both burial grounds are looking good. A letter had been sent to a resident adjacent to the cemetery regarding the felling of a tree, which the Council felt belonged to the cemetery land. The reply stated that the tree did not belong to the cemetery and had been in poor condition. The deeds for this land will be examined to see who actually owns the boundary in question.

13/095 : Police : Monthly Crime Statistics : noted

13/096 : Other Correspondence Received : circulated or e-mailed to all Councillors

13/097 : Any Other Business

District Councillor asked if there were any outstanding matter which Councillors wished to discuss

Councillor Brown asked about the allowance for maintenance of £3.60 per metre for the land around the play area in The Park. Councillor Glithero promised to chase this up with ENC. He said that Elizabeth Wilson, who had been the Interim Planning Officer had left and we should address all enquiries to Sharn Matthews, CEO.

The Chairman told him that although we had asked Persimmon to transfer the Park to the PC – as mentioned earlier in the meeting; would he please convey to ENC that we were not prepared to take ownership until everything has been remedied to our satisfaction. Although the completion certificate for the play equipment has been agreed, there is the outstanding matter of landscaping, fencing, access points etc.

Councillor Brown suggested a site meeting should be arranged.

Councillor Glithero was also asked to investigate the Willow Lane issue. It was suggested that an application for a grant should be prepared well in advance of the next round of requests a group would be formed at the next meeting to move this forward.

A resident had asked that the matter of street lighting being on throughout the hours of darkness should be revisited, as he felt lighting encouraged thieves, as they could see as opposed to having to use a torch which could alert residents. This was discussed, but, in the past, we had asked E-on about this and the cost of replacing all the solar sensors on street lights with timed devices was prohibitive and the amount of electricity saving was minimal. The feeling of Councillors was mainly in favour of lights being on; many people found it a comfort to have lighting throughout the night.

Councillor Kingston had read an article re speed checks sponsored by NCC; this will be followed up at the next meeting.

The Clerk will also, yet again, chase up the matter of the chicanes on Wood Road and the entrance to Oak Lane, which has yet to be completed.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30.pm. The next meeting will be held in the Village Hall Parlour on **Thursday 3rd October 2013** (one week early than the usual schedule) at 7.30.pm.

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