

KINGS CLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

The monthly meeting of the Parish Council was held on Thursday 3rd October September 2013 at 7.30.pm. in the parlour of the Memorial Hall.

13/098: Present : Chairman A. Howard, Councillors M. Day, N. Ford, R. Meadows, G. Kingston, , C. Leuchars, R. Brown and G. Caddick and J. Atkinson. Members of the public : J. Barratt, G. Scotney and D. Gilbert.

13/099 : Apologies for Absence : Councillor C. Williams, L. Crane and County Councillor H. Smith.

13/100 : Declarations of Interest : None

13/101 : Minutes of the meeting held on 12th September 2013: Approved

Proposed : Councillor Brown

Seconded : Councillor Leuchars

13/102 : Clerks Report

There has been more vandalism in the Park which has been reported to Persimmon Homes, by Sarah Milford, who lives in Oak Lane and is the 'official' residents' representative; she is doing a very good job.

There is a problem with the use of this room for the March 13th meeting or one week earlier; it is not available for that night; is it possible for us to find a different venue? Decision was made to defer a change of venue until the New Year. VH bookings will be informed.

A report was received of litter being dumped at the end of the hammerhead in Kingsmead. Upon investigation, a name and address was found, which has been given to ENC to follow up.

I will be on leave for the month of October, but e-mails will be checked and answered. Michael Day will be the main telephone contact for the PC during that time.

13/103 : Matters Arising

The gentleman in Royce's Lane is not happy with the decision not to follow up his complaints about speeding etc., in the lane; he is asking what measures we are taking to slow down the traffic, which he feels was not addressed. It was again decided stand by the decision to take no further action. Councillors consider it is almost impossible to speed in this lane.

Following up the request for speeding checks, we have the offer of an Interactive Speeding Device for the village for the month of November. Steve Barber from Highways asked where the PC felt it should be placed, it was decided the best place was on Park Street, somewhere between the Station Road junction and Royce's Lane. A similar device some years ago was very successful.

Councillor Atkinson will ask the resident of Hall Yard who complained about flooding if Highways have been in touch with him, as requested.

Following the controversy regarding the felling of a tree on the cemetery extension boundary by a resident of Bridge Street, it was decided to remove the stock fencing inside our boundary to remove any question as to where the boundary is; this fence is some distance inside the cemetery grounds. The Land Registry officer says that the rather straggly hedge is the actual boundary.

13/104 : Accounts Payable : agreed

Clerks Salary (current month)	£ 312.00
A. E. Blunt : Grass cutting etc., burial grounds : August	£ 320.00
E-on : Quarter electricity charges to Sept 2013	£ 629.60
E-on : Light repair opp. 15c Bridge Street	£ 28.16
HMRC : Clerks PAYE for month	£ 3.00
RDA (Riding for the Disabled for James Adams)	£ 50.00

Proposed : Councillor Ford

Seconded : Councillor Caddick

13/105 : Financial Position : noted

Bank balances:- Current £ 11,720.29; Deposit £3,138.46; Bequest account: £ 6,173.37

Councillor Brown queried the amount in the current account; the Clerk explained that a payment to ENC and BDO had been withheld until the half-year precept had cleared in the balances, which accounted for the apparent discrepancy.

13/106 : Planning

Applications

31 West Street : Conversion of existing to two dwellings (Re-submission) 13/01523/FUL/24/LBC

The Parish Council has no objection in principal, but has no idea why this is re-submitted, as we cannot find the difference between this and the former documents. We have asked previously for alterations to be pointed out to us, as layman, who are not skilled in interpreting planning documents. Please can the Planning Department bear this in mind in the future.

13/107 : Underground presentation : John Barratt and Graham Scotney

The Chairman welcomed the gentlemen to the meeting. They explained that Katy Weeks had intended attending but was presently not well. The meeting wished her a speedy recovery.

John Barratt gave a very interesting talk outlining the work of the Underground. This now far exceeds being just a Youth Club, there are wide-ranging activities to help not only the young, but all members of the community. There are extensive workshops, the rooms are used by other village organisations and it is a hub for the Police to use. The facility is also used by other local village residents; several local Parish Councils have given funds to them. He also reminded the meeting that in former years, the Parish Council had paid the rental charges for the rooms, but latterly they had not needed this money.

Although solvent at the moment, they envisage the need to raise funds in the very near future and to this end they intend to use a Fund Raising manager, to undertake the complicated business of applying for various grants and approaching local organisations, who have been very generous in the past.

Graham Scotney circulated balance sheets and outlined the present financial position of the Underground and their future requirements.

The Chairman thanked John and Graham for an interesting talk and they left the meeting.

The meeting discussed the above; as mentioned, formerly we had given the rental charges of the rooms for the Underground but had not contributed several years, as they had indicated they did not need money, but they have had a change of circumstances. He suggested two sums of money to be given, as we had had a small one-off windfall in the form of a Council Tax rebate from ENC. On a show of hands it was decided to

donate £1,000 for this year; a further donation will be discussed in the Spring, when the 2014/15 precept has been agreed with ENC.

13/108 : The Park/Village Field/Section 106 agreement : Report on site meeting 20/09/13

Councillor Russell gave a report on the above meeting, attended by him, Councillor Day and District Councillor Glithero. During the meeting, many aspects were covered; there is considerable remedial work to be completed by Persimmons before the PC can consider taking over the Park. There was a lengthy discussion as to whether a fence or hedge was the best form of barrier between it and the estate. There is also the question of monies to be paid for maintenance of this area. There was also a discussion on the Village Field and the way ahead for developing this as a useful amenity for the village. Councillor Brown considers there is a certain amount of 'horse trading' going on regarding amounts of money mentioned and we should take the best offer.

Consequently, it was decided to form an Amenities sub-committee to deal with the many issues which continue to crop up. Committee members : Chairman Andrew Howard, Vice-Chairman Michael Day, Councillors Brown and Atkinson. They will liaise on how to go forward with both of these facilities.

13/109 : Parish Plan : Update

The collating of the surveys is still going ahead; there so many and varied replies and will take some time yet!

13/110 : Gazette entry for November 2013 : discussed and agreed

13/111 : Burial Board

Kevin Cunnington of KC Property Maintenance, has started work on the Pitchell Wall; this should be completed within the month. The Clerk will ask RFC Countryside if they will again trim the hedges in the cemetery during the Autumn/Winter months.

13/112 : Police : Monthly Crime Statistics : circulated and noted

13/113 : Other Correspondence Received : none

13/114 : Any Other Business

The clearing of the Horsewater in Hall Yard : Councillor Day will bring this up, in the hope of obtaining a grant for work to be done. Councillors Atkinson and Meadows have agreed to bring suggestions to the next meeting regarding works they feel need to be done to improve this feature.

Councillor Kingston and others reported various blocked drains for the Clerk to report to the Street Doctor for attention.

Councillor Day reported that the Village Shopper is experiencing some difficulty in taking over the Post Office. The PC said they will do anything within their means to facilitate this.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending, and closed the meeting at 9.15.pm. The next meeting will be held in the Village Hall Parlour on Thursday 14th November at 7.30.pm.

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