

# KINGS CLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

The monthly meeting of the Parish Council was held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2013 at 7.30.pm. in the parlour of the Memorial Hall.

**13/132 : Present :** Chairman A. Howard, Councillors M. Day, L. Crane, C. Williams, R. Meadows, G. Kingston, C. Leuchars, R. Brown N. Ford, J. Atkinson. G. Caddick, County Councillor H. Smith and Rev. Philip Davies.

**13/133 : Apologies for Absence :** District Councillor R. Glithero.

**13/134: Declarations of Interest :** Councillor Atkinson (Planning), Councillor Caddick (Local Schools).

**13/135 : Minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2013:** Approved following an amendment.

Proposed : Councillor Brown

Seconded : Councillor Kingston

## **13/136 : Clerks Report**

The PC expressed their deep sympathy to the family of Mr. Bob Wyles, who was a hardworking Councillor for many, many years.

The Parlour is not available for the March meeting. We hope to book the KCA Centre for the meeting.

The Buxton seat – all one quarter of a ton of it – is on a pallet in our driveway – awaiting transit to the cemetery where Michael and Tony are going to (attempt) to assemble it!

A request has been sent to the Tree Officer at ENC to inspect and report on the trees on the green opposite the school and the Station Road trees.

A complaint regarding the cobbles in the entrance to Howards Meadow being unsafe has been sent to Richard Woodhouse, NCC Highways manager.

Renewal letters have gone to all allotment tenants with a strong paragraph asking those who do not use their plots properly to relinquish them or be evicted; payments are coming in steadily; but so far no one has offered to surrender plots. This was discussed and it was decided that any of the plots earmarked by the PC as unused will be given until the 31<sup>st</sup> March to cultivate their plot. No payment will be cashed from these tenants until they have cultivated their plot. If their plot is not cultivated by the 31<sup>st</sup> March it will be offered to an alternative tenant.

A kind thank-you letter has been received from Philip and KC PCC for the repairs to the Pitchell Wall.

**13/137 : Matters Arising : None**

**13/138 : Accounts Payable :** agreed

Clerks Salary (current month)	£ 312.00
A. E. Blunt : Grass cutting etc., burial grounds : October	£ 320.00
HMRC : Clerks PAYE for month	£ 3.00
Odlings Ltd : Columbaria seat and plaque for cemetery	£ 626.40
E-on : Maintenance charge quarter to Dec 13	£ 372.10

£500 transferred from Bequest account for new seat – VAT will be reclaimed

The Annual VAT claim form will be sent at the end of December

Grant from SWEET for the Pitchell Wall has been received

Proposed : Councillor Ford                      Seconded : Councillor Williams

**13/139 : Financial Position : noted**

Bank balances:- Current £ 7,337.53; Deposit £3,138.46; Bequest account: £ 6,178.44

### **13/140 : Planning**

Councillor Atkinson left the meeting during the first item.

#### **Applications**

30 West Street : Single/Two storey to rear extension : 13/01995/FUL/02022/LBC : No objection : comment made : “The Parish Council has no objection but would comment that it would be preferable for the rainwater detail to be in cast iron not PVC”

8 Kings Forest : Single storey extension : 13/01894/FUL : No objection

#### **Granted (by ENC) : noted**

100 Wood Road : Two storey dwelling and associated works (Renewal) : 13/00812/FUL/00824/LBC  
Hall Farm, Hall Yard : Proposed alterations to existing staircase and landing : 13/01671/LBC

### **13/141 : Reorganisation of Local Schools**

County Councillor Smith gave the meeting as much information is available at the moment. A long discussion followed, but this is such a complicated issue; nothing is yet finalised; parents will be attending a meeting at the Middle School in the near future to be given an update on what is to be decided. It is hoped there will be further information at the January PC meeting.

### **13/142 The Park/Village Field/Willow Lane : Update**

The Chairman had a long discussion with Tim Salt, at Chattertons, regarding the issue of establishing the ownership of Willow Lane. He did not feel the outcome was particularly helpful and has offered to register with the Land Registry to discover the real facts. It was agreed if this involves a registration fee, the Council will reimburse this

Proposed : Councillor Brown

Seconded : Councillor Caddick

He will contact Land Registry about this and discuss the implications of the ransom strip along the Village Field and other issues and report back to the next meeting.

Several Councillors again commented on the height of the houses in Sovereign Grange; it is noted that steps have been built between the houses to reach the higher levels. The original land was not high, the levels have been artificially raised. However, this is shown on the original plans, but it was agreed that Councillors are not trained to recognise such detail when plans are presented for approval or otherwise. It was agreed that the Enforcement Officer will be contacted again. There have been reports in the media of problems on estates in other parts of the country with subsidence and the PC wishes their observations to be noted for the future. It is felt that perhaps ENC Building Control should also be contacted for their views.

Councillor Atkinson commented that it is our duty to the residents to follow up these concerns. A meeting of the Councillors involved in amenities has been arranged, for them to walk around the site and note any further concerns.

The Clerk will write to Persimmon regarding the non-existence of the footpath into Willow Lane from the site.

### **13/143 Parish Plan : Update**

Councillor Atkinson reported that it is hoped the results of the survey will be published in the New Year. She also congratulated Councillor Leuchars on the hard work he had put into this and feels this should be publically recognised.

### **13/144 Land-fill Liaison Meeting : 04/12/13 : report from Councillor Leuchars**

Councillor Leuchars attended the above meeting. He reported that far less LL Waste had been dumped than Augean had anticipated, which is good, but the site will be taking the majority of Low Level generated. It is the most monitored site in the UK.

The Community Fund currently stands at circa £15K. These funds can be used for supporting running costs for local voluntary bodies.

### **13/145 Horsewater renovation : Update from Councillors Atkinson and Meadows**

This project is ongoing and will be reported at each meeting.

**13/146 Gazette entry for January 2014** : due to early publication, this has already gone to publishers.

### **13/147 Burial Board**

Everything is in order, nothing to report

**13/148 Police : Monthly Crime Statistics** : noted

**13/149 Other Correspondence Received** : all circulated by e-mail to Councillors

### **13/150 Any Other Business**

Councillor Kingston had attended a meeting at KCA; she reported that they were now paying their way and are looking toward finding a salaried curator. Mike Herring had asked if any celebrations would be planned for the WW1 Centenary. Chairman Andrew Howard said the PC would be prepared to facilitate and encourage etc., but were not able to undertake the organisation of a celebration.

Councillor Ford said there were concerns in Park Close regarding a dangerous tree on the railway bank. The Chairman will look at this and enquire from the Land Registry the ownership of the land in question.

There being no further business, the Chairman thank all those attending. The next meeting will be held in the Village Hall Parlour on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30.pm.

**Hilary Blunt, Clerk : Tel : 01780470799**

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