

KINGS CLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

The monthly meeting of the Parish Council was held on Thursday 11th September 2014 at 7.30.p.m. in the parlour of the Memorial Hall.

Chairman Andrew Howard welcomed Deirdre McCumiskey who is sitting in on this meeting and will take over as Clerk from 1st October; Deirdre is a very experienced clerk and is Clerk to two other local Parish Councils.

14/092 : Present : Chairman A. Howard, Councillors Day, L. Crane, C. Williams, G. Caddick, J. Atkinson, R. Meadows, G. Kingston, C. Leuchars, N. Ford, R. Brown, District Councillor R. Glithero, one resident and Clerk in waiting, Mrs. D. McCumiskey.

14/093 : Apologies for Absence : Councillors R. Meadows, H. Smith and C. Williams

14/094 : Declarations of Interest : Councillors Day and Crane expressed a non-pecuniary interest in a planning item

14/095 : Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7th August 2014 : Approved

Proposed : Councillor Leuchars

Seconded : Councillor Caddick

14/096 : Clerks Report

The new Burial Grants book has been ordered from Shaw & Sons; although, as explained this is very expensive, there is no alternative as those who purchase burial plots do like an official document and it will last a long time. During the last month, £1000 worth of burial plots have been sold, which has boosted the current account so we can justify the expense.

The Audit Commission approval of the annual accounts has not yet been received, therefore no invoice from them yet, but expecting them any day.

A letter was received from Mrs. Knights regarding a broken manhole in the Willow Walk; reported to ENC. She is also concerned about a tree overhanging the river from a property in Church Walk; Vice-Chairman Day is dealing with these problems.

I had a very good meeting with Deirdre, your new clerk and we seem to be singing from the same hymn sheet, which will make the handover much simpler for all of us.

We have managed to purloin a further two redundant wheelie bins from ENC – I intend to put records which have to be retained, but take up a lot of space in the old Fire Station as I have done previously. All these records are in the computer and many on the web-site; old plans are available from ENC on line. Just for the record.

The Police can do nothing about the noisy little motor bikes without registration numbers to refer to.

14/097 : Matters arising

Our grant claim for money for the Village Field has gone through to the final stages; the offer will be £40,000. 00 if we are successful; we are also applying formally for the money due from the Section 106 agreement for the Sovereign Grange development. The key is to have £100,000. We should know by 6th October. The need for planning permission for this work has been questioned. We do not need permission for the works proposed.

ENC have notified the PC that the lease for the Willow Walk Pocket Park is due to expire. They will inform that we would like it to continue, but will ask if something can be done to address the flooding in the area next to Kingsmead, which makes it almost impassable after heavy rain.

The Chairman is waiting for a meeting with Michelle Rickard to discuss the progress on the ownership of Willow Lane.

A letter received from two residents in West Street regarding parking problems was discussed. Both the Clerk and Chairman have written to the residents in relation to this problem

14/098 : Accounts Payable

Clerks Salary (current month)	£ 291.80
Curator : Cemetery & Churchyard (plus extra grass cutting)	£ 430.00
HMRC : Clerks PAYE	£ 23.20
Anglian Water : Cemetery water charge to August	£ 16.26
ENC : Annual loan repayment for cemetery extension	£ 1,750.00
Clerks expenses (final) 2012/14	£ 104.47
ENC : Invoice for printing & binding the Village Plan	£ 660.96
E-on : Quarterly maintenance charge	£ 372.10

Proposed : Councillor Ford

Seconded : Councillor Kingston

14/100 : Financial Position

Financial Position : noted

Bank balances:- Current account £ 8,523.78; Deposit account £ 3,139.63; Bequest account £ 5,699.92

14/101 : Planning

Applications

21 West Street (Old Rectory): Proposed alteration works, extension and detached garage:14/1405/FUL

Following a long discussion it was agreed the following objections be sent for this application:-

The Parish Council discussed this at length; the overall impression was that the proposed plans alter the character of this building. Although we welcome the fact that this historic building is being renovated, we feel its' original character must be retained to maintain the integrity of the conservation area.

The garage is far too high compared to the surrounding buildings. The proposed new driveway will result in the loss of yet more roadside stone walling in the conservation area.

The slate roofing on the garage and house is a further encroachment of blue slate into the conservation area. This had been used as replacement for Collyweston slate. The continued spread degrades the area. The timber cladding to the exterior is totally out of character within the conservation area. No other dwellings in the area of are of this construction. If the bulk of the house is to be extended it should be in random coursed local limestone to match the existing.

In conclusion, the Parish Council object strongly to this application and would suggest the points above are given serious consideration and amended plans be submitted.

85 Wood Road : Single storey extension to create bedroom : 14/01593/FUL : No objection

4 Forest Approach : Two storey side extension : 14/01576/FUL : No objection

Doctors Surgery

Chairman Andrew Howard at this point said he felt it necessary to mention he had received communication from the Doctors Practice regarding the driveway to the Doctors surgery in West Street and the fact that ENC had granted permission for a double gate into the grounds of 31 West

Street. It was suggested the PC did not object strongly enough to this application; in fact, the comments to ENC from the PC, as reported in the June 2014 minutes were :-

The Parish Council can see no reason why the existing 1.5m gateway to the garden of 31 West Street is not adequate and therefore see no reason for an increase to the width of this gateway.

He then stated that it was not PC policy to enter into discussions over neighbours' disputes and felt that the PC had stated their objections .

The Parish Council would like to see a new surgery/Medical Centre in the village, which is a separate issue

Granted by ENC : noted

72 Park Street : Division into two properties : 14/00984/FUL

Freestone Lodge, 50 Bridge Street : Retrospective permission for new drive from road to existing yard : 14/01214/FUL

2 The Dovecote Park Street : Three conservation roof lights : 14/01006/FUL

14/102 : Gigaclear : KAHSI

Councillor Brown reported that the number of people signing up to this internet service was rising, but not as fast as was hoped. The point is that if not enough people sign, Gigaclear will move on to an area who are more enthusiastic and we could lose the chance. It is accepted that BT and NCC are in no hurry to provide this service to the village and have, in fact, connected some smaller Parishes which is disturbing. We must take this opportunity to ensure a faster internet; the existing system, will of effect, slow down even more as more houses in the village are occupied; this is especially bad for local firms, whose businesses will inevitably suffer.

Councillor Glithero said he felt the cost was making people reluctant to sign up.

Councillor Atkinson asked him if ENC or NCC were prepared to help with the costs. The answer was in the negative.

The message from KAHSI is "sign up now or risk losing the chance!"

14/103 : Parish Plan

Councillor Atkinson said most houses now have a copy of the Parish Plan. It is also published on-line. There is a meeting later this month to conscript volunteers to hopefully move forward to action some of the suggestions therein.

14/104 : Sovereign Grange : Update

Yet again, it is reported that progress on all the outstanding concerns is absolutely nil. The whole thing is so frustrating for the PC, with all matters raised being ignored.

This includes the chicanes and traffic calming measure on Wood Road; the footpath into Willow Lane from the site; the new footpath to Wood Road, which still ends at a stone wall, despite promises to form at dog-leg and re-open the existing gateway; this footpath is deemed as very dangerous and totally unsuitable. The PC will write to Persimmon pointing out the poor quality of workmanship and total lack of foresight put into this construction.

Councillor Glithero has promised to contact all parties in the hope of getting some action. The Chairman will also draft a letter to County Councillor Smith once again outlining our complaints and grievances.

The Club has written a letter of complaint regarding the new fence on their boundary; unfortunately this is something which must be raised with Persimmon Homes

Schools : In addition to agenda items

The Chairman again reminded the PC that a letter to claim the Section 106 monies had been sent by ENC in July in respect of monies due to the Schools and Persimmon were questioning the validity of this invoice.

Regarding the closure of the Middle School, County Councillor Smith will be asked to ensure that in future, invitations to any meetings about the future of the Primary School must be extended, not just to parents but to all members of the community, as this is a long term issue and does not just involve the generation of children at the school now, but future generations.

It is also agreed that we would contact East Northants District Council with regards the future of the Endowed School site

A Cabinet meeting, which will no doubt approve the 2 – tier system is due to take place in November.

14/105 : Traffic problems West Street

Reported at the last meeting; there is nothing further to be added, apart from asking residents to be thoughtful and patient when problems arise. No further magic solutions to these problems have been revealed.

14/106 : Clerks post : update

Three candidates were interviewed; the successful applicant is Deirdre McCumiskey from Wittering; an experienced clerk with an excellent Curriculum Vitae : she will begin work on 1st October and there will be a handover period of one month, there will technically be two clerks for that period. The present clerk is quite content to advise for as long as Deirdre needs her to.

14/107 : Gazette entry for October 2014 : discussed and agreed

14/108 : Burial Board

The Bevan memorial seat has been erected in the cemetery.

14/109 : Police : Crime Report : e-mailed to all Councillors and noted

14/110 : Correspondence Received : Discussed during agenda or e-mailed to all Councillors.

14/111 : Any Other Business

The Chairman gave the floor to District Councillor Glithero :-

He reported that the Proposal for 70 Cabins at Fineshade had been withdrawn by the applicants, but felt this would be re-submitted in an amended format.

An application has been proposed for 30 ‘glamping’ tents on the same site. However, we have not been consulted on this.

Councillor Glithero still has money available in his Empowerment Fund and has kindly offered to pay for two additional dog litter bins in the village.

Councillor Brown is looking into the process of transferring the present KCPC telephone to the new clerk through his own office network, to avoid the problems of retaining the number with BT.

Vice-Chairman Day said there were a number of people who are hoping to resurrect the Gymkhana and Festival for the village and had asked if the Village Field would be available. Trusting that the necessary works would be complete by next year, this was agreed in principle, although it will need to be a future agenda item.

Councillor Kingston had received complaints regarding brambles overgrowing the path from the 1st Drift for its’ full length to Kirks Lodge. The adjacent land owner will be contacted, as will the

Council responsible for verges. There are also overgrown brambles in Malting's Lane.

The Chairman said there was apparently a proposal in the pipeline for a holiday development in Jacks Green (land between the Wansford Road and the Nassington Road)

Prior to closing the meeting, the Chairman gave a sincere vote of thanks to the Clerk for her long service and she was presented with a crystal fruit bowl engraved with her name and length of service. Three cheers were called for and a loud round of applause. The Clerk thanked the Council for the lovely gift and admitted she would miss them all and that the kettle was always on, if they wish to visit!

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.45 pm. The next meeting will be held on 9th October 2014 in the Parlour at 7.30.pm.

Signed.....

Date.....