

KINGS CLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

The monthly meeting of the Parish Council was held Thursday 10th June 2021 at 7.30 pm at Kings Cliffe Active. For those member of the public not able to attend in person were invited to attend virtually: Zoom Meeting ID 726 831 7160 Password: 046754.

The Parish Council received three Requests to Speak:

Andrew Pick - Land adjacent to 33 Wood Road. Previous planning applications for this site have been turned down, he proposes to build a bungalow but open to suggestions and thoughts from the Parish Council. This will be discussed under item 21/054.

Charles Thomalin - Meadow Bridge Refurbishment Proposal – Wildplaces. The meadow bridge area receives a footfall of approximately 20,000 per annum and is a great landmark to Kings Cliffe. The estimated repairs of the bridge will be £100,000. The owner is prepared to hand the ownership of this bridge to the Parish Council whereby we can seek grants to carry out the repairs. If this is not an option, the bridge will be demolished within the next 6 months. This will be discussed under item 21/060.

Chris Leuchars - 21/066 Ramblers 'Willow Lane' ROW Application. Circulated a map of the proposed ramblers ROW and expressed his interest in the Parish Council supporting this application.

21/042 Declarations of Interest – Chairman and Councillor M Wharton expressed a non-pecuniary interest in 21/066 Ramblers 'Willow Lane' ROW Application. Chairman expressed a non-pecuniary interest in 21/067 East Northants Resource Management Facility (ENRMF) (Augean) and Councillor M Day expressed a non-pecuniary interest 21/052 Planning Applications NE/21/00785/TCA.

20/043 Present - Chairman A Howard, Vice Chairman M Day, Councillors R Brown, J Atkinson, G Smid, R Meadows, M Wharton, D Balmer, T Copeland, R Isaac, G Holland, 6 members of the public attended at Kings Cliffe Active and 4 members of the public virtually attended via Zoom.

21/044 Apologies for Absence - None

21/045 Chairman's Report – For Information Only

The Chairman is meeting Leda Properties regarding the Spa to discussing their proposals in safeguarding and restoring the Spa. Councillor R Meadows suggested when meeting Leda Properties, we should also request footpath use along the RH side of tarmac Spa Farm access road, opposite Second Drift as this is not permitted.

The Chairman would like clarification of how the three new North Northants Councillors will be representing our area, with the focus being on the roads, footpaths, flooding and various other issues including the middle school.

Cllr G Smid raised the question as to whether the Parish Council were joining the meeting with KCA and Wildplaces between themselves and the North Northants Councillors. Chairman confirmed this was a meeting to be held between themselves and didn't include the Parish Council.

We shall prepare a comprehensive list of our concerns regarding the roads with pictures and exact locations also full references for all reports made to the street doctor - then they will do a thorough investigation and will then be happy to meet to discuss.

The Parish Council considered advertising a "Best Pot Hole Photo Competition". to create a comprehensive report for Highway consideration. Clerk to contact Wood Newton Chairman for advice on how they resolved their roadwork issues.

Cllr R
Meadows
Clerk

The Endowed School site has been sold but as we understand it, not to a developer and they are happy to speak with the Council.

21/046 Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th May 2021

Proposed: Councillor: G Smid Seconded: Councillor: T Copeland

21/047 Any Matters Arising – For Information Only

Cemetery Extension – Boundary fence to the left on the entrance, this has at some point been taken down and the neighbouring resident planting a hedge. Clerk to contact residents of that property for confirmation as to when this will be re-instated. Still outstanding

Clerk

Bridge Street Wall – The Insurers have instructed builders to carry out the necessary works.

Sub-Committees to meet before July's meeting.

Clerk
Cllr R
Brown

Cllr R Brown confirmed the 1st Drift sign re-ordered.

21/048 Accounts Payable

Clerk's Salary December £450.00 (Expenses £59.86)	£509.86
RJC Countryside Management – Cemetery/Church Inv: 2550 20/5/21	£174.00
RJC Countryside Management – Cemetery/Church Inv: 2551 20/5/21	£228.00
RJC Countryside Management – Cemetery/Church Inv: 2555 03/6/21	£174.00
RJC Countryside Management – Cemetery/Church Inv: 2556 03/6/21	£228.00
E-On	£346.46

Proposed: Councillor: M Wharton Seconded: Councillor: G Holland

21/049 Financial Position

Bank Balances: As of 4th June 2021

Current £39,181.18:

Deposit £70,343.33: (£51,757.15) of this is for the Village Field (**Restricted Funds**)

Bequest Account Re: Cemetery £842.38 (**Restricted Fund**)

Nationwide Business 95 Day Saver: Section 106 Lap & Leap (**Restricted Fund**) £61,054.93 as of 31/3/21 (Statements Annually)

Cambridge Building Society Saver: Section 106 Lap & Leap (**Restricted Fund**) £60,179.82 as of 31/12/20 (Statements Annually)

Income: Precept £30,000 Received 28th April 2021

21/050 Audit of Accounts 2020/2021

Circulated to all Councillors on the 24th May 2021.

21/051 Annual Return 2020/2021

The following statement, as recommended by our Internal Auditor NCALC, was agreed:

1. As the Council does not have the Power of General Competence, the council should detail the Power that allows them to act for each payment. I believe that NCALC will be able to provide your clerk with a good list. This ensures that Council does not act beyond its powers.

2. Council cannot lawfully decide any matter which is not specified on the agenda (Longfield PC v Wright 1918 88 LJ ch119). The agenda item "Any Other Business" should not be used save for items of information only as it conceals rather than specifies business. It was noted that on several occasions during the year, resolutions were made from this item but had not been specified on the agenda. These items should have been put on the next agenda. It should also be noted that general reports to Council fall under the same logic and should be for information only too.

3. The council has no General or Financial Risk Assessment nor an Internal Control procedure. Both NCALC and SLCC can be of assistance here and these are required under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. It should be noted that as Council does not have either of these in place, it cannot make assertions 2 or 5 in the affirmative.

4. Council does not appear to be registered with the Pension Regulator. This should be done as soon as possible.

I would also make the following recommendations:

- The VAT should be reclaimed quarterly rather than a large lump sum annually.
- That the following policies should be put in place in the interests of transparency
- A Grants Policy under the power, LGA72s137, a log of which should be kept ready for inspection and each grant minute separately, confirming fulfilment of the criteria.
- A Reserve's Policy – detailing the EMRs held by the Council and any covenants that restrict use.

Grant and Reserves Policy to be circulated for consideration at July's meeting.

Cllr D Balmer elected to be Internal Auditor as part of our Internal Control Procedure. Clerk to circulate the proposed procedures under item 3) for July's meeting. VAT to be reclaimed quarterly rather than a large lump sum annually.

Proposed: Councillor: J Atkinson Seconded: Councillor: R Brown

The Annual Return has been completed and was signed by the Chairman and Clerk will send PKF Littlejohn, the External Auditors.

Proposed: Councillor: M Wharton Seconded: Councillor: R Meadows (the proposal was carried)

The following statutory statement is minute below: -

'Internal Audit has been performed with reference to the Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities in England – A Practitioners Guide (March 2016).

21/052 Planning Applications - <http://www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/viewplanningapplications>

NE/21/00727/FUL - Replace 3 sash windows like for like and repoint house. Hainton House **66 West Street Kings Cliffe.**

No Objection

NE/21/00728/LBC - Replace 3 sash windows like for like and repoint house, **66 West Street Kings Cliffe. No Objection**

NE/21/00785/TCA - T1, Beech tree. Codominant stem at approximately 2m. To remove the north west facing stem to allow the tree to fill out before it gets mature. **31 Park Street Kings Cliffe. No Objection and our Tree Warden was in agreement.**

Planning Applications granted by NNC - None

21/053 Reports from our Representatives

Plant a Tree for the Jubilee - To mark and celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee next year every Town and Parish Council in Northamptonshire are invited through The Queen's Green Canopy initiative to "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee" as part of a nationwide celebration. Our Tree Warden has registered our interest in this scheme and we welcome suggestions and ideas of the area and the Amenities Sub-committee to consider.

Clerk

Clerk

<p>21/054 31 Wood Road</p> <p>The Parish Council still agrees that the proposals for this site go against policy B1 of the Neighbourhood Plan. Clerk to write back to A Pick having heard his comments our view in terms of the proposed use of the site haven't changed and therefore we don't believe it's appropriate for a further dwelling to be built and it would be more suited for an orchard or something of that nature.</p>	Clerk
<p>21/055 KCA Garden Project</p> <p>The Parish Council considered their proposal and unanimously agreed. On the other issue of a proposed agreement with KCA and KCPC, as this was not an agenda item the Chairman declined Ian Hetherington's request to speak. The proposed agreement will be placed on July's Agenda.</p>	Clerk
<p>21/056 KCA Benches</p> <p>KCA suggested the Parish Council look into the provision of additional seating in either Willow Lane or Kingsmead/ station road for people going up to KCA. If KCA wish seating to be placed on NNC land they will need to contact NNC regarding these location as that would be North Northants Council responsibility. Amenities Sub-Committee would like to broaden this suggestion and ask members of the Parish where they believe additional seating would be useful. It will be important that any proposed site is on public land, is easily accessible to all, and all age groups can sit in safety - so a narrow path near the road would not be ideal. In terms of funding any such seats one suggestion that was made is that it may be possible that a seat is funded in memory of a loved one.</p>	Clerk
<p>21/057 Sovereign Grange – Ash Close/Hazel Lane Drainage/Flooding</p> <p>Clerk has emailed Encore and will also write to their head office.</p>	Clerk
<p>21/058 Footpaths First Drift "ROW"</p> <p>Cllr R Brown confirmed this has now been re-ordered.</p>	
<p>21/059 KCPC Emergency Plan – Sand Bags & Drains</p> <p>A Sub-Committee meeting to be arranged and Chairperson to be nominated. Flood Warden training has taken place this month. An email was received from Kirk Kirk regarding sandbags and drain, he offered to price them up, purchase, filling, storing and distribute if KCPC would fund the project. Clerk to contact Kirk confirming The Emergency Planning will consider this offer.</p>	
<p>21/060 Amenities Sub Committee - (Meadow Bridge Refurbishment Proposal – Wildplaces)</p> <p>Amenities Sub-Committee held a meeting outside the school at the bottom of KCA to consider the connection of the path into KCA so that children do not have to walk into the road. Maddy Turley, the main liaison for this project will come back with a proposal.</p> <p>Charles Thomalin - Meadow Bridge Refurbishment Proposal – Wildplaces presented to the Parish Council the proposal of ownership of the bridge. It was agreed to request full details of the proposal for the purchase and refurbishment of this bridge from Wildplaces in order for the Amenities Sub-Committee to consider before submitting to the Parish Council. Clerk to contact NCALC for advice on Parish Council's regarding the proposal received.</p>	Clerk
<p>21/061 Grass Maintenance</p> <p>KCA to invoice monthly. Clerk to contact North Northants Council regarding visibility coming into the village as verge obstructing the view of the road especially at bottom of Wansford hill. Email received from residents regarding the cutting of the grass, Clerk to respond clarifying this small area is normally maintained by the neighbouring homeowner, we appreciated your continued support.</p>	Clerk

21/062 Burial Board Report

A Sub-Committee meeting to be arranged and Chairperson to be nominated.

Burial Board

21/063 Gazette entry – July 2021

Agreed and Discussed.

21/064 Police: Crime Report/JAG

The monthly report received from our Police Liaison Representative, Chris Jackson was circulated and discussed.

21/065 Correspondence Received

Highways are reviewing the gritting route around Kings Cliffe. They are proposing Wood Road become the gritting route rather than West Street. The Parish Council would like to see both Wood Road and West Street being covered as West Street has the Dr Surgery, The Shop, Cross Keys Inn, Kings Cliffe Bakery, all of our essential services of Kings Cliffe and the main route through Kings Cliffe is West Street.

The Kings Cliffe Endowed School PFA is organising a School Circus on Thursday, 15th July and requested to use the village field as a car park for their event. The request was granted.

Clerk

Chairman declared a non-pecuniary interest in 21/0066 and 21067. Vice-Chairman Cllr M Day continued the meeting.

21/066 Ramblers 'Willow Lane' ROW Application

After a lengthy discussion it was agreed the Parish Council need to request further information, view submissions from other parties' view evidence etc.

Clerk

21/067 East Northants Resource Management Facility (ENRMF) – DCO Pre- Application Consultation. PINS project reference: WS010005 (Augean)

Regarding their maintenance and cleanliness of the road, reporting that the roads are maintained in a satisfactory manner at all times, the Clerk is to report back that the Parish Council is not in agreement with these statements and feels this can still be improved.

Clerk

The Vice-Chairman closed the meeting.

The next meeting will be held at 7.30 pm on Thursday 9th July 2021 at Kings Cliffe Active. Member of the public may also attend virtually via Zoom, Meeting ID 726 831 7160 Password: 046754.

Signed _____

Date _____