

## Kings Cliffe Parish Council

The monthly meeting of the Parish Council Was held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 7.30pm at Kings Cliffe Active.

<p><b>Request to Speak</b> Mr. C. Atkinson spoke about the need to find a solution to the flooding under the railway bridge during heavy rain. The Clerk will write a letter to Mr. Atkinson for all his hard work so far in finding a solution and will liaise with Northants County Council to see if a solution can be found and implemented.</p> <p>Richard Jones from Dave Saunders Associates and Ziggy Westphal from NCC Emergency Planning came to talk about the flood survey report that had been carried out by Richard Jones. The report highlighted several areas that are prone to flooding around the village, which were already known about. They also requested that residents report any flooding to NCC flood and water management or floodtoolkit.com, to enable NCC to identify areas of most concern. The survey did not however, suggest any solutions to the flood prone areas. The Parish Council will liaise with Northants County Council to find possible solutions and funding opportunities available.</p> <p><b>23/372 Declarations of Interest – None</b></p> <p><b>23/373 Presents:</b> Chairman A. Howard, Vice-Chairman M. Day, Cllrs J. Aitkinson, D. Balmer, G. Holland, M. Tank*, M. Stewart, R.Isaac.</p> <p><b>23/374 Unitary Councillors –</b> All Unitary Councillors were invited. None attended. Councillor Smithers sent his apologies.</p> <p><b>23/375 Apologies for Absence:</b> Cllrs. T. Copeland, G. Smid, R, Meadows.</p> <p><b>23/376 Chairman’s Report</b> Steve Lattimore was not able to attend this meeting to discuss his proposal of having a football pitch on the village field.</p> <p><b>23/377 Minutes of the Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023</b></p> <p>Proposed: Councillor M. Day <span style="float: right;">Seconded: Councillor D. Balmer</span></p> <p><b>23/378 Any Matters Arising</b> S106 – The S106 Monitoring Officer has been in contact asking for invoices for expenses incurred from 2021 – date. The Clerk will send these.</p> <p>Beech Tree – The fencing around the tree is to be extended. There are 2 unstable limbs that could fall at any time and when they do this will accelerate the tree’s decline. There is nothing more that can be done other than let nature take it’s course.</p> <p>Facebook Page – The page is up and running but not as was envisaged. The council is going to seek outside help for further advice.</p> <p><b>23/379 Accounts Payable</b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Clerks Salary &amp; expenses</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£493.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Npower</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£TBC</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Splashweb Internet Hosting</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£54.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Northants Calc</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£39.60</td> </tr> </table>	Clerks Salary & expenses	£493.50	Npower	£TBC	Splashweb Internet Hosting	£54.00	Northants Calc	£39.60	Clerk
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Clerk's Phone Bill

£134.05

The Clerk received a letter from Npower confirming that they should have informed the Parish Council of a price increase, and the last 2 bills are being referred to the credit controller for further advice. It was agreed not to pay this month's bill until the matter is resolved.

**23/380 Amounts Received – None**

Proposed: Councillor G. Holland

Seconded: Councillor M. Stewart

**23/381 Financial Position**

Bank Balances: As of 6<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Current £38,309.33

Deposit £70,840.26: (£51,757.15) of this is for the Village Field (**Hypothecated Reserves**)

Bequest Account Re: Cemetery £847.79: (**Hypothecated Reserves**)

Nationwide Business 95 Day Saver: Section 106 Lap & Leap (**Hypothecated Reserves**) £62,342.68 as of 31/3/23 (Statements Annually)

Cambridge Building Society Saver: Section 106 Lap & Leap (**Hypothecated Reserves**) £60,482.94 as of 31/12/22 (Statements Annually)

**23/382 Accounts Update**

The Clerk contacted HMRC and is in the process of giving permission for the accountants to act as our agents and take over payroll.

**23/383 Planning Applications** - - <https://publicaccess.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/online-applications/NE/23/01021/FUL> - Erection of ten dwellings with associated vehicular access, parking and landscaping Land Rear of Fineshade Close, Kings Cliffe. **Recommend Approval (Support)**\_

**23/384 Planning Applications Granted by NCC**

None

**23/385 KCA Safety Request Letter**

The Parish Council were asked to write a letter of support for new safety measures to be put in place in the car park of Kings Cliffe Active. The safety measures will be installing speed bumps, painting parking bays, directional arrows and a pedestrian walkway, more signs and a 20mph speed limit. The Parish Council have agreed to this, and the Clerk will draft a letter.

Clerk

**23/386 Village Field proposal from KCA**

The Parish Council have received a proposal for having a football pitch on the village field. At present there is some concern about the cost of the project. The Parish Council have no funds to assist with moving this forward so all costs and funding obtained would need to be the responsibility of the proposer. The Parish Council have given permission for funding to be done in their name but it is up to the proposer to drive this project forward. The Parish Council is not prepared to relinquish control of the village field or allow the openness of the field to be disturbed.

The Clerk will draft a letter to the proposer to explain this.

Clerk

**23/387 Training Course – Responding to Planning Applications – 20<sup>th</sup> November.**

Cllr. J. Atkinson is no longer able to attend this course, it was offered to all other Councillors, but none are able to attend. Cllr. J. Atkinson will attend on the next available date.

<p><b>23/388 Grass Cutting Tender</b> The Parish Council received a quote from Shaw Garden Services for cutting the grass at the Cemetery and Church Yard, that is the same as this year. As agreed at the last meeting the Parish council will be again using his services next year. Cllr. J. Atkinson will ask Kings Cliffe Active for a quote for next year's grass cutting around the village, as well as chasing up this year's invoice.</p> <p><b>23/389 Biodiversity Policy</b> The Parish Council was informed by Ncalc that having a Biodiversity Policy by January 1<sup>st</sup> is not mandatory and before it does Ncalc will provide a template and advice on what to include. It was decided to wait until then before setting our own policy.</p> <p><b>23/390 Land Behind Oak Lane</b> The deeds for this area of land still need to be located before any decision can be made. The Clerk will contact the Solicitors who were involved during the transfer to see if they still hold a copy.</p> <p><b>23/391 Allotments</b> The allocation of vacant allotment plots is still ongoing. It was agreed that the Clerk and will arrange to meet everyone on the waiting list and report back to the Sub-Committee so final plot allocation can be agreed. It was decided that any decisions regarding the allotments need to be made by the Sub-Committee as a whole. Tenancy agreements and covering letters for next year will be sent out this month by the Clerk.</p> <p><b>23/392 Archives re: Old Fire Station</b> A meeting took place between the Parish Council and the Parochial Church Council. The Old Fire Station is still inaccessible and will require further clearing before the Parish Council are able to gain access to our records and documents. The Clerk will contact Cllr. T. Copeland as a member of the Parochial Church Council to ask if they can clear a path and an area so we can access and sort our files and to make sure there is enough space for the 2 filing cabinets that will be purchased. It was agreed that the Clerk should purchase 2 filing cabinets to house the existing documents that are being stored in the Old Fire Station.</p> <p>Proposed: Councillor M. Stewart Seconded: Councillor G. Holland</p> <p><b>23/393 Speed warning signs</b> Cllr. J. Atkinson has been unable to contact the Clerk of Collyweston Parish Council for advice. The cost of the required speed signs and batteries is £6695 + VAT. It was agreed that Cllr. J. Atkinson should apply for the grant worth up to £5000.</p> <p><b>23/394 Road and footpath repairs</b> It has become apparent that the drains need cleaning out again. The Clerk will contact Highways and see if this can be done and to be given a date so the Parish Council can liaise with residents to ensure that no cars are parked near the drains so they can all be cleared.</p> <p><b>23/395 Reports from our Representatives</b> None</p> <p><b>23/396 Burial Board Report</b> Some gravestones in the Cemetery are becoming unstable. These will be identified, and a quote obtained from Kings Cliffe Property Maintenance for the cost of stabilising them.</p> <p><b>23/397 Gazette entry – December 2023</b> Discussed &amp; Agreed</p>	<p>Cllr. J. Atkinson</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk/ Cllr.T.Copeland</p>
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**23/398 Police: Crime Report/JAG**

None

**23/399 Correspondence Received**

Charles Atkinson – Contacted the Parish Council regarding his request for finding a solution to stop the flooding that occurs under the railway bridge that he sent to the Parish Council in 2021. The Clerk will contact NCC in regard to this as all projects were put on hold because of the Covid pandemic.

Parish Council Phone line – The Clerk reported to the Council that she is being charged for the phone calls made while carrying out her duties. It was agreed to reimburse the Clerk immediately. The Clerk will add this to her expenses each month going forward.

Proposed: Councillor J. Atkinson

Seconded: Councillor D. Balmer

The next Meeting will be held at 7.30 pm on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at Lower Ground Floor Community Room Kings Cliffe Active.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_