

Minutes of the meeting of the Village Council of Kings Clipstone held on the 16 July, 2012 in the Community Room, Sherwood Forest Holiday Park, Gorsethorpe Lane, Kings Clipstone, Nottinghamshire. The meeting commenced at 7.00pm

Present: Cllr M Bradley. (Chair of the Council)
Cllr J Govan.
Cllr J Harbottle
Cllr D Maguire
Cllr S Parkhouse
Cllr M Rowe
Cllr J Smyth (Arriving during the meeting)
Mr M Plumb. (Clerk to the Council)

Also present: four members of the public.

047/13 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from District Councillor S. Soar.

County Cllr Les Ward

The Clerk reported that following a period of illness, County Cllr Les Ward died on the 13th July 2012. The Clerk had advised all Councillors of this sad news and had expressed the hope that the Village Council would be able to attend the funeral when details had been settled. All Councillors expressed their deep sadness at the loss of a well-respected representative of the community, adding their own individual comments about the advice, support friendship and encouragement he freely gave.

The Chair asked the meeting to stand for one minutes silence as a mark of respect for Cllr Ward's memory.

048/13 Declarations of interest

In considering the extent of various Councillors interests in items specified in the agenda, the meeting also considered whether agenda item 16 (see minutes 062/13 below) should be considered as an "exempt item" (exclusion of public/press) as proposed by agenda item 15 (minutes 061/13). Councillors were aware that this item related to an application to the Caravan Club Ltd for certification of a new caravan site in the Village. Three Village Councillors resided very near the proposed site. The applicant, Mr Keith Laver was attending the meeting as one of the members of public. The meeting considered firstly the exclusion proposed, and by show of hands, 3 votes were cast for the item being classified as "exempt" and 3 votes cast for the item being considered in open session. The Chair, knowing which way Cllr J. Smyth (arriving later in the meeting) would vote, gave her casting vote in

favour of the item being considered in “open session”, with no exclusion of the public/press. It was therefore so **resolved**.

Declarations of prejudicial interest were then made by Cllrs M. Bradley, J. Govan and D. Maguire for the reasons given above. They chose to have no involvement in the Councils debate or conclusions and they would vacate the meeting whilst this item was dealt with. The Clerk confirmed that a council quorum would be present during the absence of these three Councillors.

049/13 **Minutes**

After discussion, subject to the following amendments, the minutes of the extra-ordinary meeting of the Village Council Held on 25th June 2012 were **adopted** as a true and accurate record and were signed by the Chair.

- Minute 040/13, 2nd paragraph. Replace “Cane” with “Came”.
- Minutes 044/13. Add “The final estimates will be available after a new survey has been completed by County Highways Officers”.

050/13 **Questions/statements from members of the public**

The meeting **agreed** to suspend standing orders whilst this item of business was transacted. The following matters were brought up.

- Pothole in the road near the Dog and Duck Pub had now been repaired. Information concerning another pothole will be passed on to County Highways.
- In answer to a question from Mr Collinson, the Chair confirmed that the Clerks action in requesting the closure of an unauthorised access onto the recreation ground was fully in accordance with a Council decision.
- A warning was made that unless full copies of all minutes, agenda and accounts was not provided to a member of the public within seven days, action will be taken under the Freedom of Information Act. In response, the Chair said that such a request should be made in writing to the Clerk who would verify the Councils legal obligation in this case before taking action. The Chair added that minutes and agenda are displayed on notice boards, and work was progressing in the development of the Village Council website and newsletters, both of which will include information upon agenda, minutes and accounts.
- Mr Keith Laver asked for an explanation concerning agenda items 15 and 16 (see minute 048/13, first paragraph). The Clerk explained that the description of the business to be transacted under item 16 (“Preservation of the Village Identity/Character - Clerks report”) was a collective item involving (a) the current proposal to established a caravan site in an open location at the Village Centre and (b) if time

permits, a future Village plan. All Councillors were aware of these items of business before the meeting. Agenda item 15 asked the Council to consider dealing with item 16 as an “exempt” item. The Council had determined this question under minute 048/13 above.

- Another member of public expressed his concerns about past developments on Mr Laver’s land, in particular a planning consent for a new “stable block”. He had already written to the Planning Authority to record his concern about the owner’s future plans for the site. The meeting **NOTED** this statement, and queried whether planning consent was needed for a container/office (?) which had been erected on the site some time ago. It was **agreed** that clarification be requested from the District Council.
- Another member of the public expressed her own opposition to the proposal to establish a caravan site on Mr Laver’s land. She was deeply concerned about the road safety aspect, the increased noise levels, loss of Village amenity and reduction in privacy. Certification of the site would result in toilet facilities being provided, rubbish/waste disposal and water and electricity supply. Her comments were **noted** by the meeting.

There being no further items brought up by members of the public, standing orders were reactivated at this point.

051/13 **County Councillors Report**

No report was received or discussion held under this item of business.

052/13 **District Councillors Report**

The Clerk reported that District Councillor Sheila Soar had provided a written report upon the following

- The District Council is reviewing areas where “no dog’s orders” might be justified. If the Village Council had any suggestion, the District Council would appreciate receiving them (contact Kristy Cole NSDC).
- The Local Development plan is under the consultation stage and has been circulated to Parishes. The Clerk confirmed its receipt and submitted the full document for the meetings consideration. Cllr Parkhouse commented that in view of the possibility of (“New”) Clipstone becoming part of the “Greater Mansfield Area”, it was vitally important for the District Council to ensure that “Kings Clipstone” remained in the “Sherwood Forest Area”. The Clerk would e-mail these concerns, on the Village Council behalf.
- The rules requiring collection of Council tax were to change before April 2013. As a consequence, the Parish tax base figure will not be

known until the New Year, and Parish/Town Councils were being advised to delay setting their precept until the New Year.

- The Safety Neighbourhood Group continues in its work and reports/comments were most welcome.

After discussion, the report was **received** by the meeting and appreciation recorded to Cllr Soar for her report.

053/13 **Police Report**

The Clerk reported the receipt of an e-mail from PC Keith Crowhurst relating to the use of a “speed gun”. PC Crowhurst reported that a speed gun was originally available for use near the Dog and Duck pub. If this could be located, or another speed gun acquired, PC Crowhurst would investigate the possibility of assisting with training for those wishing to participate.

After discussion, the report was **received** and **noted**. There were varying opinions about the effectiveness of speed guns. The Council will continue to review various measures of controlling speeding vehicles during future meetings.

054/13 **Village Councillors Reports**

- Cllr S. Parkhouse reported that following a recent visit to local estate agents, he had discovered that some were still using “Clipstone” to describe properties situated in “Kings Clipstone”. It was **agreed** that the Clerk writes to local estate agents and request more accurate property descriptions.
- Cllr D. Maguire reported that information is being collected for the newsletters and he hoped that this will be published shortly. The Clerk would prepare a draft and send it to David.
- Cllr J. Harbottle reported that residents should be receiving from the District Council, battery re-cycling bags but these had not yet been received. On enquiry to the District Council, she had been advised that they would be distributed during the next two weeks.
- The Clerk reported that he had ordered three signs for the recreation ground. One “access required at all times” for the main gateway and two “no dogs except for blind people” for the pedestrian gate and recreation hut. The signs were “non-metal” but strong. He would install the signs as soon as they were received.
- The Clerk reported that he had invited six garden contractors to quote for grass cutting work on the recreation ground, the monument sign area and other road sides in the Village. He would refer responses back to the next Village Council meeting for consideration. Cllr Parkhouse suggested that the contractor who works for the Dog and Duck pub might also be approached and invited to quote.

- Cllr M. Bradley reported that the sign at the junction of Squires Lane and Gorsethorpe Lane was in a degenerative condition. It was **agreed** that the Clerk write to the District Council (Clair Swingley)?? and request a replacement sign.

055/13 **Adoption of the Telephone Kiosk**

The Clerk reported the successful completion of formalities for the transfer of the former telephone kiosk from B.T. to the Village Council. The transfer becomes effective from the 17th July 2012. Notices about the transfer had been supplied for use in the kiosk and a document upon maintenance/painting and spare parts had also been received. These were passed onto Councillors. Work could now be started upon the kiosks renovation. Because a notice giving the location of the telephone kiosk was being displayed at Sherwood Pines Holiday Park, they need to be informed and Cllr Bradley undertook to do this. It was also **agreed** to ask BT if they could provide any historical information about the kiosk.

056/13 **Replacement of Bus Shelter**

The Clerk reported that the application for LIS. funding towards part costing of the replacement bus shelter could not be submitted at this time because it needed the supporting signature of the County Councillor. Additionally the Clerk had been informed that LIS Funds for the current year had been fully allocated and a waiting list was in operation. A more realistic bid could be made for next year's funds but this needed to be submitted by the end of September 2012.

It was **agreed** that an application be made and the Clerk was authorised to submit the bid.

057/13 **Planning Matters**

a) **Retention of Modular Education Building at Sherwood Pines Holiday Park. (12/00917 FUL/R3N)**

Cllr J. Harbottle reported that she understood a planning application had been made for an extension of a past planning approval. The Clerk confirmed he had not received details of this proposal. It was **agreed** that the Clerk write to the District Council Planning Office and obtain details.

b) **Erection of Potable Office/Cabin on land adjoining King John Court**

Cllr S. Parkhouse suggested that any proposal for this form of development on this site be sent to the Village Council for consideration. The meeting **agreed**

c) Erection of 180 Dwellings at Clipstone Drive, Clipstone

Cllr J. Harbottle reported that a planning application for this development was under consideration. There was also another “reserved” application for 201 dwellings also at Clipstone. Taking into account past applications, a total of some 900 new dwellings was currently under consideration in the immediate vicinity of Kings Clipstone. All sites were close to, but outside the Parish boundary. Nevertheless, Councillors felt that there would be a substantial impact on Kings Clipstone Village should these developments take place. It was therefore **agreed** that the Clerk requests further information upon the current position and also raises the question of a “community Infrastructure Levy” with the District Council for use in Kings Clipstone should these development take place.

058/13 Village/Community Hall. Feasibility Considerations

The Clerk reported upon the details of a case which he had been associated with for the provision of a small, yet high standard Village Centre in a Village in north Nottinghamshire He described the various stages which were involved in building up a funding strategy, design and selection of the building, acquisition of land, involvement of community groups and local authorities.

During the ensuing discussion the meeting **reaffirmed** its view that there was a strong need for a community/heritage centre in Kings Clipstone. The Clerk would build up an information file upon aspects of this proposal and commence various investigations.

059/13 Accounts for payment

The Clerk reported that there were no accounts outstanding at present but he expected two invoices to arrive before the September meeting of the Village Council (Internal Audit Fees and new signs for the recreation field). If these payments were needed urgently, he would ask the Chair and one Councillor to sign the payment cheques before the September meeting.

060/13 Accounts for the Year Ending 31st March 2012

The Clerk circulated the final accounts for the year ending 31st March 2012, together with the explanatory statement. The annual statement showed an end of year balance of £6,126 and included the following explanations.

- The balance carried forward included specific reserves for a future capital project, yet to be determined by the Village Council.
- Fixed assets comprising the recreation field and the recreation hut has been assessed at £1 (nominal) value for the field (leased, not owned) and (following discussion with Village Councillors), £15,000 for the

estimated cost of complete replacement of the recreation hut. Total £15,001. (This will be reviewed each year).

In answer to a question concerning VAT regulation, the Clerk confirmed that this will be done, now that the accounts for 2011/12 have been completed. The meeting also recalled that, within the balance carried forward was a grant towards the cost of floral displays from County Cllr Les Ward.

After discussion, the Council **resolved**, by a vote of 5 for, 1 against and 1 abstention, to adopt the accounts (a copy of which is attached to the minutes); to authorise the Chair of the council and Clerk to sign the statutory statement; and to authorise their submission for both internal and external audit. The internal auditor will be Dixon Accountancy and Taxation services of Keyworth, Nottinghamshire and external auditor will be Clement keys, Chartered Accountants, Birmingham.

061/13 **Exclusion of Public/Press**

No further discussion was held under this item of business following the Council's decision under minute 048/13 above.

062/13 **Preservation of the Village Identity**

Before any discussion took place under this item of business, Cllr M. Bradley, J. Govan and D. Maguire, repeated their declarations of prejudicial interests (through their residing close to the site involved) and vacated the meeting whilst the Council dealt with this matter.

Cllr M. Rowe, Vice Chair, in the Chair

The Clerk confirmed that with four Councillors remaining, a quorum existed and any decisions made by the meeting were perfectly valid. The Clerk then confirmed, for record purposes, that Councillors were fully aware of the nature of business to be transacted. Expressions of serious concern had been received by Councillors and the Clerk about the application to the Caravan Club UK Ltd for formal certification of a caravan site on Mr Keith Laver's land. Planning consent was not apparently needed in this case but certain conditions were required to have been complied with, before a certificate could be issued.

The Vice Chair, Cllr Rowe, then asked Councillors to express their views upon the proposal. The following were made.

- Access to the site is considered to be both difficult and dangerous, given the reduced room for manoeuvring, the reduced visibility from both directions and the central white road line. County Highways should be advised.

- Increased volumes of towing vehicles would be created on a road already the subject of road traffic accidents.
- Despite the Caravan Clubs condition requiring prior consultation with neighbours and with the Local Authority, there was clear evidence that few consultations have taken place.
- The site involved is in the immediate vicinity to the King John's Palace ruins and an area of growing heritage significance. Residents fear an increased risk of vandalism to local heritage assets and other forms of anti-social behaviour.
- The proposal, if approved, would increase the risk of noise and reduced amenity for all residents in the immediate area.
- The siting of caravans in the centre of the Village on a site where satisfactory screening is virtually impossible would seriously impair the visual amenity of the Village.

After a full discussion it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to object to the proposal to certificate this site on the grounds specified above.

Cllr M. Bradley, Cllr J. Govan and Cllr D. Maguire then returned to the meeting and **Cllr M. Bradley resumed as Chair** for the remaining item of business. All three Councillors were advised of the Councils decision in this matter.

063/13 **Date of Next Meeting**

To be 3rd September 2012 unless an extra ordinary meeting is needed for planning matters or consideration of quotes for grass cutting.

The Chair then thanked everyone for their contributions and **closed** the meeting at 9.25pm.