

**Minutes of the meeting of the Village Council of Kings Clipstone, held on the Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2013 in Waterfield Farm, Kings Clipstone, Nottinghamshire. The meeting commenced at 7.00pm.**

**Explanatory Note    Date and Place for the Meeting**

Because of severe winter weather conditions affecting the access road to the Sherwood Forest Holiday Park, it was advisable to postpone the 14<sup>th</sup> January 2013 meeting until Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2013. Unfortunately, the winter conditions did not improve on the new date. In view of the urgent need for the Council to take important decisions (particularly upon the precept/budget for 2013/14), it was **AGREED** by Councillors to hold the meeting at Cllr Mrs Mickie Bradley's home farm address to which access was reasonably safe. Members of the public who normally attend the meeting and the County and Borough Councillors were advised of this change beforehand.

**Present:**        Cllr M. Bradley (Chair of the Council)  
                      Cllr J. Govan  
                      Cllr J. Harbottle  
                      Cllr S. Parkhouse  
                      Cllr M. Rowe  
                      Mr M Plumb    (Clerk to the Council)

**124/13 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr D. Maguire and Cllr J. Smyth (work commitments) and from County Cllr John Peck and District Cllr Sheila Soar (travelling problems during severe winter weather from home addresses).

**125/13 Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of Interest were made by attending Councillors in respect of items to be discussed during this meeting.

**126/13 Dispensation for Councils Declarations of Interest**

The Clerk reported that under the new code of conduct, a question had been raised (nationally) that any local Councillor who resides within the Parish has a disclosable pecuniary interest in all matters concerned with determining the Councils annual budget and precept (rates). However it has been recognised that to follow this advice would result in Councils not having a quorum at meetings where this item of business was on the agenda.

The Clerk has obtained a guidance note issued by NALC. This advised that since Parish Councils can give dispensations to its own Councillors from disclosing this pecuniary interest, the guidance note recommended that this be done, in order to avoid any question of subsequent criminal proceedings. NALC had provided a model dispensation request form which Councillors could use and copies were issued to attending Councillors. These were completed during this item of business and handed to the Clerk for safe keeping. The meeting then **AGREED** to receive and accept the dispensations requested. **immediately** in view of the District Council's request for the precept notice to be received by 4<sup>th</sup> February 2013.

### **127/13 Minutes**

Subject to the following amendments, the minutes of the Village Council meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2012 were **adopted** as a true and accurate record and were signed by the Chair.

- 106/13 Apologies for absence. After “Cllr M. Rowe”, first line, insert “(Holiday)”.
- 113/13 Replace penultimate paragraph with; “Cllr J. Harbottle commented that the speed sensor had not been installed at the right location to monitor traffic speed”.
- 112/13, point 7 second bullet point, third line. Delete “Peashill” and replace with “Peafield”.
- Second paragraph. 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence. Delete and replace with “A camper (caravans) cannot spend more than 28 consecutive days on this site”.

### **128/13 Questions/Statements from Members of the Public**

None

### **129/13 District Councillors Report**

District Councillor Sheila Soar was not in attendance due to severe weather conditions However Cllr Soar had investigated the Village Councils concerns about fly posting on street lights, advertising housing development sites. NSDC had confirmed that these signs do not need prior consent under planning regulations. Unless road safety issues were involved, little action could be taken.

### **130/13 County Councillors Report**

County Councillor John Peck was not in attendance due to severe weather conditions. The Clerk reported receipt of an e-mail from John reporting as follows

- Gorsethorpe Lane. Additional road safety signage has now been agreed.
- A request for re-surfacing a section of Main Road, and Squires Lane has been made.

### **131/13 Village Councillors Reports**

- Cllr Malcolm Rowe reported that the bin next to the new bus shelter was not being emptied. Also there was a need for an additional bin on Archway Road. Clerk to request action by NSDC.
- Cllr S. Parkhouse asked for the agreement of the Council for sending a statement repeating the Village Councils support for the application to recognise New Building Drive as a public bridleway. The meeting endorsed the claim that this important path has been used by members of the public to reach Parliament Oak, for some time with no opposition from the landowner. On behalf of the Village Council, the Clerk signed the statement which will be used to support the application.

- Cllr J. Harbottle asked if the information leaflet relating to the proposals for a new Doctors Surgery/Health Centre could be displayed on the Notice Board. This will be done by the Clerk.

### **132/13 Council Clerks Report**

The Clerk reported as follows:

- The mandate forms have been sent to the Councils New Bankers, Lloyds TSB.
- The new bus shelter had been installed, but no seat had been fitted. A request has been made to and acknowledged by County Highways.
- The first draft of the Village Councils new web site had been received and the Clerk had circulated this to the Councillors by e-mail for comments.
- Nottinghamshire County Council was holding another information Seminar upon their Local Improvement Scheme Grants at Newark on the 7<sup>th</sup> March 2013. It was **AGREED** the Chair and Clerk attend, plus Cllr S. Parkhouse if places permit.

With regard to the Bus Shelter, Cllr Parkhouse reported upon defects in the roof and the absence of glass/Perspex panels in both ends walls. Clerk to pass on this report to County Highways.

### **138/13 Review of Parish Council Protocols**

After discussion it was **AGREED** that the Clerk carry out a comprehensive review of protocols (e.g. Health and Safety, Records Management, Data Protection, Playing Fields Regulations, Equal Opportunities etc.) for consideration by the Village Council. It was further **AGREED** that consideration be given to additional paid hours for the Clerk, for carrying out this work.

### **139/13 Planning matters (Consultation/Decisions)**

None received.

### **140/13 Date of the next Village Council Meeting**

11<sup>th</sup> February 2013.

### **141/13 Exclusion of the Public/Press**

It was **AGREED** that in view of the confidential nature of the remaining items of business, it is in the public interests for this items to be considered under an "exempt" matters. A confidential attachment to these minutes is provided for this information of Village Councillors only. The matters concerned relate to accounts for payment, budget/annual precept for 2013/14, code of conduct, and recreation field boundaries.

**Kings Clipstone Village Council**  
**Village Council Meeting**  
**17<sup>th</sup> January 2013**

**Confidential Attachment to the Minutes of the Meeting**  
**For the Information of Village Councillors Only**

**142/13 Accounts for Payment**

The following accounts were approved for payment:-

<u>Chq. No.</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Net cost</u>
100034	M. Plumb	Wages December 4wks 4hrs £10.00	£160.00
		Use of home office December	£20.00
		Travel 4 x 40miles x 25p	£40.00
		Stationery	<u>£37.65</u>
			Total <u>£257.65</u>
100035	Welbeck Estates	Playing Field Rent	£50.00

**143/13 Budget/Annual precept for 2013/14**

The Clerk of the Council circulated a report showing the approved budget for the current year, the estimated end of year balances, recommendations/suggestions for the 2013/14 budget and the cost to the ratepayer of various options. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes.

After a full discussion, Cllr S Parkhouse proposed that the budget for 2013/14 remains unchanged from the current year (£8,500). Cllr J. Harbottle seconded the motion. Cllr M. Rowe proposed an amendment that the budget for 2013/14 be increased by £500 and was seconded by Cllr J. Govan. The amendment was put to a vote first and was **CARRIED** by three votes for and two votes against. Without taking into account changes to the tax base figure, the "average" (schedule D) ratepayer would be paying an extra £4.15 (estimated) per property for the year to meet the cost of this increase

**144/13 Code of Conduct**

The Clerk reported that NSDC had written advising that a code of conduct complaint had been received regarding a member of the Village Council. The District Council had requested a copy of the Village Councils code of conduct together with copy of agenda and minutes of the Village Council meetings for 16<sup>th</sup> July and 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2012. These had been sent and the Clerk had asked for details of the nature of the complaint, the name of the Councillor against whom the complaint has been made and the name of the complainant.

The District Council had replied stating that they consider it would not be appropriate to provide this information until further investigation have been carried out and a conclusion reached as to whether there is evidence of a breach of the code of conduct. The Council Clerk expressed the view that this response was unreasonable because the Village Council was being denied information upon which Councillor was involved and which part of the code of conduct was affected.

After discussed the Clerk's report was **NOTED**. Further consideration would be given to this matter at the next full Council meeting.

#### **145/13 Recreation Field Unauthorised Access**

The Clerk reported that Welbeck Estates had failed to reply to his September 2012 e-mail request for confirmation that lease conditions had been breached by residents who had opened two access points onto the recreation field from their properties.

Cllr S. Parkhouse suggested that one option might be for the Village Council to simply remove the steps and seal the entrances without any further delay. The Clerk advised against this at the present time until it was clear that any such action could not be contested in a law court. After discussion it was **AGREED** that Welbeck Estates be asked again for confirmation that the accesses were in breach of the freehold and lease for this site

#### **146/13 Consultations with Parishioners**

It was **AGREED** because of time constraints, this item be considered at the next meeting of the Village Council.

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There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for their contributions and closed the meeting at 9.00pm.