LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall
Monday 14 November 2016 - 7.30pm to 9.00pm

Present:	Cllr D L Couldwell Cllr H East Cllr T Fowell Cllr E Hobley Cllr B Sturgess Cllr H Tassell Cllr J Tyers (Chair) Julia Unna (Parish Clerk)
Members of the Village - others in attendance:	Tina Elliott Paul Le Pla, Rutland South Dedicated Neighbourhood Officer

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1 Questions and comments from the floor:

Cllr. J Tyers (Chairman) welcomed Tina and Paul to the meeting.
Tina commented on the sweeping of the roads in Lyddington and expressed a concern with regards to the size of the lorry carrying out this maintenance work and the damage caused by the vehicle. The comment was noted.

Paul Le Pla, Rutland South, Dedicated Neighbourhood Officer, provided the Council with an update to the local crime reported in the area for the month of November. It was noted that these incidents had not yet been circulated as the months' activities were reported retrospectively (i.e. November's activities will be reported on in December). The following incidents were reported:

Theft from a house on Main Street, Lyddington on 2 November
Attempted burglary in Manton on the same night
Assorted incidents in Barrowden
Damage reported in South Luffenham

Paul Le Pla advised the Council on a variety of advisable security measures to safeguard ones' property in the area and recommended that the 'Rural watch' website was referred to for useful information relating to securing vehicle number plates, bikes and assorted objects often kept in a garage or barn.

Website to refer to https://leics.police.uk/categories/rural-watch

Paul Le Pla recommended printing off a poster from the website for the notice board.
Action Parish Clerk (Task Completed). It was also noted that a sensible precaution was to look at your own property from the street and consider potential dangers and risks to your property. Paul noted that he was happy to advise village members on security if requested.

2 Apologies for absence: None

3 Declaration of Interests: None

4 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12 September 2016 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair

5. Good Neighbourhood Scheme

The Parish Council considered the document forwarded by the Rural Communities but noted that the village had a good awareness of supporting each other and that this scheme would not be taken any further at this stage. The Council would like to discuss this matter again at the Annual Meeting to gauge further interest. **Parish Clerk to diarise and invite a representative from the RCC to the appropriate meeting. Action Parish Clerk.**

REGULAR REPORTS

6 Lyddington Playing Field and Park

6.1 **To note the monthly safety check on the village play equipment and agree any actions required:**

The Parish Council noted the inspection confirmation emails from Cllr H Tassell dated 26th September and 31st October 2016.

The Parish Clerk reported that a quote for an inspection had been received from 'Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents' (www.rospa.com) with the following figures noted £66.50 per play area plus £3.50 for any additional item of equipment both were subject to VAT. An inspection requested within a 6 week notice period was reported to be charged at a premium rate of £225.00 plus VAT.

Cllr J Tyers requested that a comparative quote be requested from Wickstead Park so that the Council could make a decision between the two providers for an inspection for 2017.

Cllr J Tyers reported that he had conducted a maintenance inspection and noted that no further repairs at this time were required. It was noted that the perimeter fence may need some routine repair work in the Spring of 2017.

Cllr J Tyers reported that the pile of stones placed near the zip wire had been removed.

It was noted that a post was insecure on the Chapel Lane footpath over the stream on the other side of the Gate, towards Seaton. Noted as possibly a vehicle deterrent. It was noted that this would need repairing. Parish Clerk to check and advise RCC to arrange a repair. **Action Parish Clerk**

The Parish Clerk reported that RCC had been contacted re securing the waste bin. Parish Clerk to follow up and report at January Meeting that this had been repaired. **Action Parish Clerk Ongoing**

Cllr Hobley confirmed that she had put together a checking list for the regular playground inspections which included a drop down menu facility for ease of completing. It was noted that Cllr Tassell was trained in inspections. It was noted that this new spreadsheet would be used for future inspections. **Action Cllr Hobley and Cllr Tassell Ongoing**

A recommendation from the previous meeting held in September had highlighted a need from a safety viewpoint for a padlock and chain mechanism to be purchased for use on the five bar gate leading to the small children's play area. **Action Cllr J Tyers Ongoing Parish Clerk to check if action completed.**

Cllr Tyers reported that a tree surgeon had been contacted in conjunction with the work with Western Power as a regulatory requirement stipulated a specified distance in terms of wiring and overhanging foliage. **Cllr Tyers to advise of update at January Meeting Ongoing**

The Parish Clerk reported that she had contacted Andrew Guinness, Black Velvet, with regards to mole activity in the Children's play area. Andrew would be visiting the area to inspect and set a trap, if required, once approval from Parish Council had been received. Andrew would confirm to the Parish Clerk once the work had been carried out. The Parish Clerk reported that the charge for this activity would be £45.00 for one trap and a further £22.50 for a further trap. The Council approved this charge. **Action Parish Clerk to contact Black Velvet and instruct Andrew to proceed. (Task Completed)**

7 Planning Applications

7.1 **Schedule of planning applications:**

The schedule of planning applications was noted as all up to date. With reference to 10 Colley Rise and the drive repair, the Parish Clerk provided an update to recent discussions held with the Parish Council. Cllr T Fowell noted that the wording from the County Council had been written in a way which potentially could cause confusion in terms of understanding any financial liability. It was agreed that the details investigated should be passed on to the property owner for their information and for any personal follow up. **Action Parish Clerk.**

8 Finance

8.1 **Current financial position and ratification of cheques issued:** A schedule detailing cheques issued since the last meeting was tabled, noted and agreed. The Parish Clerk confirmed that cheques had been received for two memorials and that the Clerk was working through a plot reservation in the new cemetery. **Action Parish Clerk**

8.2 **Clerk's Expenses:** The Clerk's salary and expenses for September and October 2016 (a total of £269.32 being 30.5 hours at £8.83 per hour plus £39.29 expenses) were approved.

BUSINESS

9 Matters Arising

The Parish Council considered the remaining items on the matters arising schedule, not already covered by the agenda and regular reports, including:

9.1 **Playing Field:**

(i) **Quote from ROSPA**: covered under item 6.1
(ii) **Obtain Padlock and Chain for Children's area:** Parish Clerk to check with Cllr Tyers if this action has been completed see item 6.1
(iii) **Inspect any repair work required:** Covered under item 6.1
(iv) **Removal of stones:** Completed noted in item 6.1
(v) **Securing of waste bin:** Parish Clerk to follow up see item 6.1
(vi) **Update play park inspection lists:** See item 6.1 Ongoing

9.2 **Finance:**

(i) **Investigate land available for a cemetery in the village.** Cllr B Sturgess advised this was still ongoing. It was noted that it was challenging to find a piece of land which was appropriate for this purpose and not already isolated for building. Cllr J Tyers wondered if Sir Alan Duncan should be contacted to seek his advice? Cllr B Sturgess confirmed that he would continue his search and investigate the map of the area more fully. It was agreed that the search would need to be in the envelope of the village itself and away from the risk of water damage. Further fields should be identified for possible purchase. **Ongoing**

Cllr H Tassell agreed to contact the trustees of Pat Bealby's land, south of the village. This has now been done and it was reported that unfortunately the land could not be used for anything other than agriculture.

9.3 **Other Matters:**

(i) **Tarmac Issue with 10 Colley Rise:** Covered until item 7.1.

(ii) **Signs throughout the village:** Cllr J Tyers reported that a meeting had been held on 17th September at the North end of the village to look at the proposed positioning of the new signage. Copies of the proposed signage had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was agreed that the Council would support the proposal from RCC who would meet the costs for the new signage.

It was confirmed that the new signs would not appear in front of any residential housing which may have been of concern to some residents. The Parish Council agreed that whilst RCC would meet the costs of the new signs and road markings, the Parish Council would pay for the new Lyddington village signage, which they felt more in keeping with the village than those proposed and would be made from cast iron. Cllr J Tyers would follow up this matter up and report back at the next meeting. **Action Cllr J Tyers.**

Cllr J Tyers reported that the current signage would remain in situ until the new signage was ready. A concern regarding the red colouring on the road was noted however the view from the Council members was that safety in the village was seen as paramount. It was noted that there was a need to be proactive to avoid any injuries.

Parish Council Consensus: Two 30 mile per hour signs would be placed in the village and red colouring marked on the road to highlight the need to reduce speed. It was noted that the painted area provided a natural friction when driving over it resulting in a reduction in speed.

(iii) **Hedge removal and fencing at the Gretton end entrance to the village:** Cllr J Tyers reported that this was no longer required.

(iv) **Transfer of Website.** The Parish Clerk reported that time was needed to be set aside to look at the training manual to ensure that the site was kept updated. **Parish Clerk Ongoing**

(v) **Contact RCC re pavements and other highway issues:** The Parish Clerk confirmed that this was ongoing. RCC had been contacted and would be inspecting the pavement areas routinely. It was likely that no action would be taken until the Spring of 2017. The pavement areas would also be inspected following work on the new substation once work had commenced. **Ongoing**

(vi) **Use of the land on entering the village – North end:** Cllr E Hobley confirmed that no further bonfires had taken place. **Ongoing review**

(vii) **Tennis Club Agreement:** The Parish Clerk confirmed that the agreement had been sent to Cllr B Sturgess for discussion with the Tennis Club. It was noted that the Agreement should be sent to the Chair of the Tennis Club for his advice. **Action Parish Clerk**

(viii) **Transparency Fund ('TF') Application re scanner and printer:** The Parish Clerk noted that she was investigating possible monies available for claiming to include the period up to March 2017. **Ongoing**

(ix) **Brooksby Melton College:** The Parish Clerk confirmed that an email had been sent confirming that the village would be happy to advertise activities at the college on the notice boards subject to available space.

(x) **Gretton Parish Council:** Parish Clerk confirmed that Gretton PC had been responded to with regards to signage in Lyddington.

(xi) **Tennis court surface:** The Parish Clerk confirmed that an email had been sent to the Chair of the Tennis Club noting the concern which had been reported.

(xii) **Dates for Parish Council Meeting 2017/2018:** Dates for the meetings in 2017/2018 were distributed. It was agreed that the meeting in May would be held on 15th May rather than the 8th May 2017 and the September meeting would be held on 4th September 2017

(xiii) **Contact Black Velvet re mole activity:** item covered under item 6.1

(xiv) **Issue concerning flooding:** Cllr J Tyers reported that an assessment was currently being carried out with regards to drainage. **Action Cllr J Tyers Ongoing**

(xv) **Fingerpost signs:** Cllr J Tyers reported that this had been completed.

10 Cemetery: Previously covered under Matters Arising item 9.2 (i) **Ongoing**

11 Parish Council Website: Item covered under Matters Arising item 9.3 (iv) **Ongoing**

11 Traffic Calming Measures: Previously covered under matters arising 9.3 (ii)

OTHER MATTERS

12 Clerk's items

(i) **Undergrounding Project Update:** Cllr E Hobley reported that this matter was being followed up and a further update would be reported back to the Council in January. **Ongoing**

(ii) **Meeting dates for 2017/2018:** Dates circulated and agreed – see exceptions noted above.

(iii) **Street lighting:** It was noted that the new street lights in place were dimmable. Comments welcomed and the issue would be reviewed regularly. **Ongoing**

(iv) **Neighbourhood Plan:** The Parish Council noted the receipt of the draft documentation.

(v) **Grants to Parishes:** It was noted that new legislation had been issued by RCC with regards to grass cutting in the village. The Parish Clerk was requested to investigate the cost of the 6 additional cuts per year and report back. **Action Parish Clerk**

(vi) **Theatre on the Green:** Cllr J Tyers confirmed that the touring group who had visited in the Summer of 2016 would like to visit Lyddington on Sunday 18th June 2017 to perform Romeo and Juliet. Cllr E Hobley noted that she was happy to help with the planning. Cllr H Tassell agreed to contact the radio about the production. It was noted that a board on the Green itself might produce more interest with passing traffic.

13 Dates of Next Meetings

- Monday 9th January 2017 - 7.30 pm in the village hall. Parish Council Meeting.
- Monday 13th March 2017 – 7.30 pm in the village hall. Parish Council Meeting.

14 Other Matters (at the discretion of the Chairman)

- Cllr T Tyers confirmed that a concern had been raised by a resident following the apparent cutting off of the fingerpost signs. It was reported that the Council had arrived to repair the signpost which had now been repaired and was being repainted.
- Cllr D Couldwell reporrted that the builders working on the repair of the church wall had noted that the brambles had grown into the wall itself and had caused damage to the mortar. It was also noted that the overall care of the old cemetery was the responsibility of the County Council and was noted as an area of concern.
- Cllr E Hobley reported that at the recent Village Hall Committee Meeting, held on 27th October 2016, a concern had been noted regarding advertising and the use of the Hall itself. It was reported that the Chair of the Village Hall Committee, James Horton would be discussing the matter further with Cllr T Fowell, to explore how to increase its use. It was noted that the Village Hall would be holding a 'Swishing Event' in the hope of raising additional funds.
- Cllr J Tyers noted with regret that Cllr D Couldwell would be resigning from the Council to take immediate effect due to a family relocation. His significant contribution to the Village and the Council was noted and thanked. Cllr D Couldwell's resignation was accepted with regret.
- The Parish Clerk was requested to contact RCC and investigate due process for recruiting a new Parish Councillor.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

Chairman:

Cllr James Tyers

Date: