

LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

SUMMARY REPORT (INCLUDING FINANCES) FOR THE YEAR: 1 APRIL 2015 TO 31 MARCH 2016

Chairman, Councillors and Clerk

Elections for the Parish Council were held in May 2015. The elections were uncontested and saw the appointment of 7 councillors: Cllr James Tyers, Cllr Harriet Tassell, Cllr David Couldwell, Cllr Tony Fowell, Cllr Holly East, Cllr Elizabeth Hobley and Cllr Barnaby Sturgess. Cllr James Tyers was elected as Chairman for the first year, with Cllr Harriet Tassell as Deputy Chairman. Mrs Tina Kaczmar remained as Parish Clerk.

Parish Council Meetings

Six Parish Council meetings and one Annual Parish Meeting were held during the year in the Village Hall. Meeting agendas are displayed on the village notice boards and the website in advance and minutes are available on the website. Members of the Parish are welcome to attend the meetings to ask questions and raise issues before the main business of the meeting commences. Regular reports on the playing field, finance and planning are provided at each meeting, together with other matters of interest relevant to the village. Meetings for the coming year (April 2016 to March 2017) are scheduled to take place on 9 May, 11 July, 12 September, and 14 November 2016, 9 January and 13 March 2017 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

Website (www.lyddingtonpc.org.uk)

The Parish Council website contains up to date details on the work of the Parish Council. It contains details of the meetings and aims to include the main information displayed on the two Parish noticeboards. Under the new Transparency Code the Parish Council is required to display certain information on the website, including financial information. The website is now up to date with the necessary information. The current website is hosted by Leicestershire County Council and will be closed in September 2016. The Parish Council is currently considering options for a new website provider.

Playing Field and Play Park

The Play Park continues to be well used by the children of the village as well as attracting families from further afield. Cllr James Tyers, with the help of other Councillors, continues to manage the ongoing maintenance and improvements in the play area. Monthly safety inspections of the play equipment are carried out by Cllr Harriet Tassell. Wicksteed completed the second of three annual safety inspections in September 2015. New 'No Dogs' signs have been installed in response to comments made at the last Annual Parish Meeting. The possibility of a dog agility area at the far end of the playing field was considered this year. The Parish Council was supportive of this proposal, however it was felt that the location was not appropriate due to its proximity to the children's play area.

Lyddington Tennis

Lyddington Tennis operate the tennis court on the playing field on behalf of the Parish Council. Cllr Barnaby Sturgess was appointed as the Parish Council representative on the Lyddington Tennis Committee. The tennis court was resurfaced in Autumn 2015. This was managed and funded by Lyddington Tennis. The new surface should last for over 10 years with minimal maintenance required. Tennis membership is available for Lyddington residents. Further details can be found on the website www.lyddingtontennis.co.uk

Grounds Maintenance and the Village Environment

4 Counties Ground Maintenance (previously CDG Contractors) provide the grounds maintenance for the Parish Council. The areas they maintain include the new cemetery, The Green, the bench on Stoke Road and the playing field, allotments and children's play area. They will continue to provide grounds maintenance for 2016/2017. They provide 13 cuts throughout the summer months with 3 additional cuts on The Green. Rutland County Council will continue to cut the verges in the village. Two new bins have been installed, one on Chapel Lane and one at the Gretton end of the village, to try and encourage dog owners to pick up after their dogs. Stickers were also put on all bins to ensure people are aware they can be used for dog faeces and 'dog poo fairy' posters were put up around the village. It is felt that these actions have helped to reduce the amount of dog mess around the village. The Parish Council would like to thank Kay Raitt for her help to implement these initiatives.

The Cemetery

Cemetery fees were reviewed and updated to bring them in line with Uppingham burial fees. The new fee schedule is available on the website. The Parish Council has started to consider the requirement for a cemetery space elsewhere in the

village when the current cemetery is full. Although this will not happen in the near future it is felt that this needs to be considered and planned for well in advance if Lyddington residents wish to maintain a cemetery in the village in the future.

Allotments

The 12 allotment plots were occupied throughout the year. Several people have chosen to give up their plots on 1st April this year. These plots were advertised and have been taken on by 3 Lyddington residents. Fees have been held at £15 per plot. There is currently 1 person on the waiting list for a plot in April 2017. Please contact the Clerk if you would like to be added to the allotment waiting list.

Planning Applications

34 planning and tree applications were considered and commented on during the year by the Parish Council. All 34 were supported by the Parish Council and only one of these applications was refused by Rutland County Council Planning Department. Four applications are currently awaiting a decision by the County Council planning department.

Street Lighting and Highways

Street lighting continues to be managed by the Parish Council and one yellow light in Colley Rise was replaced this year by a more efficient white light. Rutland County Council has presented a proposal to transfer the management of all street lighting within the County to Rutland County Council. This proposal will see greater investment in the street lighting stock and savings in energy costs. The Parish Council is awaiting further details. The project to underground the electricity lines at the north end of the village is still with Western Power and the Parish Council is in regular contact with them. It is hoped that some progress will be made this year to underground the high voltage lines to the village when the access to the new substation at the north end of the village is finalised. The undergrounding of the low voltage lines within the village is likely to take several more years. The pavements at the north end of the village have recently been resurfaced by Rutland County Council and a new pavement is being installed at the Gretton end of the village following a request from residents to the Parish Council.

FINANCE

Each year, the Parish Council prepares a budget for its estimated expenditure for the forthcoming financial year, commencing 1 April. This budget sets the amount to be requested from Rutland County Council - the "precept". The precept is raised by the County Council through the council tax and is shown on each individual council tax bill issued by the County Council, usually in March. The precept for the 2015/16 year was £7,500 and has been held at the same level for 2016/17.

Because of its responsibility for street lighting, an annual grant is received from the County Council which covers a proportion of costs. Other sources of income are cemetery fees, and annual allotment fees. Expenditure comprises grounds maintenance, street lighting, insurance, Clerk's salary and administration costs, general maintenance of facilities, audit fees, room hire and any other item budgeted for and approved by the Parish Council. The major sources of income and expenditure for the financial year 2014/15 are set out below. Items are shown without VAT as this is reclaimed from HMRC.

This is not a balance sheet. The full accounts for the year are currently being prepared for submission to the external auditor. The accounts will be posted on the Parish Council website and any member of the Parish who wishes to view the full accounts may do so by appointment with the Clerk.

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Precept	7,500	Grounds Maintenance	2,309
Cemetery fees	975	Salary and administration (including audit fees)	1,978
Shares dividend	3	Street lighting (maintenance and supplies)	1,264
Street lighting grant	794	Street lighting (capital)	220
Allotments	180	Play Park (maintenance)	134
Wayleave	30	Insurance	754
Lions Santa Float	271	Room hire	102
		Membership fees	80
		Website	200
TOTAL	9,755		7,043

Funds at 30 March 2016		£	Funds at 30 March 2015		£
Represented by: Bank accounts		13,110	Represented by: Bank accounts		10,376
Investments		152	Investments		174
TOTAL		13,262	TOTAL		10,550