

LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

SUMMARY REPORT (INCLUDING FINANCES) FOR THE YEAR: 1 APRIL 2014 TO 31 MARCH 2015

Chairman, Councillors and Clerk

Cllr Ian Canadine was elected as Chairman for a sixth year, with Cllr Harriet Tassell acting as Deputy Chairman. Cllr John Westwood continued as the Parish Council honorary member on the Lyddington Tennis Committee. Mrs Karen Clarke resigned from the Parish Council with effect from 13 January 2014 and the vacant position was advertised. Three candidates applied for the Councillor position and Ms Elizabeth Hobley was appointed after a secret ballot of the Parish Council. The position of Parish clerk was advertised and Mrs Tina Kaczmar was appointed with effect from 14 July 2014.

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, once approved. 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 from the police are provided at each meeting, together with other matters of interest and business relevant to the village. Meetings for the coming year (April 2015 to March 2016) are scheduled to take place on 11 May, 13 July, 14 September, and 9 November 2015, 11 January and 14 March 2016 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

Website (www.lyddingtonpc.org.uk) and newsletters

The website continues to report village news and contains details of Parish Councillors, meetings and other useful information. The Parish Council considers at each of its meetings whether to publish a newsletter to be delivered to all houses in the village to update parishioners on the work of the Parish Council, provide information and consult on matters of interest or concern. No newsletters were published this year however, the website contains up to date details on the work of the Parish Council.

Playing Field and Play Park

Since the refurbishment of Lyddington Park in 2013 it continues to be well used by the children of the village and it attracts many 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. A new gate into the playing field has been installed, as well as a new sandpit cover. Mr Martin Sharpe kindly offered to provide a new bench for the small children's play area and this was installed in October 2014. Monthly safety inspections of the play equipment are carried out by Cllr Harriet Tassell. Wicksteed completed the first of three annual safety inspections in September 2014.

Lyddington Tennis

The Parish Council and Lyddington Tennis have had initial discussions about resurfacing the tennis court. Lyddington Tennis is currently investigating the options for resurfacing and it is hoped that the court will be resurfaced over the coming year.

Public Art for Lyddington

The new village sign on The Green was unveiled by Mr Peter Lawson on 21 February 2014. The sign, hand carved in solid oak was made possible by funding from an Art's Council England funded project – Accessing Rutland's Museums. The sign was carved by local craftsman, Peter Moralee and installed by Michael Wilkins from Rutland Workshop.

The Green and the Cemetery

Cemetery fees were reviewed and updated to bring them more in line with Uppingham burial fees. The new fee schedule is available on the website. Our thanks go once again to Mr Roger Hickinbotham for keeping the grass on The Green neat and tidy. Roger has decided to retire from cutting The Green this year and the work will now be carried out by the grounds maintenance contractor who maintains the new cemetery and play park. Thank you to Roger for his excellent work and commitment to mowing The Green over the years.

Footway from Lyddington to Uppingham

In consultation with the Parish Council, the County Council upgraded the footway from Lyddington to Uppingham. There were some initial concerns from parishioners regarding the surface of the new path and the Parish Council raised these

issues with Rutland County Council. A new surface was applied to the path in November and subsequent feedback has been positive.

Allotments

The 12 allotment plots were occupied throughout the year with some change in occupancy. Fees have been held at £15 per plot. Consideration was given to providing more plots, however, it was decided that more plots would only be provided if more people requested to be added to the waiting list. Please contact the Clerk if you would like to go on the waiting list.

Planning Applications

A large number of planning applications were considered and commented on during the year by the Parish Council. The County Council's Planning Department contacts immediate neighbours about planning applications and yellow notices are posted around the village to inform other villagers of applications. Tree applications are posted on the Parish noticeboards to inform villagers of proposed tree work as immediate neighbours are not contacted and yellow notices are not posted around the village for these applications.

Lighting

Old yellow lights continue to be replaced with newer white lights whenever lights need replacing. The newer white lights are more environmentally friendly and efficient. This year a white light has been installed outside 43 Main Street. 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 to keep up to date with progress.

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 2014/15 year was £7,500 and has been held at the same level for 2015/16.

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, which are variable and cannot be estimated in advance, bank interest, and annual fees for the allotment plots. Expenditure comprises grounds maintenance for the playing field, The Green and cemetery, 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, e.g. improvements to the playing field. The major sources of income and expenditure for the financial year 2014/15 are set out below. These items are shown without VAT as this is reclaimed from HMRC from time to time.

This is not a balance sheet. Any member of the Parish who wishes to view the full accounts of the Council may do so by appointment with the Clerk.

<i>Income</i>	£	<i>Expenditure</i>	£
Precept	7,500	Playing field, cemetery and The Green (maintenance)	2,623*
Cemetery fees	966	Salary and administration (including audit fees)	3,112*
Bank interest	0	Street lighting (maintenance and supplies)	1,112
Street lighting grant	1,413	Street lighting (capital)	220
Allotments	180	Play Park (maintenance)	541*
Wayleave	30	Insurance	855
Lions Santa Float	203	Room hire	105
		Membership fees	64
		Website	150
TOTAL	10,292		8,782

<i>Funds at 30 March 2015</i>	£	<i>Funds at 31 March 2014</i>	£
<i>Represented by: Bank accounts</i>	10,376	<i>Represented by: Bank accounts</i>	9,417
<i>Investments</i>	174	<i>Investments</i>	167
TOTAL	10,550	TOTAL	9,584

*includes expenditure from end of FY13/14 paid for in FY14/15: £186, £1252, £64 respectively.