

LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

SUMMARY REPORT (INCLUDING FINANCES) FOR THE YEAR: 1 APRIL 2013 TO 31 MARCH 2014

Chairman and Councillors

Cllr Ian Canadine was elected as Chairman for a fifth 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 has been advertised.

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 2014 to March 2015) are scheduled to take place in May, July, September, and November 2014, January and March 2015 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 such as broadband in the village and the Park Project, and the problem of dog fouling. Newsletters were published in June 2013 and January 2014.

Playing Field

Lyddington Park Project to refresh the play equipment in the Playing Field was completed in September 2013. A substantial grant of funds was received from WREN together with grants from the Lyddington Fete Charity, Lions Club of Rutland and contributions from some villagers. The Park was officially opened on the week-end of 21 September and the Chairman made a speech thanking all of those who had made the Project possible, including those who had provided funding and members of the village who had given their services. Monthly safety inspections of the play equipment are carried out by members of the Parish Council, led by Cllr Tassell, and Wicksteed will complete the annual safety inspection for the next three years as part of the installation.

The Green and the Cemetery

Following receipt of permission from the County Council, the trees on the Green have been trimmed back in anticipation of the Village Fete in May. A new green bin is in place in the cemetery and members of the Parish Council will monitor its use and ensure that it is emptied. Cemetery fees have been held at the same level since 2011 and are currently being reviewed to bring them more in line with Uppingham burial fees. The new fee schedule will be made available on the website. Many thanks go once again to Mr Roger Hickinbotham for keeping the grass on the Green neat and tidy and to Mr Chris Hatton for dealing with the ivy on the Church wall.

Footway from Lyddington to Uppingham

In consultation with the Parish Council, the County Council has upgraded the footway from Lyddington to Uppingham.

Various

The Parish Council maintains memberships of the Society of Local Council Clerks and the Friends of Rutland County Museum. Mrs Clarke is continuing to assist the Parish Council to ensure that the Playing Field and Village Green are registered with the Land Registry.

Allotments

An additional four allotment plots were added to the existing eight in April. Mr and Mrs Sharpe kindly donated and installed a bench at the allotments. Allotment plots were occupied throughout the year with some change in occupancy. Fees have been held at £15 per plot. Please contact the Clerk if you would like to be added to the waiting list.

Planning Applications

A large number of planning applications were considered and commented on during the year by the Parish Council. Villagers are reminded that the County Council's Planning Department only individually contacts immediate neighbours about planning applications so please take note of the yellow planning applications around. The Parish Council's General Planning Policy is available on the website.

Lighting

A survey of the condition of the street lights in the village was conducted by E.ON and, as a result, a new "lift-and-lower" style light was installed in Bluecoat Lane for safety reasons. This uses a white light (replacing the old yellow light) and is more environmentally friendly and efficient. Consideration will be given to using these types of lights whenever lights need replacing. The project to underground the electricity lines at the north end of the village is progressing with Western Power and an update is expected shortly.

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 2013/14 year was £7,500 and has been held at the same level for 2014/15.

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 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, traffic calming measures. The major sources of income and expenditure for the financial year 2013/14 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.

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Precept	7,500	Playing field and cemetery (maintenance)	2,029
Cemetery fees	169	Salary and administration (including audit fees)	1,352
Bank interest	0	Allotments	783
Street lighting grant	1,754	Street lighting (maintenance and supplies)	1,062
Allotments	180	Street lighting (capital)	1,035
Park Project (grant from WREN and other donations)	36,810	Park Project (capital)	41,779
Wayleave	29	Insurance	804
Cash from sale of Jubilee mugs	30	Room hire	105
		Membership fees	78
		Website	50
		The Green (petrol, benches and trees)	419
		Defibrillator pads	54
TOTAL	46,472		49,550

Funds at 31 March 2014	£	Funds at 31 March 2013	£
<i>Represented by:</i> Bank accounts	9,417	<i>Represented by:</i> Bank accounts	14,090
Investments	167	Investments	108
TOTAL	9,584	TOTAL	14,198

Elizabeth ("Libby") Hopley, Parish Clerk, on behalf of Lyddington Parish Council - 13 April 2014