

# LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

## SUMMARY REPORT (INCLUDING FINANCES) FOR THE YEAR: 1 APRIL 2012 TO 31 MARCH 2013

### Chairman and Councillors

Cllr Ian Canadine was elected as Chairman for a fourth year, with Cllr Harriet Tassell acting as Deputy Chairman. Cllr John Westwood continued as the Parish Council honorary member on the Lyddington Tennis Committee. During the year, Mr Alan Marshall and Mrs Heather Johnson resigned from the Parish Council and Mr James Tyers and Mrs Karen Clarke were co-opted to fill the resulting vacancies.

### Parish Council Meetings

Six Parish Council meetings and one Annual Parish Meeting were held during the year. Generally, meetings are held in the Village Hall but due to its refurbishment, one meeting was held at the Marquess of Exeter and the Annual Parish Meeting was held in St Andrew's Church. 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 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 2013 to March 2014) are scheduled to take place in May, July, September, November 2013 and January and March 2014 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

### Website ([www.lyddingtonpc.org.uk](http://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 useful information, such as details of police contacts and consult on matters of concern such as speeding and dog fouling in the village. It is expected that the next newsletter will be published in May/June following the next Parish Council meeting in May.

### Playing Field, the Green and the Cemetery

Regular safety checks of the playing field and the swings on the Green continue, and the annual safety inspection was conducted in June by Digley Associates.

A programme of hedge cutting and ditching in the playing field is complete and the ivy on the walls in the Cemetery has been cleared. The Parish Council continues to ensure that the Cemetery is kept clear of rubbish. Burial fees were reviewed in January 2013 (available on the website) and remain at the same level. Many thanks go once again to Mr Roger Hickinbotham for keeping the grass on the Green neat and tidy and to Mr Eric Moss for cutting the grass on the wagon wash.

A number of meetings have been held during the year, with input from villagers, to discuss the refreshment of the play equipment in the village. A sub-Committee of three members of the Parish Council was established to work on the project and report back to the Parish Council. A grant has now been received from WREN which together with the Parish Council's contribution of £10,000 totals £40,000 towards the project. Three plans/quotations for the project have been sought, and will be considered, by the sub-Committee. The village will be kept up-to-date with progress on the project.

### Various

Jubilee Mugs were presented to the children of the village who requested them and the remaining mugs were sold to other interested members of the village. The dog waste bin has been moved to the corner of Colley Rise by the post box. The Vehicle Activated Sign at the south end of the village has been repaired and is back in working order. Grit bins have been installed on Colley Rise and on the corner of Main Street and Church Lane for use by villagers on the public roads. Mr Peter Tomalin composed a history of the last 100 years of the Parish Council from historical minute books and records which is available on the History Society Website. The Parish Council maintains memberships of the Society of Local Council Clerks and the Friends of Rutland County Museum.

### Allotments

The eight allotment plots were occupied throughout the year with some change in occupancy and four new plots have been recently dug to satisfy additional interest. Fees have been held at £15 per plot for the year from 1 April 2013. 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 new Victorian-style street light was installed in Church Lane to address safety issues around exiting the Church on dark evenings and Rutland County Council and Music in Lyddington contributed towards the cost of this. A new "lift-and-lower" style light is shortly to be installed in Bluecoat Lane for safety reasons. Both lights are white lights (replacing the old yellow lights) and are more environmentally friendly and efficient. Consideration will be given to using these types of lights whenever lights need replacing. Discussions continue with Western Power Distribution (formerly EON) about undergrounding the electricity lines at the north end of the village. This has progressed since last year and the Parish Council is waiting to receive an update on whether access to the proposed sub-station site has been secured.

## **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 Parish Council held its precept at £6,000 for the 2012/13 year (£6,000 since 2009/10) but has increased it to £7,500 for 2013/14 due to the potential undergrounding project and the Park Project.

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 2012/13 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.

<b>Income</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>£</b>
Precept	6,000	Playing field (capital)	322
Cemetery fees	35	Playing field and cemetery (maintenance)	2,211
Bank interest	10	Salary and administration (including audit fees)	2,173
Street lighting grant	1,201	Allotments	-
Allotments	120	Street lighting (maintenance)	1,021
Contribution towards new light in Church Lane	1,152	Street lighting (capital)	1,736
Wayleave	28	Park Project (to secure WREN grant) - creditor	3,740
Cash from sale of Jubilee mugs	75	Insurance	785
		Room hire	36
		Membership fees	81
		Contribution to Village Hall hearing loop	98
		Donations	1,035
		Jubilee Mugs	380
		Grit bins	237
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,848</b>		<b>14,655</b>

<b>Funds at 31 March 2013</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Funds at 31 March 2012</b>	<b>£</b>
<i>Represented by:</i> Bank accounts	14,090	<i>Represented by:</i> Bank accounts	16,544
Investments	108	Investments	75
Creditor	3,750	Debtor	384
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,448</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16,235</b>

Elizabeth ("Libby") Hopley, Parish Clerk, on behalf of Lyddington Parish Council - 15 April 2013