

LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

SUMMARY REPORT (INCLUDING FINANCES) FOR THE YEAR: 1 APRIL 2011 TO 31 MARCH 2012

Chairman and Councillors

Cllr Ian Canadine was elected as Chairman for a third year, with Cllr Harriet Tassell acting as Deputy Chairman. Cllr John Westwood continued as the Parish Council honorary member on the Lyddington Tennis Committee. Five councillors were re-elected uncontested in the May 2011 elections and the two vacancies were filled by co-option during the year. Since the end of the year, the Parish Council has sadly received the resignation of one of its longest-standing members, Mr Alan Marshall, and it would like to thank Mr Marshall for his outstanding contribution to the Parish Council over the last five years, particularly in co-ordinating the Community Speedwatch sessions and managing many DIY tasks in the village. There is now a vacancy on the Parish Council and interested villagers are invited to contact the Chairman or Clerk.

Parish Council Meetings

Six Parish Council meetings and one Annual Parish Meeting were held during the year in the Village Hall (with one at the Marquess of Exeter due to refurbishment of the Village Hall). A representative from the local police attended one meeting during the year, by invitation, to talk about Neighbourhood Watch and general policing issues in the area, and regular reports are provided by the police to each meeting. 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. Meetings for the coming year are scheduled to take place in May, July, September, November, January and March at 7.30 pm. A schedule of dates and meeting venues while the Village Hall is closed is available on the website and the notice boards.

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. A newsletter was published and delivered to all houses in the village in December 2011, which included items on the new Church Lane Street Light, the footpath to Uppingham, work in the playing field, Community Speedwatch, general improvements to the street scene, Parish projects, details of the Parish Council Forum and a Neighbourhood Watch update. The aim is 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.

Speeding

As reported in the December 2011 Newsletter, a Community Speedwatch session was carried out in August with (over a period of 30 hours) 90 motorists being registered travelling at 35 mph or more, an average speed of 37.8 mph and a highest speed of 47 mph. Unfortunately, there are no plans to conduct another Speedwatch session this year due to a lack of volunteers.

Playing Field, the Green and the Cemetery

Regular safety checks of the playing field and the swings on the Green continue, and the annual inspection was conducted in June by Digley Associates. New goal posts have been installed, and repairs to play equipment were carried out where necessary. New picnic benches, made locally, are now in place in time for the summer. A programme of hedge cutting and ditching is complete. The fencing around the car park was also repaired. The Rutland Fun Pod, run by the County Council, was held on the playing field during the summer and was well supported. Dog fouling has been a significant issue and a drive to increase awareness and reduce instances has been in progress.

Excess soil was removed from the cemetery and the access panels on Church Lane were cleared of ivy and replaced. The Parish Council continues to ensure that the Cemetery is kept clear of rubbish. Burial fees, which were last reviewed and updated in January 2011 (available on the website), have been kept at the same level this year. 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.

Various

The old notice board on the corner of Colley Rise was replaced by Parish Council members with a larger, new oak notice board. The telephone box received some repairs and was also repainted this year by BT, after pressure from the Parish Council. The milestone on Stoke Dry Road was repaired. Following consultation, a grit bin was installed on Colley Rise. The Parish Council maintains memberships of the Society of Local Council Clerks and the Friends of Rutland County Museum.

Allotments

All eight allotment plots were occupied throughout the year although there has been some recent change in occupancy. Fees are held at £15 per plot, effective from 1 April. The Parish Council has agreed to increase the number of allotment plots to satisfy interest – 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

Following consultation and the receipt of planning permission, a new Victorian-style Street Light will be erected in Church Lane towards the end of this month to address safety issues around exiting the Church in dark evenings. The County Council and Music in Lyddington have agreed to contribute towards the light. Discussions continue with Western Power Distribution (formerly EON) about undergrounding the electricity lines at the north end of the village. Unfortunately this has been delayed due to complications in finalising the site for the sub-station and the required access to it.

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 this is shown on each individual council tax bill issued by the County Council, usually in March. Despite inflation, the Parish Council held its precept at £6,000 for the current year (£6,000 since 2009/10).

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 2011/12 are set out below. **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	6,000	Playing field (capital)	650
Cemetery fees	786	Playing field and cemetery (maintenance)	2,249
Bank interest	10	Salary and administration (including audit fees)	350
Street lighting grant	794	Allotments	-
Allotments	120	Street lighting (maintenance)	1,058
		Street lighting (capital) - creditor	384
Wayleave	27	Insurance	789
VAT claimed	1,017	Room hire	81
VAT outstanding	19	Membership fees	71
		Defibrillator	173
		Cemetery	319
		New notice board and other projects	965
		VAT	1,017
TOTAL	8,773		8,106

Funds at 31 March 2012	£	Funds at 31 March 2011	£
<i>Represented by:</i> Bank accounts	16,544	<i>Represented by:</i> Bank accounts	12,147
Investments	75	Investments	137
Creditor	384	Debtor	23
TOTAL	16,235	TOTAL	12,307

Elizabeth ("Libby") Holey, Parish Clerk, on behalf of Lyddington Parish Council – 14 April 2012