

# LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the 2017 Annual Parish Meeting held in the Village Hall, Main Street, Lyddington on Tuesday 19 April 2017 from 7.00pm to 8.40pm

### Present:

Cllr James Tyers (Chairman)  
Cllr Holly East  
Cllr Tony Fowell  
Cllr Libby Hobley  
Cllr Geoff Macfarlane  
Cllr Barney Sturgess

**Minutes:** Julia Unna, Parish Clerk

**Speakers:** PC Pete Icke, Rutland South Police Support Officer  
Jennifer Fenelon, Heathwatch Rutland  
Jo Lowe, Rural Communities Council

**Residents:** 8 Parishioners

### 1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllr Harriet Tassell.

### 2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 13 April 2015

The Chairman highlighted that the minutes had been published on the website and displayed on the noticeboards. No points were raised and the minutes of the 2016 Annual Parish Meeting held on 12 April 2016 were approved as a correct record by the Chairman.

### 3. Matters Arising

The Chairman highlighted that the matters arising were dealt with as part of the summary report for 2016/2017 and he would address these as part of that report. Geoff Macfarlane was introduced as the newly co-opted member of the Parish Council. Thanks, were further recorded to Tina Kaczmar for her work as Parish Clerk and Julia Unna was introduced as the new Parish Clerk.

### 4. Summary and Financial Report 2016/2017

The Parish Clerk briefly summarised the Financial Report 2016/2017 and explained the allocation of a precept from Rutland County Council and the award of monies through the Transparency Fund which helped fund the creation of a new website and laptop computer for sole use of the Parish Council. Parishioners were provided with copies at the meeting and copies of the report would be displayed on the noticeboards and posted on the website. [www.lyddingtonpc.org.uk](http://www.lyddingtonpc.org.uk)

In addition to the points made in the Summary Report the following points were discussed in detail:

### Meetings

Cllr J Tyers outlined the number of meetings held through the course of the year which numbered 6 in total plus the Annual Parish Meeting.

### **Website**

Cllr J Tyers reported on the new website and change of host to Parish Councils Website, based in Stroud, Gloucestershire. It was noted that the website was working well.

### **Play Park**

Cllr J Tyers noted that little additional money had been required to be spent on the Play Park during the course of this financial year apart from routine maintenance and a new delivery of sand. The park was checked on a monthly basis using a revised checking schedule.

### **Lyddington Tennis**

Cllr B Sturgess updated the meeting and reported that Lyddington Tennis has resurfaced the court on the playing field. It was noted that funds were gradually being built again after the completion of this work and that routine maintenance would need to form part of a programme of upkeep. Fees to remain unaltered.

### **Village Environment:**

Cllr J Tyers highlighted the work that had been done to improve the village environment. It was noted that two new bins were scheduled to be installed, one on the green and one in the play park at a cost of £914.00. The meeting then went on to discuss several issues in more detail:

#### **Cemetery**

Cllr J Tyers noted that the Parish Council were continuing with their search for a suitable area in the village which could be used as a cemetery. Issues relating to the water table and flooding continue to make the search for an appropriate piece of land challenging. The Parish Council would continue to search for a piece of land.

#### **Village Signs**

Cllr J Tyers provided an update on the new signage and road markings for the village which were scheduled to take place within the next few months. New signage had been ordered – 4 in total one for each of the entrances to the village itself. It was noted that currently there was no 'Lyddington' sign on the Thorpe Road entrance to the village. Cllr J Tyers noted that the speed awareness signage at the North end of the village would be moved closer to the village and that the speed awareness sign at the south end (the Gretton end) would be moved slightly further away avoiding entrances and exits to residential properties. It was noted that Rutland County Council would install the signs once purchased by the Parish Council. Painted road markings to slow traffic at the North and South end of the village would also be introduced. It was hoped that the new markings and re-positioning of the speed signs would improve issues of speeding in the village.

#### **Street Lighting**

The undergrounding project and street lighting improvements were discussed in detail. Cllr L Hobby reported that the progress on the underground project had been slow. It was noted that the driveway under which the cables were due to be laid was owned partially by Rutland County Council, Spire Homes and the home owner neighbouring the area of the proposed new substation. The home owner, who was present at the meeting, reported that she had spoken to Western Power at a recent site visit and suggested that a more timely and practical solution to enable the project to move forwards, might be to lay the required cables under her section of driveway. Cllr L Hobby agreed to follow this up further and report back to the Parish Council on any developments.

Cllr J Tyers updated the meeting with regards to the village street lighting and confirmed that Rutland County Council had now replaced all the light bulbs with new energy efficient bulbs. It was noted that any issues with regards to the new street lighting were being monitored by the Parish Council.

## **5. Police Report**

PC Pete Icke was welcomed to the meeting as the new Police Officer for Rutland South. It was noted that PC Icke had taken over from PC Paul Le Pla following his retirement after 30 years of service. PC Icke explained that his function was to support the community with any issues or concerns raised. PC Icke noted that a full website was available to help the community [www.leics.police.uk](http://www.leics.police.uk) and that he could be contacted directly via email: [Peter.icke@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Peter.icke@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk).

Concern was noted following a series of burglaries in the village. PC Icke advised the following actions as precautionary against opportunist thefts:

- Small items such as keys, laptops, mobile phones, wallets should be removed from sight as a deterrent.
- Doors and windows to be locked when away from home.
- Side gates or access points to be locked/secure.
- Sheds, outbuildings to be made secure especially with the summer approaching.
- Avoidance of leaving keys outside.

PC Icke noted that via the website it was possible to check crime rates in villages across the county and identify potential 'hotspots'. In 2016 it was noted that there was the launch of the Leicestershire and Rutland Rural Watch, which tackles rural crime. The website below contains rural crime updates and a whole host of crime prevention advice. [www.leics.police.uk/ruralwatch](http://www.leics.police.uk/ruralwatch)

The Chair noted that previously the village had not experienced this rate of crime. PC Icke noted that attempted theft was more likely to take place in the day time and that an increase in patrols would monitor activity. It was noted that the 'response team' were now based in two locations and that there was a 20% decrease in the number of officers available compared to the number in 2011. PC Icke noted that signage could be introduced as a deterrent which the Chair felt to be valuable as an initiative to use for a timed period. It was also noted that it may be possible to join forces with Northamptonshire and share resources to tackle criminal activity. A further measure might also be to use the 'static AVR vehicle' to identify traffic throughout the village. PC Icke to explore and advise.

## **6. Lyddington Cemetery and Road Signs within Lyddington**

These issues were discussed during the review of the Summary and Financial Report 2016/2017. See the points made in the section 4. above.

## **7. Children's Activity in the Village**

The Chair noted that there were funds available to be used for an activity for the children in the village and invited suggestions / ideas which would meet the demands of all age groups. The concept of a 'Bush' type of activity was noted as a possible idea which was currently being explored by the Parish Council.

## **8. Rutland Strategic Transformational Plan (STP)**

Jennifer Fenelon, Chair of Healthwatch Rutland; an organisation which had been created county wide across the country and described as a 'watchdog with teeth'; to monitor issues of health and social care across the country; presented an update on the issue of healthcare provision in the Rutland still in consultation stage. It was noted that the purpose of this latest consultation was to reflect on the needs of the community whilst addressing ongoing and national issues of funding within health and social care, an ageing population and the complex dynamics of caring for the sick in the community. The initial proposals had resulted in a proposal to increase care provision closer to home however, significant concerns were noted with regards to the possible closure of Oakham Hospital and Leicester General Hospital. Three public meetings had subsequently been held in December 2016

and January 2017 across the county and it was reported that developments were taking place but the results of the consultation would not be available until later in the year.

#### **9. Good Neighbourhood Scheme**

Jo Lowe from the Rural Community Council introduced the concept of the GNS, explaining the benefits of this initiative in rural communities. The purpose of the scheme, it was noted, was not to replace any professional service but to encourage a network of volunteers to offer support to vulnerable and isolated individuals living within the community where help could be offered for activities such as shopping, gardening, dog walking etc. As a lottery funded charity, funding was available for support to assist in the setup of the project. It was noted that the starting point for the scheme was to conduct a consultation which involved a simple leaflet drop. The information gained from this activity would be collated and provide an indication of the value and need for the introduction of such a scheme. It was agreed to carry out the initial consultation and that incorporating the leaflet into the Parish Newsletter would be a useful method of distribution. The Parish Clerk would follow up obtaining the leaflets. The success of the scheme was noted as finding a balance between demand and the number of volunteers who were active in supporting the scheme.

#### **10. Any Other Business**

The Chairman reported that the village was planning to host another 'Play on the Green', Romeo and Juliet which was scheduled to take place on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June at 3pm. It was hoped that this would be as popular as the 2016 event. The Chairman invited the attendees at the meeting if there were any other points they would like to raise. No further points were raised. After thanking everyone for attending, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40 pm.

**Cllr J Tyers**  
**Chairman**

**21 April 2017**