

# LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

## SUMMARY REPORT (INCLUDING FINANCES) FOR THE YEAR: 1 APRIL 2016 TO 31 MARCH 2017

### **Chairman, Councillors and Clerk**

The Parish Council currently consists of 6 Parish Councillors after the relocation of Cllr. David Couldwell. The remaining members of the Council are: Cllr James Tyers, Cllr Harriet Tassell, Cllr Tony Fowell, Cllr Holly East, Cllr Elizabeth Hobley and Cllr Barnaby Sturgess. Cllr James Tyers, as Chairman of the Parish Council with Cllr Harriet Tassell as Deputy Chairman. Mrs Julia Unna had been appointed in July 2016 as Parish Clerk taking over from Tina Kaczmar. Julia's first meeting as Parish Clerk was in September 2016. The vacant position was advertised as per guidelines stipulated by Rutland County Council with no election called. Geoff Macfarlane, following a meeting with the Chairman of the Parish Council and attendance at a Parish Council meeting held in March 2017, has agreed to join the Council as a co-opted member and has completed the required paperwork for the Parish records.

### **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. 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 planning are provided at each meeting, together with other matters of interest relevant to the village. Meetings for the coming year (April 2017 to March 2018) are scheduled to take place on 15 May, 10 July, 4 September, 13 November 2017, 8 January 2018 and 12 March 2018 at 7.30 pm in Lyddington Village Hall.

### **Website ([www.lyddingtonpc.org.uk](http://www.lyddingtonpc.org.uk))**

The Parish Council website contains up to date details on the work of the Parish Council. It contains details of the meetings and aims to include the main information displayed on the two Parish noticeboards. Under the new Transparency Code the Parish Council is required to display certain information on the website, including financial information. The website was hosted by Leicestershire County Council which was closed in September 2016 and transferred to a new provider Parish Councils Website, which is based in Stroud, Gloucestershire. The Parish Clerk email however is still being hosted by 2Commune the previous web supplier until November 2017. The new website has been updated with key documents and time is being allocated to ensure that the site is accurate and up to date.

### **Playing Field and Play Park**

The Play Park continues to be well used by the children of the village as well as attracting 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. Monthly safety inspections of the play equipment are carried out by Cllr Harriet Tassell. Wicksteed completed the final of three annual safety inspections in September 2016. As noted last year the 'No Dogs' signs were installed in response to comments made at the Annual Parish Meeting in 2015. The possibility of a dog agility area at the far end of the playing field was considered in 2016. The Parish Council was supportive of this proposal; however it was felt that the location was not appropriate due to its proximity to the children's play area. There has been discussion about potential developments with the Playing Field area and the possibility of including some fitness equipment. Costings are still being explored and any possible grants which might be available.

### **Lyddington Tennis**

Lyddington Tennis operate the tennis court on the playing field on behalf of the Parish Council. Cllr Barnaby Sturgess was appointed as the Parish Council representative on the Lyddington Tennis Committee. The tennis court was resurfaced in Autumn 2015. This was managed and funded by Lyddington Tennis. The new surface should last for over 10 years with minimal maintenance required. Tennis membership is available for Lyddington residents. Further details can be found on the website [www.lyddingtontennis.co.uk](http://www.lyddingtontennis.co.uk)

## **Grounds Maintenance and the Village Environment**

4 Counties Ground Maintenance (previously CDG Contractors) provide the grounds maintenance for the Parish Council. The areas they maintain include the new cemetery, The Green, the bench on Stoke Road and the playing field, allotments and children's play area. They will continue to provide grounds maintenance for 2017/2018. They provide 13 cuts throughout the summer months with 3 additional cuts on The Green. Rutland County Council will continue to cut the verges in the village. Two new bins are scheduled to be installed one on the Green itself and one in the children's Park.

It was noted last year that stickers had been placed on all bins to ensure people are aware they can be used for dog faeces and 'dog poo fairy' posters were put up around the village. It is felt that these actions continue to help reduce the amount of dog mess around the village. The project for new signage in the village is scheduled to be completed in the next few months. It is hoped that this initiative will encourage careful driving and an awareness of speed and potential dangers. New speed signs will be erected at both ends of the village with new village name signs also to be replaced. Road markings at both ends of the village will also be introduced as part of this initiative.

## **The Cemetery**

Cemetery fees were reviewed and updated to bring them in line with Uppingham burial fees in 2016. The current fee schedule is available on the website. The Parish Council has started to consider the requirement for a cemetery space elsewhere in the village when the current cemetery is full. Although this will not happen in the near future it is felt that this needs to be considered and planned for well in advance if Lyddington residents wish to maintain a cemetery in the village in the future.

## **Allotments**

The 12 allotment plots were occupied throughout the year. One person has chosen to give up one of their plots on 1<sup>st</sup> April this year. The plot has been offered to and been accepted by a Lyddington resident on the waiting list. Fees have been held at £15 per plot. There are currently no individuals noted on the waiting list for a plot in April 2018. Please contact the Clerk if you would like to be added to the allotment waiting list.

## **Planning Applications**

38 planning and tree applications were considered (14 building and 24 tree applications) and commented on during the year by the Parish Council. All 38 were supported by both the Parish Council and subsequently by Rutland County Council Planning Department. Four applications are currently awaiting a decision by the County Council planning department.

## **Street Lighting and Highways**

During the course of 2017 Rutland County Council have completed the replacement of more energy efficient white street lights. There have been one or two issues which have been reported and the item is on the regular Parish Council Agenda for consideration. From 2018 it has been confirmed that Rutland County Council will transfer the management of all street lighting back to Rutland County Council. This proposal will see greater investment in the street lighting stock and savings in energy costs. The Parish Council is awaiting further details. 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. It is hoped that some progress will be made during the course of 2017 – 2018 to underground the high voltage lines to the village when the access to the new substation at the north end of the village is finalised. It was noted in the summary in 2016 that this undergrounding of the low voltage lines within the village is likely to take several more years. It has been noted that the resurfacing of the pavements at the north end of the village had received adverse commentary which has been forwarded to Rutland County Council who will be monitoring the state of the pavements in the village.

## **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 2016/17 year was £7,500 and has been held at the same level for 2017/18. In addition the Parish Council has successfully applied through the Transparency Fund Scheme and been awarded a sum of £1302.15 which has contributed towards the building and running of the new website, and a computer for sole use of the Parish Council documentation.

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, and annual allotment fees. Expenditure comprises grounds maintenance, 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. The major sources of income and expenditure for the financial year 2015/16 are set out below. Items are shown without VAT as this is reclaimed from HMRC.

**Please note that this is not a balance sheet.** The full accounts for the year are currently being prepared for submission to the external auditor. The accounts will be posted on the Parish Council website and any member of the Parish who wishes to view the full accounts may do so by appointment with the Clerk.

<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	
Precept	£7,500.00	Grounds Maintenance	£2,739.20
Transparency Fund	£1,352.15	Salary/Admin	£2,646.87
Cemetery Fees	£999.00	Street Lighting unmetered	£1,050.28
Shares Dividend	£6.36	Street Lighting Capital	£201.00
Street Lighting Grant	£1,000.82	Play Park Maintenance	£108.33
Allotments	£180.00	Insurance	£787.45
Western Power	£31.29	Room Hire	£101.25
Lions Float	£175.45	Street Signage	£137.08
Play on the Green	£9.00	Website	£730.00
VAT reclaim (2015-2016)	£704.45	Membership	£80.00
	<b>£11,958.52</b>		<b>£8,581.46</b>
<b>Funds as of 30 March 2017</b>		<b>Funds as of 30 March 2016</b>	
	<b>£</b>		<b>£</b>
Represented by Bank Account	£15,747.96	Represented by Bank Account	£13,110.00
Investments	£139.15	Investments	152
	<b>£15,887.11</b>		<b>£13,262.00</b>

Julia Unna, Parish Clerk, on behalf of Lyddington Parish Council - 1 April 2017