

LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Lyddington Village Hall
on Wednesday 7 January 2009 at 19:00

Present: Cllr H Tassell (Chairman) Cllr A Marshall
Cllr I C Canadine Cllr E L-A Straw
Cllr R H Clarke Cllr D P Sugden
Cllr S G Griffiths-Baker

Ms E A Hobley (Clerk)

Members of the village in attendance: None

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. **Questions and comments from the floor:** None
2. **Apologies:** None
3. **Declaration of Interests:** There were no interests to declare.
4. **Minutes** of the Parish Council Meeting held on 5 November 2008 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
5. **Matters Arising:** The Council considered the schedule of matters arising from previous meetings.
 - 5.1 *Traffic in the village:* The letter to Alan Duncan, MP had been finalised and sent on 16 October 2008.
 - 5.2 *Swings on the Village Green:* The Chairman had sought a quote from Mr Eric Rossell to remove the swings on the Village Green. Cllr Griffiths-Baker will seek a second quote for the work.
Action: Seek quote from Carlton Landscapes to remove the swings on the Green (SGB)
 - 5.3 *Chapel Lane:* Cllr Sugden reported that Chapel Lane is currently used as a bridleway through to Seaton and it was **agreed** there was no need to formally change its status from footpath.

Cllr Canadine had spoken to Ms Charlotte Horner, Footpaths Officer at Rutland County Council, about the poor condition of the Lane by the fishponds. The lack of drainage had resulted in the footpath becoming impassable during the winter. Ms Horner had committed to investigating the site and to budgeting (either this year or next) for ditches to be dug should it be considered warranted.
Action: Speak to Mrs Healey about the proposal to site the electricity sub-station on her land (DS)
 - 5.4 *Planning Applications:* It was noted that the planning application at 16 Colley Rise, to which the Parish Council had objected, has now formally been withdrawn.
 - 5.5 *Parish Chest:* Cllr Straw confirmed that room has now been made for the Parish Chest in the Village Hall.

REGULAR REPORTS

6. **Playing Field**
Cllr Canadine reported that:
 - The work on the tree in Mrs Harnett's garden, overhanging the small children's play area, is complete.
 - He had moved as many of the fallen leaves as possible from the small children's play area and noted that it is likely that the area will need to be re-seeded in the drier weather.
 - He had reminded a dog walker (from Colley Rise) that dogs were not allowed on the playing field and had received a poor response.
 - There are standard signs available for the small children's play area but they refer to specific ages. It was therefore **agreed** that the area should be restricted to children under 8 years of age.

LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

- Goalposts must now meet British Standards and have to be inspected in the same way as the other play equipment. The lowest quote to replace the goalposts was £570 (for the pair). It was therefore **agreed** that as the current goalposts would not pass a safety inspection they should be removed.
- Mr Couldwell, an allotment plot holder, had reported seeing rabbits in the allotments.

The Clerk gave an update on the status of the allotments:

- No response had been received from the tenants of allotment plot number 1 (Constables Pre-school) to the Clerk's email of 7 November, asking that they confirm whether they still require the plot. Since no response had been received, it was **agreed** to give them one month's notice to vacate the allotment plot.
- Plot number 4 was vacant following the departure of Mr and Mrs Smith from the village. There were three villagers on the waiting list for allotment plots and it was **agreed** to offer empty plots on a first come-first-served basis with priority given to those who were first-time allotment holders.
- **Agreed** that the Parish Council will consider extending the allotments in due course if demand is sufficient.

Cllr Canadine reported that there are currently three members of the Tennis Club Committee: Ms Tanya Teesdale-Brown, Ms Katie Debenham and Mr Derek Webb. Locks to the tennis court had been changed recently and a register is being kept of key holders. The requirement that the courts be used for the benefit of all in the village was reiterated and it was **agreed** that the facility should be advertised on the notice boards. The Parish Council should also have a representative on the Committee.

Actions:

- Add a note to the next Parish Council newsletter that dogs continue not to be allowed on the playing field as supported by a consensus of responses to the Village Questionnaire (**ES**)
- Purchase two additional "No Dogs" signs and a sign for the small children's play area (**ICC**)
- Report in the next Parish Council newsletter that there is an intention to remove the swings from the Village Green and the goalposts from the playing field for safety reasons (**ES**)
- Put mesh over the hinges of the allotment gates to stop rabbits getting in (**ICC**)
- Write to Constables Pre-school giving them one months notice on their allotment plot (**Clerk**)
- Contact those on the waiting list to offer the vacant plots (**Clerk**)
- Remind allotment plot holders of the due date for 2009 fees, being 1 April 2009 (**Clerk**)
- Follow up on a date to meet with the Tennis Club Committee (**ICC**)

7. Planning Applications

7.1 *Schedule of planning applications:* The schedule of pending planning applications was noted.

Councillors discussed the recent application by the residents of 25 Main Street to trim overhanging branches from a tree (covered by a Tree Protection Order) in the grounds of 33 Main Street. The Parish Council was concerned about the welfare of the tree and so **agreed** it should rely on the expertise and the course of action suggested by the tree specialist from Rutland County Council, scheduled to inspect the tree shortly.

7.2 *General Planning Policy:* **It was resolved that** the draft General Planning Policy of the Parish Council, as previously circulated, is approved.

Action: Lodge the approved General Planning Policy for the Parish Council on the website (**Clerk**)

8. Finance

8.1 *Current financial position and ratification of cheques issued:* A report from Cllr Marshall on the Parish Council's current financial position and a schedule detailing cheques issued since the last meeting from the Clerk, was tabled and noted. **It was resolved that** the cheques issued since the last meeting be and are hereby ratified.

8.2 *Clerk's Expenses:* The Clerk's salary for November and December 2008 was received and approved (a total of £224.54, being 28.75 hours at £7.81 per hour).

The Chairman has prepared a draft employment contract for the Clerk. This will be brought to the Parish Council for approval in due course.

Action: Send draft employment contract for the Clerk to Cllr Sugden for review (**Chairman**)

LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

- 8.3 *Draft Budget and Parish Precept 2009/10:* A draft budget for the year 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010 was considered and discussed. It was proposed that the Parish Precept be kept at the same level as the current year - £6,000. Subject to a couple of minor changes, **it was resolved** that the draft budget for the year ended 31 March 2010 including a Parish Precept of £6,000 be approved and adopted.

Action: Prepare and send in to Rutland County Council the Parish Precept request for 2009/10 (Clerk)

BUSINESS

9. Speeding in the village

- 9.1 *Meeting with Highways Department:* Cllr Marshall reported on the meeting held with Mr Dave Brown from the Highways Department at Rutland County Council on 25 November, having previously circulated the notes of the meeting together with Mr Brown's response of 24 December 2008. A potential site for the Speed Indicator Device (SID) at the north end of the village had been suggested opposite the wall of number 117 Main Street. It was **agreed** that the SID should be sited as suggested by the County Council and that the Parish Council should write to the residents who would be close to the SID to explain what would be happening. A price was still awaited for the Vehicle Activated Sign proposed for the South end of the village.

Action: Draft note to be sent to the two houses closed to the potential site of the SID (ICC/Clerk)

- 9.2 *Footpath to Uppingham:* At the same meeting in November, improvement of the footpath from the village into Uppingham was also raised. Mr Brown had confirmed subsequently that this was ranked 39 out of 45 in the County Council's work priority list. A petition had been lodged by Ms Mary Evans requesting the footpath be upgraded and the Chairman tabled a copy of a letter from Ms Jan Turner, Principal of Uppingham Community College, supporting this. Cllr Marshall had drafted a letter to the County Council including the petition from Ms Evans and the letter from Ms Turner. It was **agreed** that this should be sent to the County Council with copies to the CEO, Head of Highways and County Councillor.

Actions:

- Send letter to RCC and others requesting the upgrade of the footpath into Uppingham (Chairman)
- Add section on the upgrading of the pathway to the next newsletter (ES)

10. Freedom of Information Act

The Clerk had circulated information to all Councillors in December regarding the introduction by the Information Commissioner's Office of a new model publication scheme to be adopted from 1 January 2009 together with a draft guide to information made available by the Parish Council. A majority of the Parish Council had approved the adoption of the new model publication scheme prior to the end of December 2008 and **it was resolved** that the scheme's adoption is hereby ratified.

Actions:

- Confirm adoption of the Freedom of Information Act new model publication scheme on the website (Clerk)
- Provide comments on the guide to information to the Clerk (all)

11. Village refuse bins

The Chairman and Cllr Canadine had been in correspondence with the County Council and their contractor who emptied the bins in the village (Cory Environmental) as there continued to be problems with the public bins not being emptied regularly. Cory has committed to emptying the bins every Friday.

Action: Monitor weekly emptying of the village bins (ICC/Chairman)

12. Good Neighbour Scheme

The Chairman had attended the launch of the Good Neighbour Scheme by Rutland Spirit on 9 December. The launch was attended by around 20 people and the Chairman tabled various information at the meeting. It was noted that the intention of the scheme is to form groups of volunteers in villages to ensure that those in need of assistance were looked after. The Parish Council discussed the scheme and considered it had merits but that for Lyddington it would create a lot of additional administration and bureaucracy for something that is already done informally. The Parish Council will consider setting up a group with the Women's Institute to extend the informal networks already in place to ensure that all of those in the village in need of assistance were covered.

Actions:

- Draft email to Ms Sue Renton to confirm support of scheme in general but to opt-out of the formal scheme due to the informal networks already in place in the village (Clerk/ICC)
- Set up informal meeting with the WI about supporting those in need in the village (ICC)

LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

OTHER MATTERS

13. Clerks' Items

13.1 *Councillors address details:* The Clerk confirmed that all Councillors had consented to their full contact details being posted to the website.

Action: Post Councillors' full contact details to the website (Clerk)

14. Village Newsletter

It was **agreed** that the next edition of the village newsletter should be issued in February.

Action: Draft newsletter for distribution (ES)

15. Dates of meetings

The draft schedule of dates for 2009/10 was **agreed**.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 4 March 2009 at 19:00 in the Village Hall.

16. Other matters

16.1 *Playing Field and Car Park:* It was agreed that the playing field and car park should be advertised on the notice boards and a sign potentially erected by Chapel Lane.

16.2 *Stones on verges outside Poplars Farm and Swan House:* Complaints had been received about the stone blocks on the verges at Poplar Farm and Swan House.

Action: Raise the issue of stone blocks on verges with the County Council (Clerk)

The meeting closed at 20:55

Signed by Mrs H Tassell, Chairman on 4 March 2009

Chairman