

LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held in Lyddington Village Hall
on Wednesday 6 January 2010 from 19:00 to 20:30

Present: Cllr I C Canadine (Chairman) Cllr A Marshall
Cllr H Tassell (Deputy Chairman) Cllr E L-A Straw
Cllr D L Couldwell Cllr D P Sugden

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: Cllr Sugden declared an interest in the planning application currently being considered for her property – 48 Main Street.
4. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4 November 2009 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

REGULAR REPORTS

5. **Playing Field**
Cllr Canadine confirmed there was nothing to report as no work has been completed recently due to the adverse weather conditions.
6. **Planning Applications**
 - 6.1 *Schedule of planning applications:* The schedule of pending planning applications was noted.
7. **Finance**
 - 7.1 *Current financial position and ratification of cheques issued:* The current financial position of the Parish Council for the year to 6 January 2010 and a schedule detailing cheques issued since the last meeting, were tabled and noted. **It was resolved that** the signing of the cheques issued since the last meeting be and is hereby ratified. A VAT claim for £435.01 has been submitted to HM Customs and Excise covering the period 1 December 2008 to 31 December 2009.
 - 7.2 *Clerk's Expenses:* The Clerk's salary for November and December 2009 was received and approved (a total of £237.60, being 27.50 hours at £8.64 per hour).
 - 7.3 *Draft Budget and Parish Precept 2010/11:* A draft budget for the year 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011 was considered and discussed. It was proposed that the Parish Precept be kept at the same level as the current (and previous) year - £6,000. **It was resolved that** the draft budget for the year ended 31 March 2011 including a Parish Precept of £6,000 be approved and adopted.

Action: Lodge completed Parish Precept request for 2010/11 with County Council by 18 January 2010 (Clerk)

BUSINESS

8. **Speeding in the village**
The concerns raised by Mr and Mrs Northen and Mrs Pat Bealby regarding the proposed positioning of the Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) at the southern end of the village were discussed. The Chairman has visited the site and agrees that the VAS should be sited earlier to slow traffic before it reaches the houses. He has therefore requested the County Council Highways Department to re-site the VAS to the southern side of the concrete driveway which leads into Mr Andrew Brown's farm (which is also near a transformer). Highways has provided an aerial photograph of the proposed site and confirmed that, once agreed, both signs should be installed within two weeks.

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BUSINESS (cont'd)

Speeding in the village (cont'd)

Once installed, the Parish Council will continue to exert pressure on the County Council to make further financial provision for traffic calming in the village, which they have previously confirmed is in their future budget. Renewal of the 30 speed signs will also be considered.

Actions:

- Keep pressure on County Council regarding the provision of further traffic calming in the village (**Clerk**)
- Consider improving the 30 speed signs (**all**)

9. Co-option of Councillor

The vacancy on the Parish Council was advertised as agreed and Dr John Westwood had offered himself for co-option. After due consideration, **it was resolved that** Dr Westwood (in his absence) be co-opted to fill the vacant position on the Parish Council.

Action: Confirm co-option to Dr Westwood and provide relevant documents for completion and lodge Declaration of Acceptance of Office and Register of Interest forms with County Council (**Clerk**)

10. Matters Arising: The Parish Council considered the remaining items on the matters arising schedule, not already covered by the agenda and regular reports, including:

- Chapel Lane footpath:* The Chairman has still not received a response from the County Council's Footpaths Officer (Ms Charlotte Horner) regarding the poor state of the Lane and footpath at the bottom of the playing field, and will follow up again. He understood from his last contact that the repair of Chapel Lane is considered a big job and is competing for funds with another local project. It was agreed that although the pathway is marked as a footpath only, it has been considered a bridleway for a substantial length of time and should be maintained as such. It was also noted that the footpath is not part of the Rutland Round as originally thought but that the Ramblers Association (via John Williams) should still be approached for their support.
- Electricity sub-station:* Mr Nobby Clarke, the Wayleave Officer for E.ON confirmed that progress is being made in securing a suitable site for the electricity sub-station.
- Blocking of ditch with felled tree:* The County Council Highways Department has agreed to research who owns the ditch. The preference is to ask the owner of the ditch to clear it but if this proves difficult the Parish Council will consider arranging for the work to be done if the cost is minimal (the Highways Department has offered to provide a quote).
- Rutland Telecom fast broadband:* To date, the Clerk has received no press enquiries about the installation. The telecom box opposite 105 and 109 Main Street has been reported as noisy and Rutland Telecom has offered to investigate the possibility of installing specially-made "baffles" to reduce the noise.

Actions:

Chapel Lane footpath

- Contact Ramblers Association (via John Williams) and the Local Access Forum (**ICC**)
- Continue to follow up with Footpaths Officer (**ICC**)

Electricity sub-station:

- Continue to liaise with E.ON about the electricity sub-station (**Clerk**)

Blocking of ditch with felled tree:

- Follow up with County Council about who owns the ditch and a potential quote to have it cleared (**Clerk**)

Rutland Telecom fast broadband:

- Follow up with Rutland Telecom on the installation of baffles in their telecom box on Main Street (**Clerk**)

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OTHER MATTERS

11. Clerk's items

11.1 *Review of important open space, frontage and green corridors:* The County Council is currently reviewing the "important open spaces" in Lyddington (and the rest of Rutland) identified in 2001, when the exercise was last conducted, to establish any changes (e.g. where new houses have been built), reconfirm the already identified important spaces where appropriate and identify any new ones. The plan of the village provided was discussed and it was agreed that all of the frontages in "long, lovely" Lyddington were important.

Action: Explore further with the County Council the reasoning behind this exercise and what they are trying to achieve, and communicate to the Parish Council (Clerk)

11.2 *Upkeep of the Village Green:* Mr Roger Hickinbotham has contacted the Parish Council regarding necessary repairs to the tractor he uses to mow the Village Green. As the expenditure needed to Mr Hickinbotham's mower is high, the Parish Council discussed the possible options to maintain the Village Green going forward, for example contributing towards the repairs needed or towards a new second hand tractor.

Action: Discuss with Mr Hickinbotham possible options regarding his tractor (ICC)

11.3 *Temporary Prohibition of traffic:* A notice from the County Council regarding a temporary prohibition of through traffic on the B672 from Morcott to Caldecott to repair general "fatigue" to the road surface had been circulated. Works are expected to start in mid-February 2010 for around 6 weeks (weather permitting). The Highways Department will be repairing the road in three sections, taking about two weeks per section and throughout the works there will be general signs on the A47 and A6003 saying no through road and then specific signs showing which section is closed at a time. Notification of this closure will be added to the next newsletter.

Action: Seek further information from the Highways Department (Mr Neil Tomlinson) on the road closure and how it will affect Lyddington and include a section in the next newsletter (AM)

12. Village Newsletter

A newsletter will be prepared for distribution in early February covering the following topics:

Dog Fouling: The Parish Council discussed the increasing incidences of dog fouling in the village. It was agreed that a prominent reminder will be added to the next newsletter.

Neighbourhood Watch: Include a section from Mr Roger Edwards, Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator.

Temporary Prohibition of traffic: Include details of road closure.

Rutland Telecom: Include a piece from Peter Lawson.

Actions:

- Prepare draft newsletter for comment (ES)
- Seek advice from the County Council's Dog Warden on the increasing incidents of dog fouling in the village (Clerk)
- Invite Mr Roger Edwards to give an update on Neighbourhood Watch at the next Parish Council meeting in March (Clerk)

13. Dates of meetings

The proposed meeting dates for the financial year 2010/11 were approved. Cllr Marshall recorded his apologies for the Annual Parish Meeting scheduled for 26 May 2010 as he will be on holiday.

Action: Confirm Village Hall bookings for Parish Council meetings in 2010/11 (Clerk)

- Next meeting is Wednesday 3 March 2010 at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall

Signed by Dr I C Canadine, Chairman, on 3 March 2010

Chairman