

LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held in Lyddington Village Hall
on Monday 10 January 2011 from 20:05 to 21:55

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

Ms E A Hobley (Clerk)

Members of the village/others
in attendance: None

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. **Questions and comments from the floor:** None.
2. **Apologies:** None
3. **Declaration of Interests:** Cllr Sugden mentioned a pending planning application on her property at 48 Main Street. It was noted that the Parish Council submitted its comments on this application to the County Council's Planning Department on 2 January 2011.
4. **Minutes** of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8 November 2010 were, subject to a minor amendment to the name of Lyddington Tennis in minute 6.4, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

REGULAR REPORTS

5. **Playing Field:**
 - 5.1 **Chairman's Report, including update on work on Chapel Lane:** The Chairman met with the County Council's Footpath's Officer, Ms Charlotte Horner, on 4 January 2011 and agreed with the contractors the work required to make Chapel Lane into a proper footpath. Funds have been irrevocably committed and so although the work has been delayed due to the adverse weather, it will be completed as soon as possible. Drainage ditches along each side of the pathway down to the stream are planned together with a ballast surface. The County Council is aware that the pathway also serves as access to Chapel Lane farm and is used every day by heavy farm equipment. It was noted they can require the farmer to keep the footpath in good order.

Various other "DIY" tasks will be completed once the weather improves: Grouting of the rubber tiles; repairing the sandpit; and replacing the rotten fencing around the car park. John Oakley is committed to removing the excess earth from the cemetery once the ground is hard enough and to clear the ditch on the playing field. The Chairman has arranged for Paul Martin to look at the telegraph poles forming the fencing around the car park and to replace the two fence panels on Church Lane, through to the cemetery using slide-in panels and a removable post. A bin for the cemetery was discussed and it was agreed that Parish Councillors will try keeping the area tidy by using the Church bins for the time being.

- 5.2 **Lyddington Tennis:** The meeting scheduled for 9 December 2010 was rescheduled for 13 January 2011. Cllr Westwood will attend and is awaiting a signed copy of the October 2010 minutes. The accounts for the calendar year 2010 are being prepared by Lucinda Cracknell.

Actions:

- The Chairman will draft a notice for the cemetery notice board asking that flowers and vases are removed periodically by visitors. **(Chairman)**
- Keep the cemetery tidy by using the Church bins for the time being. **(All)**
- Draft Letter of Agreement by way of a licence for Lyddington Tennis to use the tennis courts **(Chairman)** and check the legal points **(DS)** to be raised at the next meeting of Lyddington Tennis **(JW)**.

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REGULAR REPORTS (cont'd)

6. Planning Applications

6.1 **Schedule of planning applications:** The schedule of pending planning applications was noted. The retrospective application for the wooden pergola at the Old White Hart, 51 Main Street has been refused.

7. Finance

7.1 **Current financial position and ratification of cheques issued:** The current financial position of the Parish Council for the year to January 2011 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.

Action: Prepare and submit VAT claim prior to end of current financial year (31 March 2011). (AM, Clerk)

7.2 **Clerk's Expenses:** The Clerk's salary for November and December 2010 was received and approved (a total of £138.24, being 16 hours at £8.64 per hour). It was agreed that the Clerk's fees should be increased in line with the national salary scale.

Action: Review Clerk's fees in line with the national salary scale. (Clerk)

7.3 **Draft Budget and Parish Precept 2011/12:** A draft budget for the year 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012 was considered and discussed. It was proposed that the Parish Precept be kept at £6,000 the same level as the current year (and previous two years). **It was resolved that** the draft budget for the year ended 31 March 2012 including a Parish Precept of £6,000 be approved and adopted.

The replacement of the goal posts on the playing field was discussed and it was agreed that three quotes be sought in accordance with the Parish Council's Standing Orders. The Chairman was authorised to liaise with Michael Wilkes on the Parish Council's behalf and agree the work, so that the new goal posts are in place in time for the Spring.

Action: Lodge completed Parish Precept request for 2011/12 with County Council by 18 January 2011. (Clerk)

BUSINESS

8. Cemetery fees

It was resolved that the proposal to increase fees by 12.5% for Lyddington residents and to double those fees for non-residents in line with the policy adopted in Uppingham and generally by the County Council, should be approved and the revised schedule of cemetery fees be adopted with immediate effect.

9. Matters Arising

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

- (i) **Defibrillator:** Cllr Westwood reported that a training evening for eight volunteers is scheduled for 26 January at his home and it was agreed that a donation of £50.00 plus travel expenses will be made to the instructor representing the charity, Community Heartbeat Trust. It was noted that future expenditure will include new pads (two at circa £23.00 each) and battery (at circa £150.00). It was agreed that the Parish Council will allow £100.00 per year for the upkeep of the defibrillator.
- (ii) **Bus shelter:** The Chairman will put a coat of preservative on the windows of the bus shelter.
- (iii) **Footpath outside number 11 Main Street:** The Chairman reported a concern raised by a villager that the footpath outside number 11 was potentially hazardous to pedestrians during icy weather. Dave Brown from the County Council's Highways Department has assessed the site and measured the gradient of the pathway to the road. He understands why some pedestrians may experience problems and although the situation cannot be immediately resolved he will keep the Clerk updated with progress.

Actions:

- Draft and distribute newsletter as soon as possible. (ES, all)
- Paint the bus shelter windows with preservative. (Chairman)
- Follow up with the Highways Department about the footpath outside 11 Main Street. (Clerk)

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OTHER MATTERS

10. Clerk's items

10.1 **Police Beat Surgery:** The Beat Surgery was held in the Village Hall on 18 December 2010 but unfortunately PC Le Pla confirmed there was no attendance.

10.2 **E.ON Undergrounding Project:** E.ON has been in contact with Spire Homes about purchasing the piece of land it owns, required for site access. A response is awaited.

10.3 **Rutland County Council "Fun Pod":** John Hickman, Play Ranger at the County Council had contacted the Clerk about the mobile play provision funded by the Lottery which travels around the county offering free, open access play opportunities from sports and circus skills, to arts and crafts, to den building. There is possibly a space in the next round in January but definitely in June if the Parish Council is interested.

Action: Ask Mr Hickman for some more specific examples of how the Fun Pod has been successful and make contact with Exton, Market Overton and Essendine, which have hosted the Fun pod recently. **(Chairman)**

10.4 **Cemetery:** The Church is conducting an exercise to register some of its land and the Clerk confirmed to Revd Jane that the Parish Council owns the "new" cemetery.

Action: Investigate registering the land the Parish Council owns (the Playing Field, the cemetery and the Green) at the Land Registry. **(Clerk)**

10.5 **New Light on Church Lane:** Gill Corner, the Highways Lighting Project Engineer at E.ON has proposed a site visit so she can look at where a new light might work best and devise the cheapest solution.

Action: Provide Cllr Westwood's contact details to Ms Corner for a site visit. **(Clerk)**

10.6 **High Sheriff's Certificate for "Service to the Community":** A letter dated 1 January 2011 had been received from Peter Lawson, High Sheriff in Nomination for Rutland asking the Parish Council to nominate one person for consideration for this Certificate to be awarded on 21 April 2011 (Maundy Thursday and 85th birthday of the Queen). It was agreed that Cllr Tassell should be nominated.

Action: Draft and circulate a citation (with Cllr Tassell's prior approval). **(Chairman)**

10.7 **Ground's maintenance:** It was agreed that Spendlove Contracting should be asked to quote for the coming season and for that quote to be accepted if it is within 5 per cent of last year's cost. If the quote is more than 5 per cent then it should be referred back to the Parish Council.

Action: Arrange quote for grounds maintenance from Spendlove Contracting. **(Clerk)**

10.8 **Parish Council elections:** It was noted that the Parish Council elections will be held in May this year.

Action: If procedures are available in time, circulate prior to the March meeting. **(Clerk)**

11. Village Newsletter

It was agreed to publish a newsletter including: (i) Details of the village defibrillator; (ii) Police Beat Officer contact details; (iii) request for suggestions for maintenance works in the village; (iv) Community Speedwatch planned for Spring; (v) information about Lyddington Tennis; (vi) plans for goal posts and removal of old posts; (vi) reminder that the County Council planning letters are only sent to immediate neighbours so that care should be taken to look at the yellow planning signs around the village; (vii) Vandalism of no dogs sign and reminder of position about no dogs on the playing field.

12. Dates of next meetings

The proposed meeting dates for the financial year 2011/12 were approved.

Action: Confirm Village Hall bookings for Parish Council meetings in 2011/12. **(Clerk)**

- Monday 14 March 2011 at 20:00 in the Village Hall

13. Other matters: None

Signed by Cllr H Tassell, Deputy Chairman, on 14 March 2011
Chairman