

LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held in Lyddington Village Hall
on Monday 9 January 2012 from 19:30 to 21:50

Present:	Cllr I C Canadine (in the Chair) Cllr R Archer Cllr D L Couldwell Cllr H Johnson Cllr A Marshall Cllr H Tassell Cllr W J A Westwood
	Ms E A Hobleby (Clerk)
Members of the village/others in attendance:	PCSO Diana Freeman Mr Roger Edwards, Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. **Questions and comments from the floor:** None
2. **Apologies:** None
3. **Police and Neighbourhood Watch Report:** PCSO Freeman and Mr Edwards were welcomed to the meeting. PCSO Freeman gave a report on crime in the area over the last 31 days, which included a number of thefts from motor vehicles, four burglaries from out-building and businesses and damage to a motor vehicle. There were no crimes reported in Lyddington and crime in the area has reduced marginally overall.

The new "101" number was discussed in detail as the Chairman had been in touch with both Leicestershire Police and Rutland Telecom to report that the number does not work for those using Rutland Telecom in the area – it only works via BT. PCSO Freeman will mention this to the Inspector and Mr Edwards will follow up via Neighbourhood Watch channels. There were also concerns raised that 999 would not work via Rutland telecom.

Mr Edwards had attended a regional Neighbourhood Watch meeting in November. He explained the Neighbourhood Link system (which has replaced the VC Relay scheme) which allows interested individuals to sign up to a free service to receive crime alerts for their area by email. Mr Edwards and Mrs Joan Fletcher also attended a course in December run by Marian Lewis and Ron Simpson (Rutland Neighbourhood Watch association) which focused on the establishment of the Leicestershire Neighbourhood Watch website (www.leicestershireneighbourhoodwatch.co.uk) where crime statistics and other useful information can be downloaded by registering a user name and password. PCSO Freeman confirmed the police use Neighbourhood Link but that she had not heard of the NW website mentioned. There was concern about confusion between the two sites and PCSO Freeman supplied details of the Sergeant who had set up Neighbourhood Link so that the Chairman can speak to him. It was agreed that members of the Parish Council will look at the websites if they are interested.

PCSO Freeman explained that in response to the theft of bicycles in the Oakham/Uppingham area, individuals can now register their bicycles at immobilise.com. The majority of police forces across the county have signed up to this scheme and so they can check the database and return any stolen property recovered to the owner. Oakham Police Station is also selling D-locks for bicycles for £5.00.

Actions:

- The Chairman will speak to the Inspector at Leicestershire Police to help to resolve the issue with 101 not working via Rutland Telecom and also about the Neighbourhood Link and other NW website, and how they interact (**Chairman**)
- Look at Neighbourhood Link in detail and revert to the Parish Council as appropriate (**Mr Edwards**)

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PRELIMINARY MATTERS (cont'd)

4. Declaration of Interests: None
5. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 9 January 2012 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

REGULAR REPORTS

6. Playing Field

6.1 The Chairman reported that:

- (i) Mr John Oakley has completed the hedge trimming but was unable to finish clearing the ditch due to the bad weather, and will continue as and when he can;
- (ii) although also delayed by the bad weather, Mr Mick Wilkins anticipates having the picnic tables ready by 1 April as promised; and
- (iii) the bad weather has prevented the Chairman from grouting the rubber tiles.

The closer on the gate of the small children's play area, which has had ongoing problems, has now been taken away. Consideration will be given to another solution, keeping in mind safety issues and avoiding potential finger traps.

6.2 *Lyddington Tennis*: Cllr Westwood reported that:

- (i) there has been no meeting of Lyddington Tennis since the last Parish Council meeting; and
- (ii) the next meeting is due to take place in February.

7. Planning Applications

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

8. Finance

8.1 *Current financial position and ratification of cheques issued*: The current financial position of the Parish Council for the year to December 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.

It was noted that the external auditor had advised that the accrual for the speed indicator device be retained in the Parish Council accounts for one year.

8.2 *Clerk's Expenses*: The Clerk's salary for November and December 2011 was received and approved (a total of £172.80, being 20 hours at £8.64 per hour). As agreed, Rutland County Council has been engaged to operate the payroll for the Parish Council and are in the process of setting up the Parish Council as an employer with HMRC. It was noted that the hourly rate payable to Clerks' under SCP17 of the national salary scale, applicable from 1 April 2009, was £8.747 and that the Clerk should be paid this amount going forward (and that it also be backdated).

8.3 *Draft Budget and Parish Precept 2012/13*: A draft budget for the year 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013 was considered and discussed. In the current climate, it was agreed that the Parish Precept be kept at £6,000, the same level as the current and previous three 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.

Action: Lodge completed Parish Precept request for 2012/13 with County Council (Clerk)

BUSINESS

9. Street Lighting

Cllr Westwood updated the meeting on the discussions of the Sub-Committee regarding the installation of the new street light in Church Lane. After testing various positions, it had been agreed that the most appropriate place for the light was on the barn wall of Cllr Westwood's property at 4, Church Lane. Cllr Westwood has submitted the relevant planning application to Rutland County Council. There was some further discussion

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BUSINESS (cont'd)

9. Street Lighting (cont'd)

about safety in the area of the Tower and steps on the corner of Church Lane and Main Street, as another unlit area, which the new light will not particularly help with. It was agreed to proceed with the installation of the new light as planned and reassess the position around the Tower after that. Rutland County Council has offered a grant of up to £784.50 or half the cost of the light (whichever is lower) and Music in Lyddington have committed half of the remaining cost.

Action: Once planning consent is received, proceed with ordering light from E.ON as per quote dated 15 December 2011 (Clerk)

10. Village Projects

Current projects being undertaken in the village were discussed:

- Clearing the ditch in the playing field (John Oakley)
- New picnic tables (Mick Wilkins)
- Grit bins (via Rutland County Council)
- New Street Lamp in Church Lane

It was also discussed and agreed that the play equipment on the playing field and the swing on the Village Green will need to be refreshed in the near future and that a project should be commenced later in the year with a view to progressing this during the 2012/13 financial year, including researching the grants available for such schemes.

The Parish Council also discussed the allotments and whether the use of fruit cages or netting is acceptable under the current Licence.

Action: Check if the Allotment Licence allows fruit cages/netting (Clerk)

11. Cemetery Fees

It was agreed that as there had been an extensive review of the fees in January 2011, a review would not be conducted this year.

12. Matters Arising

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

- Church Wall:** Cllr Couldwell will follow up with the County Council on progress.
- Lyddington to Uppingham Footpath:** The Parish Council discussed a draft letter prepared by Cllr Marshall to the County Council on the current state of repair of the footpath. It was agreed that the surface of the pathway could be improved, particularly as it is frequently used by school children, and that the County Council should be alerted when there are local repairs needed or trip hazards are apparent. Regular maintenance of the grass and trees along the path, and use of weedkiller, is also required.

Action: Contact County Council to express concern that the pathway is not being maintained to a high enough standard and ask for repairs to be made where necessary (Clerk)

- Benches:** The Chairman will paint the benches with preservative donated by Cllr Couldwell.

- Trees on the Green:** These will need cutting back before the fete.

Action: Ask Spendlove to quote for cutting back the trees and spraying the broad leaved weeds on the Green. Check whether planning permission is still in force for this (Clerk)

- Undergrounding project:** It was noted that following the move to Western Power, Nobby Clarke is moving to another position and handing over responsibility for the undergrounding to a new person.

Action: Engage new Wayleave Officer from Western Power and establish current position (Clerk)

OTHER MATTERS

13. Clerk's items

- 13.1 Grits bins:** It was agreed that if residents in the areas of concern (Church Lane and Colley Rise) come to a consensus on the siting of the bins, the Parish Council will source and fund the bins. Cllr Couldwell will seek opinions in Church Lane and Cllr Tassell for Colley Rise.

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OTHER MATTERS (cont'd)

13. Clerk's items (cont'd)

13.2 **Dog Fouling:** The growing concern in the village about the amount of dog fouling was discussed.

Action: Invite County Council's Dog Warden to the next meeting to discuss the problem and possible solutions (Clerk)

14. **Village Newsletter**

It was agreed that no newsletter will be published following this meeting.

15. **Date of next meeting**

Monday 12 March 2012 at 19:30 in the Snug at The Marquess of Exeter, as the Village Hall will be closed for refurbishment

Action: Recirculate meeting dates for 2012/13 and consider using the Church for the Annual Parish Meeting in April (Clerk)

Signed by Cllr I C Canadine, Chairman, on 9 March 2012

Chairman