

LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall
on Monday 14 January 2013 from 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm

Present: Cllr I C Canadine (Chairman)
Cllr H Tassell (Deputy Chairman)
Cllr R Archer
Cllr K Clarke (Co-opted)
Cllr D L Couldwell
Cllr J Tyers
Cllr W J A Westwood

Members of the village/others in attendance: None

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. Questions and comments from the floor: None – see above.
2. Apologies for absence: None.
3. **Vacancy on Parish Council:** Mrs Karen Clarke had agreed to be co-opted to fill the current vacancy (advertised by a Notice of Vacancy from Rutland County Council dated 8 November 2012) and was welcomed to the meeting. **It was resolved that** Mrs Clarke be co-opted onto the Parish Council with immediate effect.
Action: Arrange for formalities to be completed in respect of Mrs Clarke's co-option (Clerk)
4. **Declaration of Interests:** Cllrs Archer and Couldwell noted that they are allotment holders and so declared an interest as such.
5. **Minutes** of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12 November 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 Mick Wilkins has apologised for the delay in repairing the picnic tables. He plans to take them to his workshop to repair them and then recoat them in readiness for the better weather.
 - (ii) Mr Wilkins thinks he will be able to repair the seats on the Green but will confirm once he has looked at them.
 - (iii) He will ask Mr Wilkins whether he still wants the old goal posts. If not, Cllrs Couldwell and Tyers offered to cut them up and take them to the scrap yard.
 - (iv) ABC Tidy Gardens has confirmed that the four new allotment plots will be ready by 1 April.
 - (v) Mr John Oakley has been unable to finish the ditching due to the ongoing bad weather.

Additionally:

- (vi) It was **agreed** that the swings on the Green will continue to be maintained as far as possible. If the grant to refresh the play equipment is received, a major refurbishment of the swings will be considered as part of the overall project.
- (vii) It was **agreed** that the fees for the allotment plots (due 1 April) should remain at £15.00 per plot for 2013.
- (viii) Cllr Tassell had conducted the monthly inspection of the play equipment and confirmed it was in satisfactory order.
- (ix) Cllr Tyers has some lead sheeting which may be used to repair the gate when it is dry.

Actions:

- Ask if Mr Wilkins would still like the old goal posts, otherwise dispose of them (ICC, DC, JT)
- Look to repair gate when dry (ICC, JT)

- 6.2 **Lyddington Tennis (LT):** Cllr Westwood noted there was nothing to report. The next meeting is scheduled for February 2013.

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6. Playing Field (cont'd):

6.3 **Project to refresh village play equipment:** Cllr Tyers had submitted the grant application to Wren, who has acknowledged its receipt and acceptance. A decision is expected in February. The Parish Council's total commitment to the project is £10,000 (including £3,750 to release the funds). It was noted that as part of the project, the swings need to be in good repair.

7. Planning Applications

7.1 **Schedule of planning applications:** The schedule of pending planning applications was noted. Cllr Couldwell mentioned that there were a number of self-seeded trees in the churchyard/Church Lane whose roots may damage the cemetery wall. It was noted that another section of the wall in the old churchyard has now collapsed into the field behind. Cllr Couldwell has reported this to the County Council.

Action: Provide contact details of the County Council's Planning Officer to Cllr Couldwell so he can enquire about removing self-set trees (Clerk)

8. Finance

8.1 **Current financial position and ratification of cheques issued:** The current financial position of the Parish Council to January 2013 and a schedule detailing cheques issued since the last meeting were tabled and noted. The funds previously held in the Halifax have now been moved to the Parish Council's current account with Barclays. **It was resolved that** the signing of the cheques issued since the last meeting be and is hereby ratified.

8.2 **Clerk's Expenses:** The Clerk's salary for November and December 2012 (a total of £150.89, being 17.25 hours at £8.747 per hour) was received and approved.

8.3 **Draft Budget and Parish Precept 13/14:** A draft budget for the year 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014 was considered and discussed. Rutland County Council had informed parishes of changes to the tax base, due to the implementation of the Local Council Tax Support Scheme (approved on 7 January 2013) including an indicative grant allocation set aside for parishes. The Clerk had contacted the County Council to establish how this would affect completion of the Precept Requirement form. The Parish Council discussed non-routine costs anticipated during the next financial year, including the need to improve street lighting, and it was **agreed** that the Parish Precept be increased by £1,500 to £7,500 (it had been held at £6,000 for the previous four years). **It was resolved that** the draft budget for the year ended 31 March 2014 (subject to it being updated to include a Parish Precept of £7,500) be approved and adopted.

Action: Lodge completed Parish Precept Requirement form for 2013/14 with County Council (Clerk)

BUSINESS

9. Cemetery Fees 2013

After consideration of the current Rutland County Council cemetery fees, it was **agreed** that the fees for Lyddington Cemetery be retained at their current level for 2013.

10. Street Lighting

A survey of the village's street lights had been carried out by E.ON and their report was considered. In particular, the suggestion to replace the column on Bluecoat Lane, which is in poor condition, with a Raise and Lower (hinged) column to allow maintenance to be carried out more easily was discussed (the cost is £1,000 plus VAT). It was noted that the light on Cllr Westwood's barn was the only one that is part-night at present (it goes off around midnight and back on at 5.30 am).

Actions:

- Explore with E.ON what is meant exactly by each category of condition in their report and does it refer to the light or the column (Clerk)
- Approach the County Council about a grant towards the replacement of the column in Bluecoat Lane (Clerk)

11. 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) **Rubbish Bin at 93 Main Street (007):** The Clerk has asked the County Council to look at repairing this.

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BUSINESS (cont'd)

11. Matters Arising (cont'd)

(ii) **Grit Bin on Main Street/Church Lane:** The position of the grit bin was discussed.

Action: Ask Rutland County Council to sink grit bin to improve visibility for drivers turning out of Church Lane (Clerk)

OTHER MATTERS

12. Clerk's items

12.1 **Police Report:** PC Le Pla had confirmed that there had been no crimes in the village within the last month although there had been a theft of heating oil nearby. It was noted, however, that there had been a burglary in the village during in November.

Action: Ask PC Le Pla to provide his report to cover the period from the previous meeting (Clerk)

13. Village Newsletter

It was **agreed** that no newsletter will be published following this meeting. It was noted that dog fouling has become a problem again, although this may be due to visitors over the Christmas period, and that this will be added to the next newsletter.

14. Dates of next meetings

- Monday 11 March 2013 at 19:30 in the Village Hall.
- Draft dates for 2013/14 have been circulated

Action: Check and confirm availability for 2013/14 meeting dates to the Clerk (**all**)

15. Other matters

15.1 **Flooding in the village:** The Chairman has been corresponding with Rutland County Council's Highways Department about flooding which has taken place in Little Orchard and the new houses on Main Street following the recent downpours. If there are more than five houses affected then it becomes a statutory responsibility for the County Council, who approved the planning.

15.2 **Friends of Rutland County Museum:** It was agreed that membership of FRCM should be renewed for 2013 (at a cost of £10.00).

Chairman

Signed by Cllr I C Canadine, Chairman, on 10 March 2013