

LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall
on Monday 13 January 2014 from 7.30 pm to 9.15 pm

Present: Cllr I C Canadine (Chairman)
Cllr H Tassell (Deputy Chairman)
Cllr R Archer
Cllr K Clarke
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:** Not applicable.
2. **Apologies for absence:** None
3. **Declaration of Interests:** None.
4. **Resignation of Councillor:** It was noted, with regret, that Cllr Karen Clarke had tendered her resignation as a member of the Parish Council with effect from the end of the meeting, creating a vacancy on the Council. The Council was sorry to lose her and recorded their thanks for her participation during her time as a Councillor.

The Parish Council was grateful to Cllr Clarke for her offer of continued help in working with the Land Registry to ensure the land owned by the Parish Council is properly registered. She has produced a list of all the title deeds and other documents held in safe custody, and will now work to identify which are relevant for the application, then make an appointment with the Land Registry to progress the registration. The Parish Council agreed to pay for any travel expenses incurred.

5. **Minutes** of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11 November 2013 were approved as a correct record (subject to a minor amendment in minute 7.2) and signed by the Chairman.

REGULAR REPORTS

6. **Playing Field**
 - 6.1 The Chairman and Cllr Archer have spoken about a possible scheme for dog walkers on the playing field and will revert with their proposal in due course.

The invoice from John Oakley for the hedging and ditching work remains outstanding and so a provision for £1,000 will be made in the Parish Council accounts to ensure enough funds are available to pay the invoice once it comes in.

It was noted that Wicksteed had provided some keys for tightening several of the new items of play equipment. Cllr Tyers will check what he has as these need to be held by whoever is doing the monthly safety check. Cllr Tassell will check with Wicksteed if there is any ongoing maintenance required. It was noted that some of the small children's play equipment needs to be greased twice a year and that this should be added to the safety checklist. Cllr Couldwell will check what needs to be done and revert. He also offered to help Cllr Tassell with the monthly safety checks agreed to items of play.

The Clerk will hold copies of the completed monthly checklists.

- 6.2 **Play Equipment - Monthly Safety Check:** Wicksteed has provided the relevant documentation on safety checks and Cllr Tassell had conducted the monthly inspection of the play equipment and confirmed it was in satisfactory order.

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REGULAR REPORTS cont'd

6.3 **Lyddington Tennis (LT):** The Chairman has laminated the new LT notice and will put it up.

Cllr Westwood had previously circulated the minutes of LT's 2013 Annual General Meeting held in December at which the 2012/13 Financial Statements were presented (as tabled and discussed at the Parish Council meeting on 13 September 2013). It was noted that LT needs to raise £1,000 per annum in subscriptions to maintain sufficient funds for regular maintenance of the tennis court and so have decided to increase the annual subscription per family to £30 (from £20). The cost of a one-off session remains at £10 but this is not a major source of income. A major campaign is planned to increase membership and raise additional funding. The date of the next meeting will be set for after the deadline for new subscriptions, being 30 April 2014, has passed.

As requested at the last meeting, the Clerk has contacted LT (via Robert Dale) to advise that the terms of the Letter of Agreement on the Use of Lyddington Tennis Court have been reconfirmed by the Parish Council for another year (as at November 2013).

7. Planning Applications

7.1 **Schedule of planning applications:** The schedule of pending planning applications was noted. The quote from Spendlove to carry out the works to the trees on the Green had been approved and confirmed to them in December. Having followed up, the Clerk has been advised that the work will take place next week.

8. Finance

8.1 **Current financial position and ratification of cheques issued:** 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. The accounts for the Lyddington Park Project were also noted.

8.2 **Draft Budget and Parish Precept 14/15:** A draft budget for the year 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015 was considered and discussed. Rutland County Council had advised parishes that the amount of the Local Council Tax Support Grant (LCTSG) for 2014/15 remains the same as in 2013/14. This is to be deducted to give the precept required for 2014/15.

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 should remain at £7,500 (as last year). **It was resolved that** the draft budget for the year ended 31 March 2014, including a Parish Precept of £7,500 (less the LCTSG amount), be approved and adopted.

The Chairman will ask Peter Hems if he would be willing to help the Clerk in preparing the end of year financials.

8.3 **Clerk's Expenses:** The Clerk's salary for November and December 2013 (a total of £131.21, being 15.00 hours at £8.747 per hour) was received and approved.

BUSINESS

9. Cemetery Fees

The Parish Council considered the burial fees for 2014 as provided by Rutland County Council. It was noted that these seemed to apply to Oakham only and that the Uppingham fees may be more appropriate for comparison with Lyddington. It was agreed to hold the fees for Lyddington Cemetery at present until the Clerk can prepare a comparison with Uppingham's. This will be circulated to the Parish Council for consideration and further discussion.

In addition, the Clerk will update the cemetery spreadsheet estimating how long until an additional burial site is required and will also check the laws and obligations around providing a burial site for the Parish.

10. Matters Arising

The Parish Council considered the remaining items on the matters arising schedule, not already covered by the agenda and regular reports. On the undergrounding project, Bill Hardy from Western Power Distribution had confirmed there was nothing further to report at this stage. The legal documents are still with their solicitors but all seems to be progressing.

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OTHER MATTERS

11. Clerk's items

11.1 **Police Report:** PC Le Pla had provided a crime report for Rutland South covering the previous two months. The only crime in the village was the theft of a catalytic convertor from a 4 x 4 vehicle on Gretton Road. An increase in house burglaries around the Ketton and Empingham areas was noted. There has also been an increase in door to door sellers, which are suspected of involvement. The police are asking people to provide information about any door to door sellers they see on telephone number 101.

11.2 **Bicycle Racks:** Rutland County Council has advised the Parish Council of some funding available to install a bicycle rack in the village, The Parish Council discussed whether a rack would be useful in the village and it was agreed that there are two locations that may benefit from the installation of a simple-style bicycle rack for 4 to 6 bicycles:

1. in the car park by the playing field/playground along Chapel Lane, as many children and their parents now cycle to the play area which has recently been refurbished; and
2. by the bus shelter to enable cyclists to access the Old White Hart pub and garden, the Village Green and the swings on the Green.

The Clerk will submit the Parish Council's response as by the deadline of 17 January.

12. Village Newsletter

It was **agreed** that a newsletter will be published following this meeting to include the vacancy on the Parish Council and also a reminder about dog mess in the village, which appears to be on the increase again. The Chairman will also put up some posters about this and the Parish Council agreed that they would meet his expenses to purchase some A3 laminating pouches. Cllr Clarke agreed to help with the distribution of the Newsletter.

13. Dates of next meetings

- Monday, 10 March 2014 at 19:30 in the Village Hall (Cllr Tassell to Chair in the Chairman's absence).
- Draft dates for 2014/15 previously circulated, were agreed.

Signed by Cllr H Tassell, Deputy Chairman on 10 March 2014

Chairman