

LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Lyddington Village Hall
on Wednesday 4 March 2009 at 19:05

Present: Cllr H Tassell (Chairman) Cllr A Marshall
Cllr I C Canadine Cllr E L-A Straw
Ms E A Hobley (Clerk)

Members of the village in attendance: None

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. Questions and comments from the floor: None
2. Apologies: Cllrs R H Clarke and D P Sugden
3. Declaration of Interests: There were no interests to declare.
4. **Resignation of Councillor:** It was noted that Cllr S G Griffiths-Baker had resigned from the Parish Council with effect from 16 February 2009. His resignation has been reported to the Returning Officer at Rutland County Council and a Notice of Vacancy posted on the village notice boards. A bye-election will be held if by 18 March (14 days after the date of the Notice) a request for an election to fill the vacancy is made in writing to the Returning Officer by ten electors. Otherwise the Parish Council will be required to fill the vacancy by co-option. The Parish Council wished to record a vote of thanks to Cllr Griffiths-Baker for his efforts while on the Council and noted, in particular, that his knowledge of planning and countryside matters will be missed.
Action: Write to Cllr Griffiths-Baker to express the Parish Council's thanks (Clerk, Chairman)

5. **Minutes** of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7 January 2009 were, subject to the correction of two typing errors, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
6. **Matters Arising:** The Council considered the schedule of matters arising from previous meetings.
 - 6.1 *Electricity sub-station:* There was nothing further to report on the possibility of the sub-station being sited on Mrs Healey's land at Stoneville Farm. Noted that there had been further complaints about the state of Chapel Lane.
Action: Follow up with Central Networks regarding the status of their discussions with Mrs Healey and the total number of sub-stations required to underground all of the overhead electricity cabling in the village (Clerk)

REGULAR REPORTS

7. **Playing Field**
 - 7.1 *Report:* Cllrs Clarke, Marshall and Straw have volunteered to form a working party with Cllr Canadine to clear the small children's play area of leaves once the weather allows it. The area will be reseeded in a couple of months' time.

The proposal to remove the goalposts from the playing field and the swings from the Green, due to safety concerns, had received a number of complaints (around 6 to 8). The possibility of moving the swings around by 90 degrees and installing a rail to mitigate the safety issues raised previously by RoSPA was discussed. Noted that the safety surface under the swings will also need refreshing. Since modern safety standards have resulted in the swings being considered unsafe, it may be possible to seek a grant to bring them up-to-date. Any proposals for the swings will also be discussed with RoSPA during their next annual visit, due in May.

The current goalposts must be removed as they do not meet British Standards but, since there is evidence that the football pitch is also well used, it was **agreed** to reconsider the previous decision not to replace them and investigate the installation of a smaller pitch and goal posts, away from the allotments.

It was further **agreed** that the basketball net should be replaced and a permanent sign erected to remind those using the car park not to park directly under the basketball net.

LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Actions:

- Assess possibility of turning the swings on the Green around by 90 degrees and installing a rail. Discuss resulting proposals with RoSPA (**ICC, AM**)
- Research possible sources of funding to make safe and bring up-to-date the swings on the Green (**Clerk**)
- Research options, costs and location of a smaller football pitch with “youth” goalposts and discuss with Mr Wilkins who had expressed an interest in using the pitch for local football training and matches (**ICC, AM**)
- In the next newsletter, report the decision to reconsider the removal of the swings and goalposts (**ES**)
- Arrange for the basketball net to be replaced (**Clerk**)
- Order permanent sign regarding parking under the basketball net (**ICC**)
- Arrange new presentation plaque for the oak tree given to Lyddington by Liddington in Swindon, which had been damaged (**ICC**)

7.2 *Grounds maintenance 2009/10:* Spendlove Contracting (the current contractor) and two other local firms have been asked to quote for the coming season. Two of the three quotes have been received so far.

Action: Collate and circulate information from all three quotes when received (**Clerk**)

7.3 *Allotments:* There are currently two vacant allotment plots (numbers 1 and 4). Ms Heather Johnson (first on the waiting list) had declined the offer of a plot as she was looking for a much larger area. Mrs Lucinda Cracknell (second on the list) remains interested in taking on a plot. It was **agreed** that Mrs Ruth Archer should be offered a second plot since she was next on the list.

The Parish Council went on to consider the request from Constables Pre-School to be granted a separate area of land on the playing field (potentially next to the small children’s play area) where they could install some high quality raised beds, for which they have secured funding, for use by the children of the Pre-School. The Parish Council agreed in principle to grant an area of 4 x 4 metres for use by the Pre-School subject, amongst other things, to it being a maximum size, with visually attractive raised beds and entirely funded by the Pre-School.

Actions:

- Send paperwork for an allotment plot to Mrs Cracknell and approach Mrs Archer about a second plot (**Clerk**)
- Email all allotment plot holders to remind them that their fees for 2009/10 are due on 1 April 2009 (**Clerk**)
- Draft terms on which to grant Constables Pre-School a small area in the playing field on which they can install raised beds for use by the children (**Clerk, AM**)

8. Planning Applications

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

9. Finance

9.1 *Current financial position and ratification of cheques issued:* A report from Cllr Marshall on the Parish Council’s current financial position and a schedule detailing cheques issued since the last meeting from the Clerk, was tabled and noted. **It was resolved that** the cheques issued since the last meeting be and are hereby ratified.

Noted that pursuant to the acquisition of HBOS plc effective 16 January 2009 the Parish Council now held 218 shares of 25 pence each in Lloyds Banking Group Plc. **Agreed** that the Parish Council will continue to hold these for now.

Agreed that a balance of around £1,000 should be kept in the Parish Council’s current account.

Action: Transfer £800 from the Parish Council’s Treasurer’s Account to its current account (**Clerk**)

9.2 *Clerk’s Expenses:* The Clerk’s salary for January and February 2009 was received and approved (a total of £226.49, being 29 hours at £7.81 per hour).

The draft employment contract for the Clerk is due to be finalised shortly.

LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

BUSINESS

10. Speeding in the village

Cllr Marshall tabled a drawing suggesting an alternate position for the Speed Indicator Device at the north end of the village to avoid it being directly outside anyone's property. He also presented some draft wording for an email to Rutland County Council's Highways Department on this matter. Both the position for the SID and the draft wording was **agreed**. The Parish Council thanked Cllr Marshall for his efforts on this. The Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) proposed for the south end of the village was also discussed. A quote for the purchase, installation and electrical connection of the VAS had been received for this from the Highways Department in the sum of £3,365. Noted that it was probably most acceptable to have a road narrowing warning on the VAS.

As the speed camera signs are still up, the police have been asked to report on: where and when checks have been carried out; at what time of day; and how many motorists have been caught and were they prosecuted.

Cllr Marshall is arranging a two-week Community Speedwatch session in June (potentially 15 to 28 June).

Actions:

- Write to RCC regarding the position of the SID at the north end of the village (Clerk)
- Research possible sign faces for the VAS at the south end of the village (AM)
- Follow up with local police officer about speed checks on her return from leave (Clerk)

11. Footpath between Lyddington and Uppingham

The recent correspondence with Deborah Stewart and other representatives at Rutland County Council regarding the upgrading of the footpath from Lyddington into Uppingham was discussed. In summary, Ms Stewart has confirmed that this work remains in the County Council's capital expenditure budget for 2010/11 or 2011/12 and that there is a possibility it could be moved into the 2009/10 budget should something else be delayed. Ms Stewart had also asked whether any minor works could be suggested to improve the path in the meantime.

Action: Write to RCC's Head of Highways confirming the Parish Council's understanding that upgrading the pathway remains in their budget for 2011/12 or earlier and offering to walk the path with a member of his team to illustrate the issues and agree any possible minor works to improve things in the meantime (Clerk)

12. Removal of swings on the Village Green and goalposts from the playing field

This item was discussed under 7.1 above.

13. Grass verges

The issue of stone blocks placed by residents on grass verges to prevent damage by passing cars, particularly in Stoke Road, was discussed. The Parish Council noted that there is not an easy solution to this, and has sympathy both for those villagers who have complained about the blocks and those trying to protect their verges which are often eroded. The County Council's policy is to conduct a risk assessment of any blocks placed on verges and if considered dangerous, they will take steps to have the blocks removed. **Agreed** that it is not in the Parish Council's remit but the responsibility of the County Council (the Highways Department) to deal with this issue.

OTHER MATTERS

14. Clerks' Items

14.1 *Membership renewals:* A schedule of subscriptions and when they fall due was presented and discussed.

Agreed that support should be shown to the Friends of Rutland County Museum (£10 due in April 2009), Leicestershire and Rutland Playing Fields Association (£12 due in April 2009) and Rutland Local History and Records Society (£12 due in June 2009).

Action: Renew subscriptions for 2009 to Friends of Rutland County Museum, Leicestershire and Rutland Playing Fields Association and Rutland Local History and Records Society when they become due (Clerk)

14.2 *Lyddington Fete:* **Agreed** that permission be granted for the use of the Village Green for the Fete and Country Market and for the hog roast afterwards, to be held on Saturday 9 May (and for a marquee to be set up on the Green on Friday 8 and dismantled on Sunday 10 May).

Action: Confirm permission granted for the use of the Village Green to the Village Fete Committee (Clerk)

LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

- 14.2 *Streetlight:* The Clerk reported on the ongoing issues with Rutland County Council to get the street light mounted on the corner of number 65 Main Street. The work is now expected to be completed by the end of the third week in March.
Action: Continue regular follow ups with Highways Department regarding the installation of the street light at 65 Main Street **(Clerk)**
15. **Annual Council and Annual Parish Meetings – May 2009**
Noted that the Annual Council Meeting to be held on Wednesday 6 May should consider the possible election of a new Councillor and also the election of a new Chairman, as requested by the current Chairman. The Annual Parish Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 27 May and will consider reports on the work done in the year by the Parish Council, a report on its finances and a focus on speeding and participation in Speedwatch.
Action: Draft and circulate agendas for the Annual Council and Annual Parish Meetings **(Clerk)**
16. **Village Newsletter**
The last newsletter had been published in February and so it was agreed not to publish a newsletter this time but consider again at the May meeting.
17. **Dates of meetings**
Annual Council Meeting - Wednesday 6 May 2009 at 19:00 in the Village Hall
Annual Parish Meeting (all invited) - Wednesday 27 May 2009 at 19:00 in the Village Hall
18. **Other matters**
- 18.1 *Local Development Framework – Town and Village Appraisals:* **Agreed** that the village appraisal from Rutland County Council and circulated by the Clerk was acceptable except for the map used, which did not show the correct boundary of the conservation area which was extended in 2004.
Action: Check that the development mentioned on Main Street was the original low cost housing proposal and forward correct conservation area map (to be supplied to the Clerk by Cllr Marshall) **(Clerk)**
- 18.2 *Steps outside Village Hall:* Cllr Straw asked for advice on painting white strips on the steps outside of the Village Hall for safety reasons.
Action: Assist Cllr Straw with painting strips on the Village Hall steps **(AM)**

The meeting closed at 20:50

Signed by Dr I C Canadine, Chairman, on 6 May 2009

Chairman