

LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held in Lyddington Village Hall
on Wednesday 3 March 2010 from 19:00 to 21:10

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

Members of the village in attendance: Mr R Edwards

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

- 1. Co-option of Councillor:** Dr Westwood was welcomed to his first meeting following his co-option at the Parish Council meeting on 6 January 2010. Dr Westwood had signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office and a Register of Interest form on 21 January 2010 (from which date his appointment became effective) and these had been lodged with Rutland County Council by the Clerk.
- 2. Neighbourhood Watch:** Mr Edwards explained how the Telephone Relay System he is introducing will enable news to be passed quickly around the village as and when necessary. 45 households have agreed to take part and these are divided into seven groups with key contacts. Personal details provided by participating households will be kept confidential. The Parish Council is supportive of the System and requested an update on its operation from time to time.

Actions:

- Add details of the Telephone Relay System to the Parish Council website (**Clerk**)
- Put up new NW signs held by Mr Edwards (**ICC/AM**)

- 3. Questions and comments from the floor:** None
- 4. Apologies:** None
- 5. Declaration of Interests:** None
- 6. Minutes** of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6 January 2010 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

REGULAR REPORTS

- 7. Playing Field**
 - 7.1** The bad weather continues to prevent the general repairs scheduled from being carried out. Cllr Canadine has, however, cleared the leaves from the pathway by the allotments and now has the replacement plaque for the oak tree gifted by Liddington for which he is making a mounting board. He will work with Mr Wilkins to refresh the goal posts once the weather is better.

From a recent safety inspection, Cllr Tassell reported cracks appearing in the swing seats, which although not a safety hazard at present, will need replacing in due course.

Chapel Lane footpath: Cllr Canadine reported that Mr John Williams of the Ramblers Association has agreed to chase the Footpaths Officer at Rutland County Council (Ms Charlotte Horner) regarding the poor state of the Lane and footpath at the bottom of the playing field.

Blocking of ditch with felled tree: The County Council Highways Department has confirmed that the ditch is not their responsibility – it is the responsibility of the landowner to clear the ditch.

Tennis Court: Mr Robert Dale had redrafted the constitution for the Tennis Club, including initial comments provided by the Parish Council, and Cllr Canadine has circulated these.

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REGULAR REPORTS (cont'd)

7. Playing Field (cont'd)

7.1 *Mowing of the Green:* Cllr Couldwell had priced a second-hand mower and Cllr Tassell had provided details of Mr Andrew Wright, who services Countax mowers locally. Cllr Canadine has put Mr Wright and Mr Hickinbotham in touch to assess whether Mr Hickinbotham's mower can be kept running safely at a reasonable cost. This will then be compared to the quote provided by Spendlove Contracting to maintain the Green.

Actions:

- Check Land Registry to establish who is owner of the ditch (DS)
- Review revised draft constitution of the Tennis Club to ensure it meets the requirements of the Parish Council (acting on behalf of the Playing Field Charity). In particular, Cllr Sugden to review from a legal perspective (all, DS)
- Clarify details of Spendlove quote for maintaining the Green (Clerk) and report back on outcome of discussions with Mr Wright on safely maintaining Mr Hickinbotham's mower (ICC)

7.2 *Grounds Maintenance 2010:* The quotation from Spendlove Contracting for 2010, covering grounds maintenance for the playing field and the new section of the cemetery, was considered. **It was resolved that** Spendlove Contracting be engaged to provide grounds maintenance for the coming season to the Parish Council in respect of the playing field and the new section of the cemetery on the terms agreed.

Action: Accept Spendlove Contracting's quote for grounds maintenance for 2010 (Clerk)

8. Planning Applications

8.1 *Schedule of planning applications:* The schedule of pending planning applications was noted. It was noted that only the immediate neighbours of properties applying for planning permission are notified of the application.

Tree Preservation Orders: The County Council's Planning department has agreed to provide a hard copy of the TPO's in the village and confirmed it would be helpful if the Parish Council can identify whether all trees still exist or whether there are others outside the Conservation Area that might be worthy of a TPO.

Actions:

- Highlight in next newsletter that villagers should be aware of all yellow planning notices in the village as only immediate neighbours are individually notified by the County Council of applications made (ES)
- Check with County Council progress on the application at Stone Barn Farm (Clerk)
- Follow up with County Council's Planning Department on Tree Preservation Order (Clerk)

9. Finance

9.1 *Current financial position and ratification of cheques issued:* The current financial position of the Parish Council for the year to 31 March 2010 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.

9.2 *Clerk's Expenses:* The Clerk's salary for January and February 2010 was received and approved (a total of £233.28, being 27 hours at £8.64 per hour).

9.3 *Annual Return 2010:* It was **agreed** that, if amenable, Mr C Tassell be appointed internal auditor for the year ended 31 March 2010, to audit the Annual Return required by the Audit Commission for submission to the external auditor.

Actions:

- Check that Mr Tassell is amenable to acting as internal auditor for the 2010 audit (HT)
- Complete the 2010 Annual Return and deliver to Mr Tassell for internal audit (Clerk)

BUSINESS

10. Speeding in the village

Positive comments have been received about the vehicle activated warning sign at the south end of the village although it was noted that it was activated at all speeds rather than from 20 mph as originally requested.

It was agreed that the 30 signs at both ends of the village looked tired and were in need of refreshment. The signs for Bluecoat Lane and Main Street were also mentioned.

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BUSINESS (cont'd)

10. Speeding in the village (cont'd)

Actions:

- Request Highways Department reset the VAS at the south end of the village to be activated at 20 mph (Clerk)
- Investigate with Highways Department what can be done to refresh the 30 signs at both ends of the village (Clerk)

11. Rural Community Council

Cllr Canadine and the Clerk had met with Ms Kate Sharpe of the Rural Community Council and notes of the meeting had been circulated. One idea raised by Ms Sharpe was the possibility of using the village fete to gauge the village's opinion on projects proposed by the Parish Council or to acquire general feedback. It was **agreed** that if there is a positive reason to do this, e.g. consulting on new play equipment or signs for the village, a Parish Council "stall" could be manned at the Fete. This will be considered again next year.

Action: Diarise for consideration in 2011 possibility of Parish Council stall at the Village Fete (Clerk)

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:

- Electricity sub-station:* There is no progress to report.
- Rutland Telecom fast broadband:* The specially-made "baffles" for the telecom box in Main Street have now been made and a date of installation is awaited.
- Review of important open space, frontage and green corridors:* The Clerk had responded to the County Council along the lines agreed at the previous meeting, however, the County Council has asked for further specific information. The Parish Council reviewed and discussed each site identified in the original plans and agreed a response to the County Council.
- Notice board:* The Parish Council agreed that the replacement notice board should be in a timber finish.
- Royal Garden Parties:* The County Council has confirmed that the nominations from the village to attend this summer's Royal Garden Parties (following invitation from the Lord-Lieutenant of Rutland) have not been successful. The original letter from the County Council had been read as an actual invitation rather than as requesting nominations for consideration. This has, therefore, caused confusion with the invitees and embarrassment on the part of the Parish Council in explaining the position to them.
- Dog warden:* The Clerk had expressed the Parish Council's concerns over the increased incidences of dog fouling to the County Council's Dog Warden who had agreed to conduct some patrols and also to refresh the dog fouling signage in the village. Any concerns about dog fouling or suspected culprits can be reported to the Dog warden either direct or via the Parish Clerk.

Actions:

- Continue to liaise with E.ON about the electricity sub-station (Clerk)
- Follow up with Rutland Telecom on the installation of baffles in their telecom box on Main Street (Clerk)
- Write up and provide response to the County Council regarding the review of important open space, frontage and green corridors (Clerk)
- Explain the position with regard to the Royal Garden Parties to the invitees and express disappointment to the County Council about the unclear intent of their original letter (ICC)

OTHER MATTERS

13. Clerk's items

- 13.1 *Membership Renewals:* The schedule of annual memberships was considered. It was **agreed** to cancel the memberships for the Rural Community Council, Leicestershire and Rutland Playing Fields Association and the Rutland Local History and Records Society, and to renew the membership for the Friends of Rutland County Museum for 2010.

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OTHER MATTERS (cont'd)

13. Clerk's items (cont'd)

Action: Renew/cancel memberships for 2010 as agreed (Clerk)

- 13.2 *Annual Council and Annual Parish Meetings:* The Annual Parish Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 26 May and will consider reports on the work done in the year by the Parish Council and a report on its finances as usual. It was **agreed** that speakers be sought for the Annual Parish Meeting on the following subjects: Crime/policing in the area; Neighbourhood Watch; and Tourism in Rutland.

Action: Invite potential speakers to Annual Parish Meeting and finalise and circulate draft agenda (Clerk)

- 13.3 *Meeting Day:* The Parish Council considered the Clerk's request to change the timing of the regular bi-monthly meetings to Mondays at 8.00 pm. **It was resolved that** the regular bi-monthly Parish Council meetings be held on the second Monday of alternate months at 8.00 pm in the Village Hall. The Annual Parish Meeting would, however, continue to be held on the last Wednesday in May at 7.00 pm.

Actions:

- Confirm Monday bookings with Village Hall (Clerk)
- Circulate amended meetings schedule to Parish Councillors (Clerk)
- Post amended meetings schedule on web-site and notice boards (Clerk)
- Notify relevant parties of new schedule of dates (e.g. police, Church newsletter) (Clerk)

- 13.4 *Cemetery:* The Clerk noted that the amount of space left in the cemetery did not appear to properly represent the number of plots recorded.

Actions:

- Undertake an exercise to review the number of spaces remaining in the cemetery and estimate when these will be used (Clerk)
- Assess the amount of excess earth to be removed from the cemetery and propose how this might be moved (perhaps obtaining a quote from Spendlove) (DC/Clerk)

- 13.5 *Village Fete:* It was **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 8 May (and for a marquee to be set up on the Green on Friday 7 and dismantled on Sunday 9 May).

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

- 13.6 *NSPCC Helpline:* A letter from the NSPCC requesting the Parish Council become a campaign partner was noted and discussed. It was **agreed** that this was not appropriate for Lyddington at present.

14. 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.

15. Dates of meetings

Annual Council Meeting – Monday 10 May 2010 at 20:00 in the Village Hall

Annual Parish Meeting (all invited) - Wednesday 26 May 2010 at 19:00 in the Village Hall

Signed by Dr I C Canadine, Chairman, on 10 May 2010

Chairman