

LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held in Lyddington Village Hall
on Monday 12 March 2012 19:30 to 21:25

Present: Cllr I C Canadine (in the Chair) Cllr A Marshall
Cllr R Archer Cllr H Tassell
Cllr D L Couldwell Cllr W J A Westwood
Cllr H Johnson

Ms E A Hobley (Clerk)

Members of the village/others in attendance: Mr R and Mrs P Brown

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. **Questions and comments from the floor:** Mr and Mrs Brown thanked the Parish Council for providing the grit bin for Colley Rise. It was installed by the County Council in the agreed place but unfortunately, it appears to be made from flimsy material and although on tarmac, it is on a slight incline which has resulted in the lid not closing snugly, allowing rain to get in.

The hand-pushed gritter applied for by the Parish Council has been received, free of charge, from the County Council and the residents of Colley Rise will be asked where it should be housed so it is easily accessible.

The residents of Church Lane had agreed for a grit bin to be sited on the east side of Main Street on the grass verge just north of the Round Tower on the corner with Church Lane. Unfortunately, the County Council's policy does not allow for village grit bins to be sited on roads that are gritted by their spreaders, such as Main Street.

Actions:

- Level grit bin so it closes properly and if not possible, revert to the County Council for rectification **(ICC, AM)**
- Revisit the location of the grit bin for Church Lane with the County Council **(Clerk)**
- Seek views from residents on where to house the hand-pushed gritter in Colley Rise **(HT)**

2. **Apologies:** None
3. **Declaration of Interests:** Cllr Westwood declared his interest in the planning application relating to the installation of an additional street light in Church Lane as it is being sited on his property.
4. **Minutes** of the Parish Council Meeting held on 9 January 2012 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

REGULAR REPORTS

5. Playing Field

5.1 The Chairman reported that:

- (i) The picnic benches being made by Mr Mick Wilkins are expected by the end of the month. It was agreed that the benches will not be fixed in place as it makes it difficult to clean around them and it can also offer an encouragement for the fixings to be broken;
- (ii) Mr John Oakley has been unable to finish clearing the ditch due to illness but should be able to complete the work in the next two to three weeks;
- (iii) the bad weather has continued to prevent the Chairman from grouting the rubber tiles; and
- (iv) a solution has still not been found to keep the gate on the small children's play area shut. As safety is paramount, it is proposed that this will be left as it is until a sensible solution can be found (and it was noted that the Safety Inspector had not been aware of an immediate solution).

Actions:

- Once in place, monitor whether new picnic benches are being moved **(all)**
- Continue to consider solutions to keep the gate to the small children's play area closed **(ICC, AM)**
- Investigate report of youngsters meeting and causing a disturbance on the playing field **(ICC)**

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PRELIMINARY MATTERS (cont'd)

5.2 **Lyddington Tennis (LT):** Cllr Westwood reported that:

- (i) He is due to attend the next meeting of LT in April, which will be the Annual Meeting; and
- (ii) some amended wording has been proposed to the Constitution of LT, which included widening the membership of LT to those living in surrounding villages, limited to a number agreed by the Committee. The amendments, previously circulated to the Parish Council, were after due consideration, approved. The Parish Council also discussed and agreed that LT should be asked to consider a clause to cover the final distribution of surplus funds in the event of LT being wound up (and after fulfilling its obligations under the Letter of Agreement to return the court to the Parish Council in at least as good a condition as at the start of the Agreement).

6. Planning Applications

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

6.2 **Street Light in Church Lane:** The application to install an additional street light in Church Lane was discussed. The County Council has granted half of the cost of the light with Music in Lyddington contributing half of the remaining cost. A 24 watt PL (white light) and part-night photocell will be fitted. Once this has been installed the Parish Council will consult residents about the new light and their thoughts on changing the other two lights in Church Lane to white light/part-night photocells (cost is £98, plus £35, plus VAT).

7. Finance

7.1 **Current financial position and ratification of cheques issued:** The current financial position of the Parish Council for the year to March 2012 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 a VAT claim for £1,016.79 has been submitted (*and was received subsequent to the meeting*).

7.2 **Clerk's Expenses:** The Clerk's salary for January and February 2012, including backdated pay from 1 April 2009 as agreed at the last meeting at which the Clerk's salary had been increased from £8.64 to £8.747 was received and approved (a total of £320.63, being 32 hours at £8.747 per hour plus backdated pay of £40.73, being 380.65 hours at £0.107).

7.3 **Annual Return 2012:** It was agreed that, if amenable, Mr C Tassell be appointed internal auditor for the year ended 31 March 2012, to audit the Annual Return required by the Audit Commission for submission to the external auditor.

Action: Check that Mr Tassell is amenable to acting as the internal auditor for the 2012 Annual Return (HT)

BUSINESS

8. Street Lighting

This item is covered above (see 6.1).

9. Refresh of Play Equipment

The Parish Council discussed the current state of the play equipment in the village and agreed that a project should be commenced to investigate providing new equipment, including exploring available funding to do this. It was further agreed that a Sub-Committee of Cllrs Tassell and Johnson, and the Chairman, be formed to progress the project and report back to the Parish Council as necessary.

Action: Commence project to investigate refreshment of the play equipment in the village (Sub-Committee)

10. 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) **Lyddington to Uppingham pathway:**

Action: Follow up with County Council on the maintenance of the pathway from Lyddington to Uppingham (Clerk)

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OTHER MATTERS

11. Clerk's items

11.1 **Allotments:** It was agreed that steel cages can be erected to protect produce from squirrels as long as they are not set in concrete and look neat and tidy. There are now four names on the waiting list for allotment plots and it was agreed that the Parish Council will investigate digging a further four plots.

Action: Investigate costs of extending the current allotments by four plots **(AM)**

11.2 **Queen's Jubilee:** The Parish Council welcomed Brian Baker's initiative for a village Jubilee celebration. The presentation by the Parish Council of a commemorative mug to children in the village was also discussed and agreed.

Action: Investigate costs of and timetable for presenting a Jubilee mug to children in the village **(Clerk)**

11.3 **Police Report:** A report was received from PCSO D Freeman noting the number of crimes in the Rutland South area during the previous month. The greatest problem appeared to be thefts from motor vehicles, mainly diesel, catalytic converters and items on show.

11.4 **Annual Parish Meeting:** The 2012 Annual Parish Meeting to which all villagers are invited will be held in St Andrew's Church at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 18 April 2012. Matters to be discussed are: dog fouling, play equipment, Jubilee mugs and street lighting (in general). It was noted that the instances of dog fouling in the village had improved dramatically since the Chairman's poster campaign.

Action: Draft agenda and papers for 2012 Annual Parish Meeting **(Clerk)**

12. Village Newsletter

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

13. Dates of next meetings

Annual Parish Meeting – Wednesday 18 April at 19.00 pm in St Andrew's Church

Annual Parish Council Meeting – Thursday 10 May at 19:30 in the Snug at The Marquess of Exeter

Signed by Cllr I C Canadine, Chairman, on 10 May 2012

Chairman