

LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall
on Monday 11 March 2013 from 7.30 pm to 9.35 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:** Mr N Clark
Mr P Robino

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. **Questions and comments from the floor:** None.
2. **Apologies for absence:** None.
3. **Community Power Project:** Mr Nick Clark had written to the Parish Council on 21 February about a Community Power Project he was planning to develop to create subsidised energy for the village. The Parish Council had invited Mr Clark to the meeting to present his idea and help them understand his proposal. Mr Phil Robino, a long standing member of the village, who was interested in the Project, introduced Mr Clarke to the meeting.

Mr Clark explained that his background was in renewable energy and outlined his proposal for a Community Power Project in Lyddington. In summary, this would consist of 1 to 2 wind turbines (25 metres in height to the top of the hub), 1.5 to 2 acres of solar panels and 60 to 80 kw of biomass (although this has been removed from the current proposal as it requires more work). He provided details of the type of equipment needed, its location and estimated life span together with the costs, estimated income and payback period. All construction would be outside the conservation area. Mr Clark hoped to gain the support of the Parish Council and the village before seeking Planning permission. No other community has embarked on this sort of Project as yet. It was therefore proposed that Mr Clark present his proposal to the whole village at the Annual Parish Meeting (APM) in April so he could answer any questions raised. Mr Clark will distribute a letter to all villagers explaining his proposal and that he will be available at the APM to answer any questions.

The Parish Council thanked Mr Clark for explaining his proposal but agreed that it did not have enough information at this stage to make a decision and would remain open-minded until after the presentation is made at the APM in April.

Action: Arrange for Mr Clark to present his Community Power Project proposal and take questions on it at the APM (Clerk)

4. **Declaration of Interests:** None.
5. **Minutes** of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14 January 2013 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

REGULAR REPORTS

6. **Playing Field and Project to Refresh Play Equipment**

6.1 The Chairman reported that:

- (i) The application to WREN for a grant to refresh of the play equipment had been successful and he congratulated Cllr Tyers on this success.
- (ii) ABC Tidy Gardens are aiming to prepare the four new allotment plots by 1 April but this may overrun because of the poor weather conditions.

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REGULAR REPORTS (cont'd)

6. Playing Field and Project to Refresh Play Equipment (cont'd)

- (iii) Cllr Tassell had conducted the monthly inspection of the play equipment and confirmed it was in satisfactory order.
- (iv) It was noted that Came & Company, the Parish Council's insurer, is no longer recommending Digley Associates as their preferred playground inspector following negative feedback.
- (v) It was **agreed** that Spendlove Contracting's quote for grounds maintenance for the 2013 season should be accepted.

Action: Confirm acceptance of Spendlove Contracting's quote for 2013 grounds maintenance (**Clerk**)

6.2 **Lyddington Tennis (LT):** Cllr Westwood had attended a meeting on 13 February 2013. There was nothing of note to report. LT will provide updated notices for the notice boards for the new season.

6.3 **Project to refresh village play equipment:** Cllr Tyers had received a letter dated 1 March 2013 from WREN confirming their decision to grant up to £34,000 to the Parish Council towards the "Lyddington Park Project". The £3,750 to release the grant will become payable by the Parish Council within 30 days of receipt of the request to pay. Cllr Tyers has approached four companies for quotations (a minimum of three is required) including Wicksteed, DT Leisure, Playdale and Russell Leisure giving parameters for the scheme such as age range, space, amount of funds available. It was **agreed** that news of the receipt of the grant and progress on the Project should be advertised where appropriate (newsletter, Noticeboards, magazines) and the status reported at the forthcoming Annual Parish Meeting.

Actions:

- Respond to WREN's letter of offer to thank them for allocating the funding and to arrange to finalise the paperwork, including paying the funds to release the grant (**Clerk**)
- Check the Planning position regarding the Lyddington Park Project with the County Council (**Clerk**)
- Send email regarding the receipt of the grant to those who sent letters of support (separate to the newsletter) (**JT**)

7. Planning Applications

7.1 **Schedule of planning applications:** The schedule of pending planning applications was noted. It was further noted that a provisional Tree Preservation Order had been made by the County Council on 27 February 2013 in response to an application to remove a dawn redwood at Colley Hill, 113 Main Street.

8. Finance

8.1 **Current financial position and ratification of cheques issued:** The current financial position of the Parish Council to March 2013 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. The Clerk confirmed that she will submit a VAT claim shortly after the end of the month for the period to 31 March 2013.

Actions:

- Submit VAT claim to HMRC for the period 1 February 2012 to 31 March 2013 (**Clerk**)
- Subject to checking if any funding is available from the County Council, arrange for the new street light in Bluecoat Lane to be ordered and installed (**Clerk**)

8.2 **Clerk's Expenses:** The Clerk's salary for January and February 2013 (a total of £253.66, being 29.00 hours at £8.747 per hour) was received and approved.

8.3 **Annual Return 2013:** It was **agreed** that, if amenable, Mr C Tassell be appointed internal auditor for the year ended 31 March 2013, 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 2013 Annual Return (**HT**)

BUSINESS

9. Broadband Provision in the village

It was noted that Lyddington has been excluded from the Digital Rutland project (in partnership with BT) due to it already having superfast broadband provided by Rutland Telecom/Gigaclear. Cllr Westwood had contacted the Project Support Officer, Digital Rutland at the County Council who confirmed that this exclusion was due to the

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BUSINESS (cont'd)

9. Broadband Provision in the village (cont'd)

project being funded by a national grant which stipulated that it must not cover areas where another provider is already offering fibre broadband. Cllr James Lammie, Lyddington's County Councillor had offered to speak with the Parish Council on this subject but it was decided not to meet with him at this time. *(Subsequent to the meeting, Cllr Lammie contacted the Parish Council and will attend the May meeting).*

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) **Street Lighting:** The Clerk had confirmed with the Commercial Engineer – Highways Lighting at E.ON that in the survey carried out on the street lights in Lyddington the rating of 1 (poor) to 5 (good) for "Condition" reflected the state of the whole light (including the column, unless the light was mounted on a wooden telegraph pole). The Bluecoat Lane street light was rated as 1. The remainder of the lights were rated 2 to 5 and E.ON had confirmed that this was merely an indication of the condition and not necessarily a guide to the urgency of attention.

It was therefore **agreed** that the faulty lamp post in Bluecoat Lane should be replaced as recommended by E.ON, with a "lift and lower" column and that the new low-energy, white light should be fitted with a part-night photocell (total cost of £1,000 plus VAT).

- (ii) **Grit Bin on Main Street/Church Lane:** Following relocation of the grit bin by the County Council to the grass verge on the corner of Main Street/Church Lane (opposite the tower), a complaint had been received from a resident. The position of the grit bin was discussed at some length and the County Council's assessment that this was the only safe and easily accessible place for it (having been a traffic hazard in its former position) was supported.
- (iii) **Land Registry:** A concern had been raised previously that the deeds for the Village Green and the playing field remain in paper form and the title may not be registered electronically with the Land Registry. Cllr Clarke has researched how to register land with the Land Registry and will require the title deeds to do this. The relevant fees are dependent on the value of the land being registered. Cllr Tyers will put her in touch with a local surveyor who may be able to help with this.

Actions:

- Respond in writing to the resident's complaint about the position of the grit bin explaining the Parish Council's decision (**Chairman/Clerk**)
- Recall title deeds for the Green and the playing field from safe custody (**Clerk**)

OTHER MATTERS

11. Clerk's items

11.1 **Police Report:** In PC Le Pla's absence, PCSO Freeman had provided a crime report for Rutland South over the last 60 days. There had been no crimes in the village although there had been a number of heating oil thefts in the area so the problem solving plan for the next few months is to tackle this crime.

11.2 **Rutland Employment Land Assessment Review:** A letter received from the County Council (previously circulated) regarding a refresh of the employment land assessment study for the district was noted and discussed. The Parish Council has no comments to put forward.

11.3 **Annual Parish Meeting:** It was **agreed** that the two main items on the agenda should be the Community Power Project and an update on the Lyddington Park Project (together with the usual administrative items, such as the Summary Report for the year).

Actions:

- Prepare agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting (APM) and Summary/Financial Report for the year (**Clerk**)
- Prepare flier for the APM (**Clerk**) and distribute to all houses in the village (**all**)

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OTHER MATTERS (cont'd)

12. Village Newsletter

It was **agreed** that no newsletter will be published following this meeting as the flyer to be distributed ahead of the APM will include a short update on news. A newsletter will be published following the APM to give a summary of the meeting and an update on the Lyddington Park Project.

13. Dates of next meetings

- Tuesday 21 May 2013 at 19:30 in the Village Hall (Annual Parish Council Meeting).
- Monday 8 July 2013 at 19:30 in the Village Hall.

Signed by Cllr I C Canadine, Chairman on 21 May 2013

Chairman