

LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on Monday 10 March 2014 from 7.30 pm to 8.55 pm

Present:	Cllr H Tassell (Deputy Chairman) - in the Chair Cllr R Archer Cllr D L Couldwell Cllr J Tyers Cllr W J A Westwood
Members of the village/others in attendance:	Ms Anita Hollinshead - Freelance Museum & Heritage Services Mr Peter Lawson - Member of the Parish

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. **Questions and comments from the floor:** None.

2. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr I C Canadine

3. **Public Art for Lyddington**

Mr Peter Lawson, as Chairman for Arts for Rutland, introduced Ms Anita Hollinshead, project co-ordinator for an Arts Council England funded project - Accessing Rutland's Museums, who was welcomed to the meeting.

Ms Hollinshead explained that many of the information boards installed around Rutland as part the Heritage and Arts trail created in 2000 were being refreshed and 10 new boards, including 1 proposed for Lyddington, were being produced. This project is supported by two main parties – Rutland County Museum and Roxborough by Rail. Its aim is to increase visits to, and engagement with, heritage and arts across Rutland and to help raise awareness of the heritage of the area. The board at the Bede House will be refreshed as part of this project. It was requested that the Local History Society should be involved and be given the opportunity to comment of the wording of the board before it is finalised.

There is £2,000 available as part of this project to commission a piece of public art for Lyddington, for example, a mosaic or sculpture. It was noted that the millennium sculpture in Bluecoat Lane is also included in the trail. A leaflet will be produced on the trail as well as a smartphone app.

The Parish Council discussed the types of commission that might work in the village and agreed on a village sign. The work/design will need to be commissioned by the end of June. Ms Hollinshead will provide some examples of village signs and will also come along to the Annual Parish Meeting where this will be added to the agenda for discussion.

The Parish Council thanked Ms Hollinshead for attending the meeting.

4. **Declaration of Interests:** None.

5. **Vacancy on Parish Council**

The County Council had advised on 4 February that the deadline for 10 electors to request an election to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mrs Karen Clarke had passed and that no request had been received to hold an election. The Parish Council can now co-opt to fill the vacancy.

It was noted that four candidates from the village have agreed to be considered for co-option. However, it was noted that the Parish Clerk also wished to step down and put herself forward as a candidate for the Parish Council. It was therefore **agreed** that the Parish Clerk would try to find a successor for her position before a final decision was made on co-option.

6. **Minutes** of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13 January 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

REGULAR REPORTS

7. Playing Field

7.1 In the Chairman's absence, it was noted that the Lyddington Park Project has been very well received and is being well used. There was nothing further to report. Cllr Tyers noted that there were some funds still available to put a seat in the small children's play area.

Cllr Couldwell will ask Mr Martin Sharpe if he has any benches left that might be suitable.

7.2 **Lyddington Tennis (LT):** There has no further meetings of LT to date and so there was nothing to report.

7.3 **Play Equipment - Monthly Safety Check:** Cllr Tassell had conducted the monthly inspection of the play equipment and confirmed it was in satisfactory order. She had also confirmed with Wicksteed that interim greasing of the equipment was not necessary.

7.4 **Grounds Maintenance 2014:** Spendlove Contracting has agreed to hold prices at the same level for a further year. It was **agreed** that Spendlove's quote for grounds maintenance for the 2014 season should be accepted.

It was noted that Mr Chris Hatton had removed the ivy from the Church wall and the Parish Council recorded its thanks for his hard work in doing this and asked the Clerk to convey their thanks in writing. The Clerk will ask Spendlove to quote for removing the ivy from the personnel gate in Church Lane.

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 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. The Clerk has submitted a final VAT claim for the period to 31 March 2014.

9.2 **Clerk's Expenses:** The Clerk's salary for January and February 2014 (a total of £271.16, being 31.00 hours at £8.747 per hour) was received and approved.

9.3 **Annual Return 2014:** It was **agreed** that, if amenable, Mr C Tassell be appointed internal auditor for the year ended 31 March 2014, to audit the Annual Return required by the Audit Commission for submission to the external auditor. Mr Peter Hems has kindly agreed to assist the Clerk in preparing the end of year financials.

BUSINESS

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) **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 and the third parties but they are confident that the conveyances should be undertaken in the near future.
- (ii) **Cemetery Bin:** Cllr Archer has put the new green bin for the cemetery at the end of the pathway and invited other members of the Council to think if there was another more appropriate place for it.
- (iii) **Dog Walking Scheme:** Cllr Couldwell noted that there was a discussion at the last Fete meeting about dog walking on the playing field and the possibility that there may be some funds available from the Fete proceeds to put towards a Dog Walking Scheme if the Parish Council is able to come up with one.
- (iv) **Cemetery Fees:** The Clerk tabled two papers – (1) A copy of the current Uppingham cemetery fees (from 1 April 2013); and (2) a comparison of Lyddington fees to Uppingham, showing the Lyddington fees as percentage of the Uppingham ones. The Parish Council discussed these and agreed to look at using 60% as the common denominator – bringing all Lyddington fees under that percentage up to 60% and leaving everything else above that as it currently is. The Clerk will prepare and circulate a document showing the proposed fees under this method.

LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

OTHER MATTERS

11. Clerk's items

- 11.1 **Police Report:** PC Le Pla had provided a crime report for Rutland South for January. There had been an interference with a vehicle and a theft from a motor vehicle in the village.

Cllr Archer reported that there had been a lot of noise at the playing field one evening which was reported to the police by a village resident. The police were on site within 15 minutes but found no-one. The resident also checked the play equipment to make sure there was no damage.

- 11.2 **Stones on grass verges in the village:** The Director for Places – Environment, Planning and Transport at Rutland County Council confirmed that it remains their policy to, if asked, investigate stone blocks put on verges by residents but will only require removal of the stones if they are assessed to be a safety hazard. Cllr Tassell will confirm this to the resident who had raised concerns and will pass on contact details for the County Council should they wish to contact them direct

- 11.3 **Annual Parish Meeting 2014:** It was **agreed** that the two main items on the agenda should be the Public Art for Lyddington and an update on Broadband in the village (together with the usual administrative items, such as the Summary Report for the year).

12. Village Newsletter

It was **agreed** that a newsletter will not be published following this meeting.

13. Dates of next meetings

- Monday, 12 May 2014 at 19:30 in the Village Hall (Annual Parish Council Meeting)
- Monday, 14 July 2014 at 19:30 in the Village Hall

Chairman