

LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Lyddington Village Hall
on Wednesday 6 May 2009 at 19:00

Present: Cllr I C Canadine (Chairman) Cllr A Marshall
Cllr H Tassell (Deputy Chairman) Cllr E L-A Straw
Cllr R H Clarke Cllr D P Sugden

Ms E A Hobley (Clerk)

Members of the village in attendance: Ms R Archer
Ms T Elliott
Mr E Moss

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. **Questions and comments from the floor:** None
2. **Apologies:** Cllr E L-A Straw
3. **Declaration of Interests:** There were no interests to declare.
4. **Election of Chairman:** Cllr Tassell stepped down as retiring Chairman. Cllr Canadine was proposed and, after due and careful consideration, was unanimously elected as Chairman of the Parish Council and Cllr Tassell agreed to act as Deputy Chairman until the next Annual Parish Council Meeting to be held in May 2010. Members of the Parish Council thanked Cllr Tassell for her dedication as Chairman over previous years.
5. **Co-option of Councillor:** One expression of interest in the vacant position on the Parish Council had been received from a member of the village. **Agreed** that the position should be more widely advertised before the Parish Council moves to consider candidates.
Action: Advertise the vacant position on all notice boards, web and in the next newsletter (Clerk, ES)
6. **Minutes** of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4 March 2009 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
7. **Matters Arising:** The Parish Council considered the schedule of matters arising from previous meetings. The new format of the schedule was approved.
 - 7.1 *Electricity sub-station:* The Wayleave Officer from Central Networks had promised to follow up with Mrs Healey on the possibility of siting the sub-station at Stoneville Farm.
Action: Follow up with Central Networks regarding the status of their discussions with Mrs Healey (Clerk)
 - 7.2 *Speeding in the village:* The local police team for Rutland had changed recently. The Clerk has invited them to the Annual Parish Meeting to introduce themselves and present on speeding statistics for the village.
 - 7.3 *RoSPA annual safety inspection:* Welland Procurement Unit (WPU) had agreed to put RoSPA representatives in touch with Cllr Canadine to arrange to meet with him when they came to conduct their annual check so he could talk to them about the potential repositioning of the swings on the Green. Cllr Canadine had circulated details of the costs to reposition (£6,215 plus VAT to move versus £719 plus VAT to remove). Any move will require prior consultation with the County Council's Planning Department and a search for funding.
Action: Follow up with WPU about contacting Cllr Canadine (Clerk)
 - 7.4 *Good Neighbour Scheme:* Only one village had agreed to take part in the scheme and so it was not proceeding.

LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

REGULAR REPORTS

8. Playing Field

A strong reaction had been received from villagers to the proposals to remove the swings from the Green and the goalposts from the playing field, and both were being reconsidered. The small children's play area was now clear of leaves and all the equipment seems to be working well at present.

Basketball: On reflection, it was decided unnecessary to replace the basketball net and to install a permanent sign regarding parking under the post at present.

Litter bins: Cllr Canadine had spoken to the manager of the White Hart and the problem with the bin there appears to have been solved. The bin on the playing field had not been emptied recently.

Allotments: Mr Couldwell had put up some temporary netting on the gate to stop rabbits getting in. Allotment plots 6 and 7 had still not been cleared for the coming season. **Agreed** that the level of detail in the draft agreement with Constables Pre-School regarding the area on the playing field for use by the children was sufficient but that the covering letter should ask Ms Farrell to meet with Cllrs Sugden and Straw to discuss the finer detail of the site before proceeding.

Tennis Club: Cllr Canadine had spoken to Ms Teesdale-Brown about the ongoing problems with the tennis court. The lock had been cut off/left off on a number of occasions recently and a new lock had just been fitted. **Agreed** that the Parish Council should assist the Tennis Club in re-establishing a working Committee and advertising the facility. Noted that the fees charged to key holders were to cover expenses. There is no sign of damage to the Court at the moment although some thistles had been noticed coming through the tarmac.

Actions:

- Provide Cllr Canadine with telephone number for Mr Wilkins, who had shown an interest in using the playing field for football practice **(Clerk)**
- Follow up with tenants of allotment plots 6 and 7 about starting work for the season **(Clerk)**
- Contact the County Council about emptying the bin on the playing field prior to the village fete **(HT)**
- Finalise agreement and covering letter with pre-school **(Clerk)** and arrange meeting to discuss detail with Ms Farrell **(DS, ES)**
- Meet with the current Tennis Club Committee and offer assistance as appropriate **(ICC, AM)**
- Add paragraph regarding the tennis court to next newsletter **(ES)**
- Ask Spendlove to extend their mowing around the bench on Stoke Road to include the small tree **(Clerk)**

9. Planning Applications

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

10. Finance

10.1 *Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2009:* The Parish Council's accounts for the financial year to 31 March 2009 were discussed. **Resolved that** the annual accounts for the year ended 31 March 2009 be and are hereby approved **and that** the Chairman is authorised to sign the balance sheet on behalf of the Parish Council.

10.2 *2009 Annual Return:* **Agreed** that Mr C Tassell be appointed internal auditor for the year ended 31 March 2009, to audit the Annual Return required by the Audit Commission for submission to the external auditor.

Action: Complete the 2009 Annual Return and deliver to Mr Tassell for internal audit **(Clerk)**

10.3 *Current financial position and ratification of cheques issued:* A schedule detailing cheques issued since the last meeting from the Clerk, was tabled and noted. **Resolved that** the cheques issued since the last meeting be and are hereby ratified. A letter had been received from Barclays notifying some changes to their Barclaysafe Safe Custody Service including an increase in charges.

Action: Investigate alternate safe custody service by auditors **(Clerk)**

10.4 *Clerk's Expenses:* The employment contract for the Clerk had been executed on 23 March 2009, including an increase in salary to £8.64 per hour. The Clerk's salary for March and April 2009 was received and approved (a total of £249.83, being 16.5 hours at £7.81 per hour for March and 14 hours at £8.64 for April).

LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

BUSINESS

11. Speeding in the village

Cllr Marshall confirmed that the Community Speedwatch session has been scheduled for the last two weeks of June (15th to 28th). **Agreed** it would be helpful to identify the peak times for traffic so that volunteers could be concentrated around those times. The Highways Department is awaiting a letter from Mr M Gadsby regarding the Speed Indicator Device for the north end of the village before they can place the order.

Actions:

- Speeding Working Group will meet to agree a strategy and work out the rota for Speedwatch **(AM, ICC, ES)**
- Contact Mr Toogood of the Highways Department at the County Council to assess the flow of traffic **(AM)**
- Follow up with the Highways Department and potentially Mr Gadsby about ordering the speeding signs **(Clerk, ICC)**

12. Footpath between Lyddington and Uppingham

Cllrs Marshall, Tassell and Straw had recently walked the footpath with a surveyor from the Highways Department of the County Council. He was only able to deal with the maintenance of the footpath and identified some areas for repair and some overhanging branches to be cut back. Weed killer had also been applied to the footpath the week prior which made it more passable.

Action: Write to surveyor to thank him for his time and to ask him to follow up on repairs. Also point out that the footpath remains dangerous, with another near miss of a child stepping into the road recently and ask for it to remain in the County Council's capital budget **(Clerk)**

OTHER MATTERS

13. Clerk's items

Cemetery: Confirmed that the maintenance of the old section of the cemetery is the responsibility of the County Council (Mr G Chase).

Annual Parish Meeting: Cllr Canadine gave his apologies for the meeting. Cllr Tassell agreed to Chair the meeting in his absence. The draft agenda was approved.

Annual Insurance Renewal: **Agreed** that the insurance renewal invitation from Allianz at £841.60 (an 8% increase on last year) be accepted for this year but reviewed again next year.

Citizens Advice Bureau: **Agreed** to give a donation of £10 to Rutland CAB, as in previous years.

Actions:

- Contact the County Council about the ivy in the cemetery and a number of stones which have fallen over. **(Clerk)**
- Advertise the agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting as required **(Clerk)**
- Contact Mr P Lawson about the wall in the cemetery that has fallen into the field behind **(ICC)**

14. Village Newsletter

The next newsletter will be published in June.

15. Dates of meetings

- Annual Parish Meeting (all invited) - Wednesday 27 May 2009 at 19:30 in the Village Hall
- Wednesday 1 July at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall

The meeting closed at 20:35

Signed by Dr I C Canadine, Chairman, on 1 July 2009

Chairman