

LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall
on Monday 12 May 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: None

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. **Questions and comments from the floor:** None.
2. **Apologies for absence:** None.
3. **Election of Chairman and Deputy Chairman:** Cllr Canadine was proposed and, after due and careful consideration, unanimously re-elected as Chairman of the Parish Council until the next Annual Parish Council Meeting to be held in May 2015.

Cllr Tassell was unanimously re-elected as Deputy Chairman for the same period.
4. **Declaration of Interests:** None.
5. **Vacancy on Parish Council**
As recorded at the last meeting, the deadline for 10 electors to request an election to fill the current vacancy had passed on 4 February and since no request had been received to hold an election, the Parish Council was required to co-opt to fill the vacancy.

Due to the fact that a successor for the Parish Clerk has not yet been found, it was agreed that the co-option should be finalised as soon as possible. The Clerk will write to the candidates to ask if they continue to be interested and if so, to provide a short, written reason of why they would like to be a Parish Councillor and what they feel they can offer to the Parish – or if preferred, a separate meeting can be arranged so they can provide this to members of the Parish Council verbally.

As the Clerk also wishes to step down as soon as possible, she will draft a job advertisement for the Parish Clerk role and put this on the website, noticeboards and into the Benefice Newsletter (as the Clerk does not have to live in the Parish).
6. **Minutes** of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10 March 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

REGULAR REPORTS

7. **Playing Field and Lyddington Park Project**
 - 7.1 Mr Martin Sharpe is kindly providing a new bench for the small children's play area. It should be installed in around three to four weeks and will need cementing in to ensure that it is safe.

It was noted that the sandpit has been repaired and that new sand is to be purchased.
 - 7.2 **Lyddington Tennis (LT):** There has no further meetings of LT to date but it was noted that the open tennis session had been held on 13 April which had been successful and resulted in another two/three members.
 - 7.3 Cllr Tassell had conducted the monthly inspection of the play equipment and confirmed it was in satisfactory order. It was noted that the bird spikes installed on the swings had made a big difference to the cleanliness of the swing seats both on the playing field and the Green.

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Play Equipment - Monthly Safety Check (cont'd):

At the Annual Parish Meeting, maintenance of the trees overhanging the small children's play area had been raised. Nothing can be done while the birds are still nesting but the Chairman will revisit with Mr Mair when appropriate.

The Chairman will find an address from the Bede House Wardens to write to English Heritage about the ivy on the Bishop's Eye turret on Main Street.

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:** The financial position of the Parish Council for the year ended 31 March 2014 and a schedule detailing cheques issued since the last meeting were tabled and noted. The accounts for the Lyddington Park Project were also 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 March and April 2014 (a total of £209.93, being 24.00 hours at £8.747 per hour) was received and approved.

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) **Ivy on personnel gate in Church Lane:** This has been done so should be removed from the schedule.
- (ii) **Registration of deeds with Land Registry:** The Clerk will follow up with Ms Karen Clarke who had kindly agreed to continue with this task after stepping down as a Parish Councillor.
- (iii) **Five bar gate:** Cllr Couldwell has collected the new gate and it is expected that it will be fitted in the next two to three weeks, which is being arranged by Mr Sharpe.
- (iv) **Dog Walking Scheme:** There was further discussion about dogs on the playing field and whether it is possible to find a route for dog walkers along the edge of the playing field to avoid the guard dogs on Chapel Lane. The Chairman and Cllr Archer will discuss further and revert.

11. Annual Parish Meeting 2014

The Parish Council discussed the items raised at the Annual Parish Meeting in April 2014, including:

- (i) **Proposed public art commission:** The Parish Council recapped on the presentation given by Ms Anita Hollingshead at the Annual Meeting whereby £2,000 is available for a public art commission in Lyddington as part of an Arts Council England funded project. It had been suggested that a village sign be commissioned and that the Village Green had been identified as the best location for it, subject to keeping the space free from clutter. It was agreed that a sub-Committee should be formed of villagers with particular expertise from both historical and artistic perspectives. The Chairman will speak with Mr Peter Lawson about the most appropriate villagers to form this sub-Committee.
- (ii) **Footway from Lyddington to Uppingham:** The County Councillor, Mr James Lammie, had taken the matter up with the County Council following the Annual Meeting where concerns had been raised about the new surface of the footway (particularly in relation to pushchairs and wheelchairs, which were finding the surface difficult to use). It was noted that the decision to use gravel rather than tarmac for the footway was from the portfolio holder as he had concerns around the urbanisation of the route as it could mean the loss of rural character. Mr Lammie was positive that a solution could be found to make the footway better. The Chairman will formally write to the County Council to express the Parish Council's concern at the current situation and urging that something be done.
- (iii) **Broadband:** The Government has now committed additional funding to the project in Rutland and so everyone has been asked to send in broadband speeds which may provide an alternative to Gigaclear in the village.

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OTHER MATTERS

12. Clerk's items

12.1 **Police Report:** PC Le Pla had provided a crime report for Rutland South for February and April. There had been a theft of meat from a property in the village.

12.2 **Annual Insurance Renewal 2014:** The insurance renewal quote for 2014 received from Came & Company, as previously circulated, was discussed and **it was resolved** that the premium be accepted (**£855.10**, an **increase** from £768.12 last year). This reflects the increase in the sum of playground equipment insured from £23,205.25 to £47,414.70 following completion of the Lyddington Park Project and also takes into consideration the 3-year binding agreement, signed in 2012, and an annual 5% no claims discount. Aviva continues to be the underwriter of the policy. The population of Lyddington is around 400 and the policy covers a population up to 1,000.

The valuation of the PC's assets covered by the policy has been index-linked by 3% and the asset register showing the items covered (based on Replacement Values) was noted.

12.3 **Allotments:** It was noted that all plots are currently occupied. There are five names on the waiting list for allotment plots (some for second plots) and it was agreed that the Parish Council will consider additional plots in the winter ready for the Spring.

13. Village Newsletter

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

14. Dates of next meetings

- Monday, 14 July 2014 at 19:30 in the Village Hall
- Monday, 8 September 2014 at 19:30 in the Village Hall – Cllrs Tassell and Westwood are apologies for this meeting

Chairman