

LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Lyddington Village Hall
on Wednesday 2 July 2008 at 19:30

Present: Cllr H Tassell (Chairman) Cllr E L-A Straw
Cllr R H Clarke Cllr D P Sugden
Cllr A Marshall
Ms E A Hobley (Clerk)

Members of the village in attendance: Mr R Edwards

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. **Questions and comments from the floor:** Mr Edwards thanked Cllr Marshall for organising the village's recent participation in the Community Speedwatch scheme.
2. **Apologies:** Cllrs I C Canadine and S G Griffiths-Baker.
3. **Declaration of Interests:** There were no interests to declare.
4. **Minutes** of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 7 May 2008 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
5. **Matters Arising:** The Council considered the schedule of matters arising from previous meetings.
- 5.1 *Litter Bins:* Cllrs Canadine and Marshall were thanked for installing the two new bins (at the bus shelter and the Old White Hart).
- 5.2 *Traffic in the village:* Cllr Marshall reported that the four-week Speedwatch session would finish that week-end and a debrief will be held with Mr M Wilson to agree actions. Volunteers each took part in up to three sessions per week, at different times of the day. Although covering less than half the daylight hours during that period, 250 motorists had been recorded as driving in excess of 35 mph. A typical pattern had not emerged but a change in driving habits had been noticed since the start of the session. Very little abuse from drivers had been experienced. Another positive outcome from the session was the development of contacts between villagers.

Suggestions for traffic calming measures were: Flashing signs at the bend coming into the village from Uppingham and raised tables at The Green. The latter would need village support. A quotation on the cost of flashing signs (as in Glaston), and their contribution, was awaited from Rutland County Council.

Actions:

- Ask volunteers for feedback on the session to pass to Mr Wilson at the debrief **(AM)**
- Write to all volunteers to thank them for taking part **(Chairman)**
- Consider adding a piece to the next village newsletter on the session **(all)**
- Follow up with RCC about flashing signs (cost and their contribution) **(Clerk)**
- Ask the Highways Department at RCC about resurfacing the footpath into Uppingham **(Clerk)**

- 5.3 *Chapel Lane:* The Clerk had spoken to Rutland County Council about approaching the new owner of the proposed site for the electricity sub-station and had been referred back to the electricity board. The Clerk had been advised that the electricity board had added the work to overhanging trees in Chapel Lane to their waiting list but that it may take up to nine months before the work can be started.

Cllr Clarke had spoken to Mr P Lougs at Rutland County Council about repairing the surface of Chapel Lane and it was thought this may be done next year. Noted that although Chapel Lane was considered a bridleway, it was designated as a footpath.

Actions:

- Contact electricity board about approaching the new owner of the proposed site for the sub-station **(Clerk)**
- Follow-up with RCC regarding the repair of the surface of Chapel Lane **(Clerk)**
- Look into having the designation of Chapel Lane changed from footpath to bridleway **(DS)**

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- 5.4 *Playing Field:* There had been some complaints about loud music being played, late at night, from cars parked in the playing field car park. Possible solutions, including the installation of a chain or bollard system at the entrance to the car park that could be locked at night, were discussed.

Action: Speak to Mrs Harnett about possible solutions to secure the playing field car park **(ES)**

BUSINESS

6. Village Questionnaire

As only a small percentage of questionnaires had been completed and returned (less than ¼), it was difficult to draw any general conclusions either from the statistics or from the comments provided.

Action: Review the summary of information collated from the questionnaires and provide any thoughts to the Clerk for amalgamation and discussion at the next meeting **(all)**

7. Cemetary Fees

An increase of five per cent on the current cemetery fees was considered and rejected as being too low in comparison to the fees set by Rutland County Council.

Action: Prepare and circulate a proposal to bring Lyddington's cemetery fees into line with those set by Rutland County Council, for consideration at the next meeting **(Clerk)**

REGULAR REPORTS

8. Playing Field

Cllr Marshall reported that the Women's Institute had asked if they could plant a baby oak tree that they had been given on the playing field. **Agreed.**

The Play Area Safety Inspection for 2008 had been conducted and a report received from RoSPA. **Agreed** that this was comprehensive and, in general, favourable. The action items were discussed.

Action:

- Contact Wicksteed regarding the adaptive part recommended for the "Log World Multiplay" **(ES)**

9. Planning Applications

9.1 *Schedule of planning applications:* Noted.

9.2 *General Planning Policy:* Notes from the special planning meeting attended by Carolyn Cartwright, Senior Planning Officer at Rutland County Council held on 12 June were reviewed and considered. The Council discussed the draft planning policy presented by the Clerk and agreed that although it was not practical to have a general policy of voting against "infill" in the village (as it is not a recognised planning ground for objection in itself) this area remained of concern to the Council. Revised plans for the Old School House were also considered and it was agreed that as all planning points had now been dealt with, the Council will withdraw its objection (although it would note that infill remains of general concern).

Actions:

- Report decision on Old School House to RCC Planning Department **(Clerk)**
- Consider draft Planning Policy and forward any comments to the Clerk **(all)**

10. Finance

10.1 *Current financial position and ratification of cheques issued:* A report from Cllr Marshall on the Council's current financial position and 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.

An invitation to participate in a rights issue in respect of the HBOS shares held by the Council had been received. The Clerk had consulted the Society of Local Council Clerks and advised that it would be inappropriate for the Council to take up the rights issue as it would be increasing the Council's "high risk" investment. **Agreed** that no action in respect of the rights issue will be taken at present.

10.2 *Clerk's Expenses:* The Clerk's salary for May and June 2008 was received and approved (a total of £374.88, being 48.00 hours at £7.81 per hour).

Action: Review level of Clerk's fees and put forward proposal for an increase, if appropriate **(Clerk)**

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- 10.3 *Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2008:* The completed annual return for the year ended 31 March 2008, together with the internal auditor's report, was presented. **Resolved** that the annual return for the year ended 31 March 2008 be and is hereby approved **and that** the Chairman and Clerk are authorised to sign it on behalf of the Parish Council.

Action: Submit the signed Annual Return for 2008 to the external auditors, Clement Keys, for review **(Clerk)**

- 10.4 *Village Hall – request for funding:* The Council considered a request from the Village Hall Committee to make a donation towards refurbishing the Hall. **Agreed** in principle to grant a maximum of £1,000 towards the refurbishment of the Village Hall, subject to the Council receiving the following further information before it makes a final decision:

- More details of the changes proposed, and which of these is required to meet current legislation, i.e. are vital to the continued operation of the Hall.
- On the basis that the current facilities are adequate for the present users what additional usage and income is the Village Hall expected to attract by enlarging the size of the kitchen and will the extra cost be recovered from extra income and, from the Parish Council's perspective will that increased use be from within the village?
- On the assumption that the Village Hall Committee has approached other organisations such as the National Lottery, Market Harborough Building Society Charitable Fund etc. what kind of response have they received and what is the level of funding secured at present?
- Which of the proposed improvements, if any, are anticipated to be carried out by residents on a voluntary basis?

Any grant would also be on a receipts basis, i.e. it will be paid on sight of receipts for the work completed.

Action: Request further information from the Village Hall Committee to enable the Council to make a final decision **(Clerk)**

OTHER MATTERS

11. Clerks' Items

The Clerk reported on:

- The completion of the 2008 Insurance Renewal; and
- The submission of the 2008 Street Lighting and Cemetery return to Rutland County Council.

Agreed that:

- The Council become a member of Rural Community Council for the 2008/09 subscription year; and
- A permanent notice (to replace the current temporary one) be purchased to warn against parking under the basketball net in the Playing Field car park.

12. Dates of meetings for the remainder of 2008

The next meetings will be held on Wednesdays at 19:30 in the Village Hall on:

3 September and
5 November

The meeting closed at 21:50

Signed by Mrs H Tassell, Chairman on 3 September 2008

Chairman