

LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held in Lyddington Village Hall
on Wednesday 1 July 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	Mrs S Houghton
	Mr R Edwards	Mrs M Leah
	Mrs T Edwards	Mr E Moss
	Ms T Elliott	

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. Questions and comments from the floor: None
2. Apologies: None
3. Declaration of Interests: There were no interests to declare.
4. **Neighbourhood Watch:** Mr Roger Edwards, the Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator for the village, gave an update. He had attended the inaugural meeting of Rutland Neighbourhood Watch Association and will ascertain the view of the local police team on the role of the Association. He will also ensure lines of communication are open with the local police team. Mr Edwards makes himself known to newcomers to the village and will write a piece for inclusion in the next Parish Council newsletter and on the website, reminding villagers of how to protect themselves and their property, and confirming contacts.

Actions:

- Assist Mr Edwards in putting Neighbourhood Watch signs up in the village (**ICC/AM**)
- Invite Mr Edwards to give an update to the Parish Council every three to four meetings (**Clerk**)

5. **Minutes** of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 6 May 2009 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
6. **Matters Arising:** The Parish Council considered the schedule of matters arising from previous meetings including the following:
 - 6.1 *Allotments:* It had been agreed that general maintenance of the allotments should be for allotment plot holders to arrange between themselves although the Parish Council is willing to contribute to the cost of raw materials. To deal with the current problem of small rabbits getting into the area, the Parish Council **agreed** to fund the purchase of the wire netting (£60 - £140) for installation by the allotment holders.

Pre-school plot: The draft agreement granting a small plot on the playing field to the Pre-school for planting has been finalised and provided to Ms Farrell. No response has been received as yet.
 - 6.2 *Tennis Club:* Councillor Canadine met with members of the original Tennis Club Committee (Mrs Tania Teesdale-Brown and Mrs Katy Bryant). Together with Mr Tim Leah, Ms Teesdale-Brown is hoping to regularise the arrangements for the Club. Councillor Canadine has stressed the Parish Council's willingness to assist the Tennis Club as long as the tennis court is used for the benefit of the village as a whole and is maintained properly. It was reconfirmed that Lyddington Playing Field Charity has delegated the operation of the tennis court to the Parish Council. The intention is for the more enthusiastic tennis players to set up a simply constituted Club and ensure that funds are put aside for maintaining the tennis court. It was noted that villagers requesting a key for the tennis courts are currently asked for a donation to assist with the cost of the keys. Membership fees are not required at the moment as the Club has sufficient fees for immediate maintenance.

Action: Institute regular meetings with the tennis club and assist where necessary (**ICC/AM**)

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- 6.3 *Speeding in the village and Speedwatch:* The Highways Department at Rutland County Council has been asked to order the speed indicator device at the north end of the village (to be paid for by Matthew Gadsby) and the vehicle activated sign at the south end of the village (to be paid for out of Parish funds). It was noted that the signs are made to order and will take approximately eight weeks from order to delivery.

Councillor Marshall had co-ordinated another successful Speedwatch session in June with 11 of the original trained volunteers taking part. He thanked Councillors Tassell and Canadine for their assistance. 143 vehicles had been recorded travelling at 35 mph and above, 16 at 40 and above and 2 at 55 and 58 mph. The session achieved the desired effect of slowing motorists and it was considered a useful exercise. Next year, consideration will be given to training more volunteers. The returns from the session have been lodged with Leicestershire Speedwatch and a report will be issued in due course. Although traffic volumes appear to have increased, there was unfortunately no hard evidence of this as Rutland County Council had failed to provide a measuring device when requested.

REGULAR REPORTS

7. Playing Field

- 7.1 *RoSPA Inspection 2009:* Councillor Canadine had met with the inspectors from RoSPA when conducting their annual safety inspection of the playing field and swings on the Green.

Matters for consideration or action are:

- *Turnstile in small children's area:* Councillor Canadine has obtained the correct tool from Wicksteed to repair this.
- *Rubber matting by swings:* Unfortunately, the grouting repaired previously has been gouged out and will have to be redone.
- *Swings on Green:* The safety report shows the positioning of the swings as a medium to low risk. It was therefore **agreed** that the swings should remain where they are for the time being and necessary minor repairs be made to the rubber matting. Usage will be reviewed regularly.
- *Logplay equipment:* This is showing signs of rot as it is over 25 years old and will need to be replaced in due course.
- *Picnic tables:* Councillors Canadine and Clarke will repair the tables as necessary but it as noted that the oldest table is showing signs of rot and will need to be replaced in due course.

The poor state of Chapel Lane and the footpath at the bottom of the playing field where drainage is a problem was discussed. The Footpaths Officer at Rutland County Council had agreed to look at this following discussion with Councillor Canadine earlier in the year. The hedges along Chapel Lane will also need to be cut back in winter.

Actions:

- Follow up with the RCC Footpaths Office regarding the state of the footpath at the bottom of the playing field (**ICC**)
- Follow up with Eon's Wayleave Officer regarding the reduction in height of trees along Chapel Lane away from the electricity lines (**Clerk**)

- 7.2 *Dogs on playing field:* The meeting discussed whether dogs should be allowed on the playing field on a lead. RosPA's view is that play areas should remain dog-free. It was accepted that there is a lack of footpaths across local land for walking dogs but it was **agreed** to uphold the rule of no dogs on the playing field at present.

- 7.3 *Village Hall:* Councillor Straw explained the current proposal to update the facilities in the Village Hall. At tender, the lowest quote to upgrade the kitchen/toilet facilities was £43,000 (including dampproofing) before other necessary works, such as roof repairs, were included. The Parish Council discussed the proposal to sell the current Village Hall and rebuild on the playing field. Although they did not object to the proposal in principle, a number of issues were raised such as whether the Playing Field Charity's objects would support this and practical issues such as access and the laying of services such as water down Chapel Lane.

Action: Investigate with Charity Commission whether the objects of the Playing Field Charity would support the proposal to build a new village hall on the playing field (**Clerk**)

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- 7.4 *Charitable Event in September:* A request had been received from Mr Matt Stevens of Worksafe Direct in Corby requesting the use of the playing field for a charity ball to be held in September. This raised a number of questions and the Parish Council would like Mr Stevens to come to them with a firm proposal before making any decisions.

Action: Contact Matt Stevens and request a firm proposal for using the playing field for a charity ball, if still interested **(Clerk)**

8. Planning Applications

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

- 8.2 *Poplars Farm:* Councillors Canadine and Tassell had met with Mr Nieuwenhuys regarding his proposed planning application at Poplars Farm.

Action: Consider proposal for Poplars Farm **(all)**

9. Finance

- 9.1 *Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2009:* The completed Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2009, together with the internal auditor's report, was presented. **It was resolved that** the annual return for the year ended 31 March 2009 be and is hereby approved and that the Chairman and Clerk are authorised to sign it on behalf of the Parish Council. A vote of thanks was given to Mr Charles Tassell for acting as internal auditor for the 2009 Annual Return.

Action: Submit the signed Annual Return for 2009 to the external auditors, Clement Keys, for audit **(Clerk)**

- 9.2 *Current financial position and ratification of cheques issued:* A schedule detailing cheques issued since the last meeting from the Clerk, was tabled and noted. **It was resolved that** the cheques issued since the last meeting be and are hereby ratified.

- 9.3 *Clerk's Expenses:* The Clerk's salary for May and June 2009 was received and approved (a total of £224.64, being 26 hours at £8.64 per hour).

OTHER MATTERS

10. Clerk's items

Street Lighting and Cemetery Expenses 2009: The return to Rutland County Council regarding the street lighting and cemetery expenses for Lyddington for 2009 was noted.

Actions:

- Follow up with Rutland County Council about the ivy in the cemetery, a number of stones which have fallen over and the wall in the cemetery that has fallen into the field behind **(Clerk)**
- Readdress schedule of village improvements at next meeting **(Clerk)**

11. Village Newsletter

Publication of the next newsletter will be considered at the September meeting, including an update for Neighbourhood Watch.

12. Dates of meetings

- Wednesday 2 September 2009 at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall

The meeting closed at 20:45

Signed by Dr I C Canadine, Chairman, on 2 September 2009

Chairman