

LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held in Lyddington Village Hall on Monday 12 July 2010 from 20:00 to 21:35

Present: Cllr I C Canadine (Chairman)
Cllr A Marshall
Cllr D P Sugden

Ms E A Hobley (Clerk)

**Members of the village/others
in attendance:** None

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. **Questions and comments from the floor:** Mr Ray Richardson was unable to attend the meeting but in his absence had asked (i) the Clerk - to raise the issue of the missing directional sign-post in Colley Rise, which had been knocked down around 12 months ago; and (ii) Councillor Marshall - to raise the apparent ongoing issues with electricity supply in the village following the most recent power cut in the area.
Actions:
 - Ask the County Council's Highways Department about replacing the directional sign in Colley Rise (**Clerk**)
 - Raise the issue of power cuts with E.ON at the forthcoming planned meeting with them (**AM, ICC**)
2. **Apologies:** Cllrs H Tassell (Deputy Chairman), D L Couldwell, W J A Westwood and E L-A Straw
3. **Declaration of Interests:** None
4. **Minutes** of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 10 May 2010 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

REGULAR REPORTS

5. **Playing Field:**
 - 5.1 **Chairman's Report:** Unfortunately the new "No Dogs" sign has been vandalised and is beyond repair. Following a complaint that one of the steel bands was loose on the fencing around the car park, the Chairman has repaired it but noted that the barrier is in need of further attention.

Football Pitch: On dismantling the goalposts, Mr Michael Wilkins found them to be of different sizes. He is therefore looking into current Football Association Schemes which may allow the Parish Council to buy new goalposts for a similar cost to repairing the existing posts as planned.

Blocked ditch: The Chairman raised concerns that the ditch will need clearing very soon and will arrange for a quote for the work to be given by a local landowner who has been recommended to him.

Cemetery: A complaint was noted from a member of the village that the most recent graves dug in the cemetery are out of line and may cause spaces to be lost if this trend continues.
 - 5.2 **Tennis Club:** The inaugural Annual General Meeting of the Tennis Club (TC) held on 2 June and a subsequent meeting on 22 June 2010 had been attended by Cllr Westwood as the Parish Council's honorary member and his written report was taken as read. Cllr Sugden raised some issues on behalf of Mr Roger Hickinbotham and the Parish Council discussed the holding of funds by the TC which, in itself, has no legal remit to hold publicly raised funds. It noted that the Parish Council has a public responsibility to ensure the funds are properly spent and various ways to achieve this were discussed. In particular, it was noted that it may be of benefit for the Parish Council (as the Playing Field Charity) to hold funds for the maintenance of the Tennis Court since it was a registered charity.
 - 5.3 **Annual safety inspection – RoSPA:** The Chairman accompanied the inspector, Mr Frank Guy, on the annual inspection and is awaiting receipt of the formal report. It was noted, however, that no significant issues were raised.

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5. Playing Field (cont'd):

The Chairman proposes re-grouting the surface under the swings once more (as unfortunately, it has been picked out again) and then will consider turfing the area instead as allowed by new safety regulations. Ongoing repairs required are the side of the sandpit and the benches. The Clerk had been informed that Lyddington will be charged for the inspection of two sites this year; however, the inspector commented that this is the responsibility of Welland Procurement Unit, who arranged the inspections and not RoSPA.

Actions:

- Consider what should be done to repair the car park barrier (**ICC, AM**)
- Review state of the blocked ditch and arrange a quote for clearing it (**ICC, AM**)
- Meet with Mr Eddie Dorman to discuss the misalignment of the graves, various works to tidy up the cemetery and how long until a new cemetery site will be needed (**Clerk, ICC**)
- Consider the most efficient way for the TC to hold funds and then communicate with them (**ICC, JW**)
- Draft licence for tennis courts to be entered into with the TC (**DS**)
- Make repairs to sandpit and benches on playing field (**ICC, AM**)
- Follow up with Welland Procurement about the charging for the annual RoSPA inspection (**Clerk**)

6. Planning Applications

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

6.2 **Tree Warden:** Mr Simon Griffiths-Baker has kindly agreed to continue in his role as Tree Warden for Lyddington. It was noted that the Chairman has asked the County Council's Planning Department to inform the Parish Council about any tree works that are to be undertaken without permission, e.g. where there is a safety issue. The standard of recent tree applications was considered poor.

Actions:

- Confirm to Planning Department that Mr Griffiths-Baker continues as Tree Warden for Lyddington (**Clerk**)

7. Finance

7.1 **Current financial position and ratification of cheques issued:** The current financial position of the Parish Council for the year to July 2010 and 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.

7.2 **Clerk's Expenses:** The Clerk's salary for May and June 2010 was received and approved (a total of £261.36, being 30.25 hours at £8.64 per hour).

8. Matters Arising

The Parish Council considered the remaining items on the matters arising schedule, not already covered by the agenda and regular reports, including:

- Mower:* Mr Hickinbotham continues to mow the Green voluntarily. The Parish Council reimburses the cost of the petrol used. His mower has now been serviced and is kept locally near the Green.
- Allotments:* Cllr Couldwell had raised the issue of water at the allotments and will look at the possibility of a bowser. It was noted that this sort of project should be undertaken by the allotment plot holders together rather than the Parish Council.
- Village Hall:* It was agreed that a section of the Parish Council website could be used by the Village Hall Committee if they would find it useful.
- 30 signs:* It was noted that the 30 signs at both ends of the village have been straightened and replaced with yellow-backed signs.
- Speedwatch:* The next session has been postponed until next year.

Actions:

- Check that the Parish Council's insurance covers Mr Hickinbotham when mowing the Green if he retains the mower (rather than gifting it to the PC as originally considered) (**Clerk**)
- Contact the Chairman of Village Hall Committee about potentially having a section of the PC website (**Clerk**)

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9. **Undergrounding of electricity**

Representatives from E.ON - Mr Nobby Clarke (the Wayleave Officer), who has been dealing with the siting of the sub-station, and Ms Gill Corner (Project Engineer Highway Lighting), principal contact for the street lights, have agreed to attend a meeting in Lyddington to discuss the issues surrounding undergrounding the electricity cables, the recommendation under BS 7671 that all street lights should be electrically tested every 6 years and how the two interface. The Parish Council suggested some suitable times for that meeting.

Actions:

- Finalise meeting with E.ON to take place as soon as possible **(Clerk)**

OTHER MATTERS

10. **Clerk's items**

10.1 **Police:**

A report had been received from PC Le Pla on crime in the area during the last 30 days and was noted. A beat surgery had also been proposed to take place at the Village Hall in December and the cost of hiring the Village Hall for that event was discussed. *Subsequent to the meeting the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee agreed that the police should not be charged for providing this service to the village.*

10.2 **Footway between Lyddington and Uppingham:**

The County Council has assessed the footway as a home to school route. They noted there are some trip hazards and deterioration of the path but overall, consider it does not expose students to any greater risk of harm from traffic compared to if it was in pristine condition, and concluded that the path is not unusable and that students can still make use of it for the walk to school. They have, however, agreed to keep the footpath under review and ensure it is maintained to the highest standard possible by cutting back grass and regularly applying weed killer. They are also looking into whether the County Council is liable if they do not take remedial action to address trip hazards or deterioration of the path that may cause minor injuries.

10.3 **Insurance:**

The renewal of the Parish Council's insurance policy with Came and Co (underwritten by Aviva) is now in place.

10.4 **Cemetery fees:**

It was agreed that a programme of increases should be considered to bring Lyddington's fees in line with the rest of the County over the next five years.

10.5 **Street Lighting and Cemetery Expenses Return 2010/2011:**

The return for 2010/2011 to the County Council was noted.

Actions:

- Ensure the County Council keeps the footpath from Lyddington to Uppingham in the best possible state **(Clerk)**
- Propose schedule of increase in cemetery fees to align with the County Council over the next five years **(Clerk)**

11. **Village Newsletter**

It was agreed not to publish a newsletter this time but consider again at the September meeting.

12. **Dates of next meeting**

Monday 13 September 2010 at 20:00 in the Village Hall

Chairman