

LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held in the Snug at the Marquess of Exeter
on Monday 9 July 2012 at 7.35 pm to 9.50 pm

Present: Cllr I C Canadine (in the Chair) Cllr H Tassell
Cllr R Archer Cllr W J A Westwood
Cllr D L Couldwell
Cllr H Johnson

Ms E A Hobley (Clerk)

Members of the village/others in attendance: Ms Tina Elliott

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. Questions and comments from the floor: None
2. Apologies: None
3. **Vacancy on Parish Council:** The current vacant position on the Parish Council had been advertised by way of a Notice of Vacancy provided by the County Council on 30 May and, as no request for an election was received by 21 June, it was confirmed that the position will be filled by way of co-option. The Parish Council discussed possible co-optees.
Action: Cllr Couldwell will ask one potential co-optee to confirm their interest. Cllr Archer will ask a second potential co-optee if the first is not interested. (DC, RA)
4. Declaration of Interests: None.
5. Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 10 May 2012 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

REGULAR REPORTS

6. **Playing Field**
 - 6.1 The Chairman reported that:
 - (i) The three new picnic tables had unfortunately warped slightly and Mr Mick Wilkins has kindly suggested that he will rebuild them. The Parish Council expressed their thanks to Mr Wilkins for his professional approach.
 - (ii) The Chairman has installed a spring on the gate to the small children's play area which now closes the gate but he will continue to look for a more permanent solution.
 - (iii) The Chairman has walked the field with Mr John Oakley who apologised that the job is not yet quite finished which is due to the continued wet weather preventing him from bringing machinery onto the field. The Parish Council will receive his invoice once the work is complete.
 - (iv) A lot of work has been done on the other side of the ditch in the playing field by the owner of that land. It is now considerably tidier and Mr Oakley will remove the remaining logs from the ditch.
 - (v) Mrs Harnett is to arrange for the trees in her garden, overhanging the small children's play area, to be cut back.
 - (vi) Anglian Water had investigated the smell in the playing field. It was thought this had come from the leaks found in the drains at the Marquess of Exeter, which have now been repaired. However, the water at the end of the ditch is still unpleasant.
 - (vii) Proceeds of £5,870 from the Village Fete were reported, two-thirds of which will go to the Church, a portion to the Village Hall to complete the refurbishment and a portion kept for reserves. There were no other applicants for a grant.
 - (viii) Digley Associates has completed the annual safety inspection but unfortunately they did not provide an opportunity for the Chairman to take part in the inspection this year, as requested, and they had taken a long time to provide the final report; and
 - (ix) It was agreed that village play equipment needs to be refreshed and that the swings on the Green will be included for consideration in that project.

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REGULAR REPORTS (cont'd)

6.1 Actions:

(cont'd)

- Arrange for the water in the ditch to be tested by the authorities (**Chairman**)
- Review annual safety inspection report from Digley Associates and report back to the Parish Council (**Chairman, HT**)

6.2 **Lyddington Tennis (LT):** Cllr Westwood confirmed there was nothing to report regarding LT.

7. Planning Applications

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

8. Finance

8.1 **Current financial position and ratification of cheques issued:** The current financial position of the Parish Council to July 2012 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.

The feedback on the new light in Church Lane was positive regarding both its appearance and the way it works.

8.2 **2012 Annual Return:** It was noted that the Parish Council had approved the 2012 Annual Return by written resolution dated 28 June and the Chairman had signed the Balance Sheet. The Clerk has forwarded the completed 2012 Annual Return to the external auditor as required.

8.3 **Clerk's Expenses:** The Clerk's salary for May and June 2012 (a total of £231.80, being 26.50 hours at £8.747 per hour) was received and approved.

BUSINESS

9. Refresh of Play Equipment

A stall at the Village Fete had collected some interesting ideas for the refreshment of the village play equipment. Cllr Tassell had been involved with a group from the village who were interested in assisting with the project and she had attended a first meeting of the group on 28 May. Unfortunately the second meeting scheduled for 25 June was not held due to a lack of attendance and has not been rearranged at this time. The Sub-Committee will continue with the project and will circulate potential ideas for comment in due course. As an initial step, Cllr Tassell will revisit the list of ideas put forward by village children at the Village Fete and collect some further information on available grants. The Chairman will speak with the County Council and Wicksteed.

Action: The Sub-Committee will meet separately to agree a way forward on the play equipment refreshment project (**Chairman, HT, HJ**)

10. Street Lighting

The Clerk had lodged the Street Lighting and Cemetery Expenses return for the 2011/12 financial year with the County Council on 13 June and it was noted that the 2012 street lighting grant of £1,201.43 had been received from the County Council on 1 July.

The replacement of the current street lights with the more environmentally friendly white lights (as used in the new light on Church Lane and the replacement outside 21 Main Street) was discussed. Consideration will be given to replacing the village street lights in stages as the white lights use two-thirds of the electricity of the current lights. This will be done as part of the electricity under grounding project currently under consideration.

11. Matters Arising

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

- Picnic benches:** It was noted that the picnic benches have not been moved recently;
- Allotments:** The Chairman is investigating the cost to extend the allotments by four plots. He has measured out the space required. There has been a change in tenancy of Plot 1;
- Playing Field:** There have been no further reports about disturbances at the playing field;

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BUSINESS (cont'd)

- (iv) **Cemetery:** Cllr Couldwell had asked Mr Peter Wright about top soil and he had agreed to provide some for the cemetery. Cllr Couldwell will also tackle the ivy on the wall;
- (v) **Benches:** The Chairman has sprayed the bench on the Green with bleach and then with preservative. Cllr Couldwell may have something that can be used to preserve the other benches. The collapsed wall has now been rebuilt with authentic stone and lime mortar on the Church side although it is just normal brick on the side of Cllr Couldwell's property; and
- (vi) **Footpath outside 11 Main Street:** The County Council have conducted the necessary remedial work to the pathway.

Actions:

- Investigate how to move the top soil to the cemetery (**ICC, DC**)
- Ask Spendlove to quote to mow around the bench on Thorpe Road, to remove ivy from the Church, to reduce the width of the weed killer used against the allotment fence and to check what they are spraying on the bank of the ditch as this is becoming eroded (**Clerk**)

OTHER MATTERS

12. Clerk's items

12.1 **Police Report:** A report was received from PC Le Pla noting that the current Problem Solving Plan is to tackle domestic and commercial fuel thefts on the beat. The recent incidences over the last 3 months occurred around the Stoke Dry and Belton areas and all victims are being offered crime prevention advice.

12.2 **Annual Insurance Renewal 2012:** It was noted that the policy is now in place for 2012 with Came & Company and that the long term agreement (for 3 years) has been entered into as agreed.

12.3 **Parish Council history:** It was noted that Mr Peter Tomalin has composed a history of the last 100 years of the Parish Council from historical minute books and records. This will be available on the History Society Website.

Action: Consider having a link to Mr Tomalin's history of the Parish Council on the History Society Website from the Parish Council website (**Clerk**)

13. Village Newsletter

It was agreed that no newsletter will be published following this meeting. A village email list was discussed and it was agreed that this would be considered at the next meeting.

Action: Consider practicality of a village email list (**all**)

14. Dates of next meetings

Monday 12 November at 19:30 in the Village Hall.

Signed by Cllr I C Canadine, Chairman, on 10 September 2012

Chairman