

LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall
on Monday 14 July 2014 from 7.30pm to 8.59pm

Present: Cllr I C Canadine (Chairman) - in the Chair
Cllr H Tassell (Deputy Chairman)
Cllr R Archer
Cllr D L Couldwell
Cllr J Tyers
Cllr W J A Westwood
Cllr E Hobley

Tina Kaczmar (Parish Clerk)

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

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. **Questions and comments from the floor:** None.

2. **Apologies for absence:** None.

3. **Declaration of Interests:** None.

4. **Change of Parish Clerk**

The resignation of Ms E Hobley was noted. Ms T Kaczmar was appointed as Parish Clerk with effect from 14 July 2014. The Chairman thanked Ms Hobley for the excellent work she has done over the last 7 years.

5. **Vacancy on the Parish Council**

As recorded at the last meeting, the deadline for 10 electors to request an election to fill the current vacancy passed on 4th February 2014 and since no request had been received to hold an election, the Parish Council was required to co-opt to fill the vacancy. Candidates were asked to provide a short written reason why they would like to be Parish Councillor and what they felt they could offer the Parish. A secret ballot of the current Councillors was then conducted.

The result of the secret ballot was to co-opt Ms E Hobley to fill the vacancy on the Parish Council.

Ms E Hobley completed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Councillor (countersigned by the Chairman) and the Register of Members Interests. The Clerk will provide copies of these documents to the Monitoring Officer at Rutland County Council.

6. **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting**

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12 May 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

REGULAR REPORTS

7. **Lyddington Playing Field and Park**

7.1 New sand has been purchased by Cllr J Tyers for the sandpit at the park.

The new gate at the park is still to be installed. Cllr D L Couldwell informed the meeting that the gate was with Martyn Sharpe and agreed to follow up with Mr Sharpe the timescales for installing the gate. It is believed that new hinges and bolts are required. Cllr J Tyers and Cllr D L Couldwell agreed that if Mr Sharpe was unable to install the gate in the near future that they would install it.

The Chairman commented that the sandpit cover needs replacing as the edges were sharp. He agreed to look into finding a replacement cover.

LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

7.2 **Lyddington Tennis (LT):** Cllr W J A Westwood updated the meeting on Lyddington Tennis. There have been no further meetings of LT to date. The accounts for LT should be available by the next Parish Council Meeting in September.

7.3 **Play Equipment - Monthly Safety Check:** Cllr H Tassell had conducted the monthly inspection of the play equipment and confirmed it was in satisfactory order.

8. Planning Applications

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

The Parish Clerk asked for responses from all Councillors for the proposed tree works at Stoneville Farm and 111 Main Street. The Councillors who had not yet responded agreed to do so.

Cllr R Archer raised the issue that she had received some comments about the removal of a Poplar tree that and individual was unaware was due to happen. RCC does not inform neighbours of tree work by letter as it does with other planning applications and it is up to the individual to look at the yellow notices which are not always prominently displayed. It was agreed that notification of work to trees would be displayed on Parish Notice Boards and that this would be communicated via the next Parish Newsletter.

9. Finance

9.1 **Current financial position and ratification of cheques issued:** A schedule detailing cheques issued since the last meeting were tabled, noted and agreed.

The payments to E.ON Sustainable energy regarding a new low energy lantern were discussed. The options of LED's v white lights and timer switches on lights were discussed. It was agreed that the Chairman and Parish Clerk would investigate the various options and costs regarding ongoing street lighting replacements for discussion at the next meeting.

9.2 **Clerk's Expenses:** The Clerk's salary for May and June 2014 (a total of £258.04, being 29.5 hours at £8.747 per hour) was received and approved.

9.3 **Annual Return 2014:** The written resolution of the Parish Council dated 14 June 2014 approving the 2014 Annual Return and authorising the Chairman to sign the Balance Sheet for the year ended 31 March 2014 was tabled and noted. This had been previously circulated by email to the Chairman and Councillors and approved by all. The Chairman and all Councillors signed the written resolution.

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:

Playing Field

- (i) **Install bench in small children's playing area:** This will be done when Mr Sharpe is able to.
- (ii) **Overhanging trees in small children's play area:** Chairman to discuss with Mr Mair when the nesting season is over.
- (iii) **Contact English Heritage about the ivy on the Bishop's Eye:** Chairman had contacted English Heritage about this with limited success. Proposed and agreed that he will write to English Heritage on behalf of the Parish Council expressing concerns and asking for some action to be taken. Cllr E Hopley to provide letter template.
- (iv) **Dog walkers route to avoid guard dogs on Chapel Lane:** Cllr J Tyers informed the meeting that he had found a way through that dog walkers could potentially use to avoid the guard dogs. Cllr R Archer said that Ian Mercer had some ideas about how part of the playing field could be sectioned off to allow dog walkers to use it. Chairman agreed to contact Ian Mercer to discuss his ideas in more detail.

LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Matters Arising (Cont.)

(v) Registration of Deeds with the Land Registry:

Cllr E Hobley has followed up with Karen Clarke regarding progress. Ms Clarke has been unable to progress this further as she has been too busy at work. There was some discussion regarding the benefits of registering the deeds with the Land Registry, the costs and work involved. Cllr W J A Westwood outlined the potential advantages and disadvantages of registering the land including: Advantages: protection if documents are lost, speedier transaction times for any sale. Disadvantages: fees incurred from land registry and bank and the requirement to value the land. Cllr E Hobley highlighted that one other advantage would be the ability to quickly obtain an eviction order if the land was ever used by squatters.

It was agreed that as the benefits of registering the land were limited, the process is time consuming, and there were costs involved that the documents would be retrieved from Ms Clarke (Cllr E Hobley), scanned (Chairman) and a copy held by the Parish Clerk and the original deposited at Barclays Bank. (Parish Clerk)

(vi) Public Art Installation in Lyddington – Village sign (also Item 11 on main agenda): Chairman informed the meeting that a sub-committee had been set up which included: Peter and Margaret Tomalin, Barbara Northern and Peter Morallee (wood carver based in Ketton). The brief was to design a village sign that would age gracefully. The iconic images of Lyddington that were identified were the Bishops Eye, Bishops and the church. Bede House was also considered but it was questioned whether it was distinctive enough to include. An initial template was shown that Peter Morallee had produced. More work is needed by the sub-committee and the council agreed that the sub-committee should progress with the project and update at the next meeting.

The location of the village sign was discussed as there has been some concern that The Green has too many signs on it already. Gary Toogood from the County Council has reviewed the signs on the green and confirmed:

- (i) The No Parking signs can be taken down
- (ii) The Green sign can be renovated
- (iii) The dead end and footpath signs can be taken down
- (iv) The new village sign could be put where the No Parking sign is on the right. As it is close enough to the highway it will be a highway issue (highways are ok with the location) and planning approval would not be needed.

(vii) Footway from Lyddington to Uppingham: The Parish Council had approved the new surface proposed by the County Council. No date has been agreed to lay the new surface. Action is with the County Council. Will follow up if required.

Cllr D Couldwell and Cllr H Tassell raised some concerns regarding weeds growing through on the footpath which will need to be treated prior to the new surface being laid.

(viii) Allotments:

The provision of more allotment plots will be discussed at the next meeting.

(ix) Cemetery: Cllr E Hobley agreed to complete the work required to estimate how long until an additional burial site is needed and to check the laws and obligations around providing a burial site for the Parish.

11. Public Art Installation in Lyddington – Village sign

Discussed. See notes above.

OTHER MATTERS

12. Clerk's items

- (i) **Police Report:** No crime reported in Lyddington since last report.
- (ii) **Annual insurance renewal:** Annual Insurance policy in place with Came and Company as agreed at the previous meeting.
- (iii) **Lyddington to Uppingham Footway:** Discussed in matters arising. See notes above.

LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Additional Clerk's items

The provision of cycle racks in the village: This was discussed in detail as information had now been received from Heather Caldicott, at Rutland County Council, regarding the proposed style and size of the cycle racks based on their assessment of the two possible locations. Having fully reviewed the information the Councillors expressed some concerns that cycle racks would not be fully utilised within the village and that they would potentially create more clutter on the village green. Therefore, after careful consideration it was agreed to not go ahead with the installation of the cycle racks. Parish Clerk to inform Ms Caldicott at Rutland County Council.

Undergrounding Project: Cllr E Hobley contacted Western Power Distribution (Bill Hardy) and there was no further progress to report on this project.

13. Village Newsletter

It was agreed that a newsletter will not be published following this meeting. After the next meeting items to include in the newsletter could include:

- Tree work notices displayed on notice boards.
- Introduce new Councillor Ms E Hobley and new Parish Clerk Ms T Kaczmar
- Update on village sign.

14. Dates of next meetings

- Monday 8 September at 19.30 in the village hall.
- Monday 10 November at 19.30 in the village hall.

Chairman