

LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on Monday 8 September 2014 from 7.30pm to 9.09pm

Present: Cllr I C Canadine (Chairman) - in the Chair
Cllr R Archer
Cllr D L Couldwell
Cllr J Tyers
Cllr E Hobley

Tina Kaczmar (Parish Clerk)

**Members of the village/others
in attendance:** Ian Mercer

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

- 1. Questions and comments from the floor:** Ian Mercer came to the meeting to discuss his proposals for an alternative path to avoid the guard dogs in Chapel Lane and a dog walking area on the playing field. (See Lyddington Playing Field and Park section in these minutes.)
- 2. Apologies for absence:** Cllr H Tassell. Cllr W J A Westwood.
- 3. Declaration of Interests:** None.
- 4. Minutes** of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14 July 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

REGULAR REPORTS

5. Lyddington Playing Field and Park

- 5.1 The Chairman updated the meeting on the options and costs for a new sandpit cover.
Option 1. Replace with polycarbonate roofing (same) would cost £76 plus VAT. (VAT could be recovered).
Option 2. Replace with a stronger composite cover with handles and with or without edging. Awaiting costs from supplier.

The options were discussed and it was agreed that, dependent on costs, option 2 was likely to be the preferred option. This cover is better quality, stronger and more likely to be replaced after use as the handles make it easier to move. It was agreed that some of the remaining money from the park refurbishment (approx. £2,000 left) would be used to pay for the cover. The Chairman agreed to circulate the costs via e-mail so that a decision could be made prior to the next meeting.

Ian Mercer talked through his two proposals regarding dog walking in Lyddington:

Proposal 1: Alternative path on Chapel Lane to avoid guard dogs.

- Make an opening in the hedge where people are currently cutting through to avoid the guard dogs (about 20 yards down the track from the 5 bar gate near the tennis courts). Cut the hedge back and make a path between the hedge and the allotments. Make an opening on the other side of the allotments to enable people to get back on to the lane. The allotment fence could then be used to keep dogs off the playing field and additional fencing would only then be required from the new openings in the hedge to the allotments.

There was general positive discussion regarding this proposal and it was agreed that the Chairman would cost this proposal and report back to the Parish Council before a decision is made.

Proposal 2: Facility to allow dog owners to walk their dogs on the playing field.

- Fence off the area beyond the far goal posts for dog walking. Access to be created from the lane with a 5 bar gate (to allow for grass cutting) and smaller pedestrian gate. Ian Mercer highlighted that he would aim to raise the funds to cover the cost of this proposal.

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There was general positive discussion regarding this proposal. Cllr J Tyers raised some concerns that by providing a dog walking area on the playing field that we would be encouraging dog owners to the area of the village where children play. He highlighted that this could potentially cause issues if dog owners do not clear up after their dogs, or control their dogs to keep them away from the areas where children are playing. Ian Mercer acknowledged this point and highlighted that if an area is provided for dog walking it is easier to approach people walking dogs on the playing field and to ask them to use the designated area. Ian Mercer commented that a designated area for dog walking in the village would be useful for older dog owners to walk their dogs. It would also potentially help the local farmers who have issues with dog walkers not clearing up after their dogs on footpaths that cross the fields.

It was agreed that any area provided would need to be clearly signed and dog poo bins provided.

Ian Mercer agreed to cost this proposal and report back to the Parish Council for further discussion.

It was agreed that once the costs were known for the proposals the Parish Council would produce a village newsletter covering all the issues that had been raised recently regarding dogs in the village.

The Chairman thanked Ian Mercer for his proposals and Ian left the meeting.

- 5.2 **Lyddington Tennis (LT):** Cllr W J A Westwood had spoken to Robert Dale from Lyddington Tennis. The accounts are in the process of being finalised and will be forwarded electronically to the Parish Clerk when they are completed.
- 5.3 **Play Equipment - Monthly Safety Check:** Cllr H Tassell has conducted the July and August monthly inspection of the play equipment and confirmed it was in satisfactory order.
- 5.4 **Play Equipment - Annual Safety Check:** It was noted that the annual safety check carried out by Wicksteed is due in September. Wicksteed will contact Cllr J Tyers one week before the check is scheduled. The Chairman asked that Cllr H Tassell is informed when the safety check is due to take place.
6. **Planning Applications**
- 6.1 **Schedule of planning applications:** The schedule of pending planning applications was noted.
7. **Finance**
- 7.1 **Current financial position and ratification of cheques issued:** A schedule detailing cheques issued since the last meeting was tabled, noted and agreed.
- 7.2 **Clerk's Expenses:** The Clerk's salary and expenses for July and August 2014 (a total of £209.71, being 23.75 hours at £8.83 per hour and expenses of £7.60 for printing and laminating) was received and approved.

BUSINESS

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:

8.1 Playing Field

- (i) **Install bench in small children's playing area:** Cllr D Couldwell will contact C. Cunnington to agree a date for installation.
- (ii) **Overhanging trees in small children's play area:** Chairman has discussed this with Mr Mair who has agreed to consider the issue and what could be done.
- (iii) **Contact English Heritage about the ivy on the Bishop's Eye:** Chairman has written to English Heritage about this but has received no response to date.
- (iv) **Install 5 bar gate:** Cllr J Tyers volunteered to install the 5 bar gate in the next few weeks.

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Matters Arising (Cont.)

- 8.2 **Cost of LED street lights v 'white lights':** Initial investigations by the Chairman highlighted that LED's may not be appropriate for a village location, despite the cost savings, as the light produced is very bright. Costs from E.ON indicate that LED lights are more expensive at £380 compared to £220 for 'white lights'. E.ON also highlighted that the LED lanterns are heavier and they would need to do a survey on the lighting columns to see if LED lights could be used. Still awaiting feedback from Rutland County Council on their policy on LED street lights. Agreed to continue with 'white light' replacements.
- 8.3 **Safe Custody of Documents (Deeds):** The Chairman has the deeds and is in the process of scanning them. The Chairman commented that there were lots of documents, some of which he felt were no longer needed. The Chairman agreed to sort through the documents and present the Parish Council with a proposal on which documents should be kept.
9. **Public Art Installation in Lyddington – Village sign**
Progress has been made with the design of the village sign. The carpenter producing the sign has been unable to progress this as much as he would have liked due to family illness but has done some research on sourcing and costing the timber needed. The Chairman will keep the Parish Council informed of progress.

OTHER MATTERS

10. **Clerk's items**
- (i) **Police Report:** No crime reported in Lyddington since last report.
 - (ii) **Authorising signatories for the Parish Council Bank Account:** It was agreed that the forms would be completed to set up authorised signatories for the bank account and remove signatories no longer required. It was agreed that the Chairman, Cllr H Tassell, Cllr E Hoble and the Parish Clerk would be set up on the account.
 - (iii) **Internet Banking:** It was also agreed that the Clerk would investigate the option of moving to internet banking.
11. **Village Newsletter:** It was agreed that a village newsletter would be discussed at the next meeting and would include dog information and the Village sign.
12. **Dates of next meetings**
- Monday 10 November at 19.30 in the village hall. (Apologies - Cllr R Archer)
 - Monday 12 January at 19.30 in the village hall.
13. **Other Matters**
- (i) **Parish Council Elections 2015:** Parish Council elections are due to take place in 2015. The Clerk provided the Parish Councillors with information on a national project looking at ways of increasing the number of people interested in becoming councillors. The Parish Council wholeheartedly supported this project and agreed that the Clerk should attend a briefing on 27 November designed at looking at ways of improving the recruitment of candidates for the elections in 2015.
 - (ii) **Letter regarding traffic in Lyddington from Mr Mair and Mr Mercer:** The letter regarding speed and amount of traffic in Lyddington was discussed. It was agreed that the issue would be discussed with the local police to see what options may exist.
 - (iii) **Gretton Road sign:** The Chairman informed the Parish Council that he had written to Rutland County Council asking for a road sign for Gretton Road to stop confusion at Main Street / Gretton Road junction. This is in response to an issue raised by a resident.
 - (iv) It was noted with sadness, that Heinz Zaenker, a resident and past Parish Councillor, has passed away. Our thoughts are with his family and friends.

Chairman

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