

LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall
Monday 14 September 2015 7.30pm to 9.10pm

Present: Cllr J Tyers Chairman
Cllr D L Couldwell
Cllr B Sturgess
Cllr H East
Cllr T Fowell
Cllr E Hobley

Tina Kaczmar (Parish Clerk)

**Members of the village/others
in attendance:** Kay Raitt
Pat Duffill

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. **Questions and comments from the floor:** Kay Raitt and Pat Duffill talked through their progress with the proposal to build a dog agility area on the playing field. Pedigree Pet Foods have confirmed that they usually fully fund any scheme but are unable to confirm that 'officially' until the scheme has approval. They construct the area using staff and local tradesmen. Pat Duffill and Kay Raitt confirmed that they would set up a trust to manage the ongoing maintenance. The initial idea is that the area would be in the top left hand corner of the playing field and would be 15m by 20m (this size is an estimate only at this stage), with a grass surface, fully fenced, with access via the stile and a hand gate and additional access to allow for grass cutting. Pat confirmed that they were not asking for any money from the Parish Council.

From the circulation of a leaflet to households outlining the proposal there were 25 responses. 4 were against and 21 were for the proposal. The main concerns that people had raised were:

- **Proximity to the children's play area:** Response: Kay Raitt highlighted that people already use the playing field to exercise dogs and the designated area will provide somewhere for dog owners to take their dogs and help to keep them off of the wider playing field.
- **Plenty of countryside to exercise dogs and therefore the area is unnecessary:** Response: Kay Raitt commented that the dog area was not designed to replace those walks and that farmers were getting increasingly angry that people do not pick up on the footpaths and farmland. The dog area would be a good fit as it uses an area of the playing field for dog owners in the same way the allotments, tennis court and children's play area are provided for other people.
- **Cost – both set up and ongoing maintenance:** Response: The scheme would be fully funded and a trust would be set up to manage ongoing maintenance.
- **What do Pedigree Pet Foods want in return:** Response: A small plaque acknowledging their contribution.
- **What equipment would be built and who would maintain it:** Response: This would be decided in consultation with local dog owners, Pedigree Pet Foods and the Parish Council. Kay Raitt said that she would set up a group who would be responsible for ongoing maintenance.

The proposal was discussed in detail. The main area of concern was that the dog agility area would attract more people with dogs to the playing field. This is obviously an area where children play and the Parish Council has historically discouraged dogs in this area because of this. Cllr J. Tyers welcomed the proposal to set up a trust to manage the area and the ongoing maintenance. Cllr H. East highlighted that even with this some responsibility for the area still rests with the Parish Council because it is on the land managed by the Parish Council in its role as Trustee of the playing field charity.

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The Parish Council agreed to investigate several areas to enable them to consider the proposal in more detail:

- **Insurance implications:** Any increased insurance cost as a result of creating the dog area. (Parish Clerk to action)
- **Risk Assessment:** For the area and the issue of dogs being encouraged into an area where children play. (Parish Clerk to action)
- **Ongoing maintenance of area (equipment and grass):** Ongoing cost implications for mowing the area and any additional work that may be needed to ensure the area is clean prior to mowing. Parish Clerk to speak to the current grounds contractor.

Dog Fouling Issues. Kay Raitt and Pat Duffill then updated the meeting on the actions to address dog fouling in and around the village.

- **Leaflet to households:** A leaflet requesting dog owners to pick up after their dogs and explaining why this was important on farmland was posted to all households.
- **Posters:** The dog poo fairy posters have been put up around the village.
- **Stickers on bins:** The stickers have been put on all bins highlighting that people can use them for dog mess.
- **Additional Bins:** Kay Raitt confirmed that 2 new bins were needed at the entrance to the permissive footpath on Andrew Browns land and on Chapel Lane. (Parish Clerk to action.)

Kay Raitt and Pat Duffill left the meeting at 8.05pm.

2. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr H Tassell
3. **Declaration of Interests:** None.
4. **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13 July 2015** were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

REGULAR REPORTS

5. **Lyddington Playing Field and Park**
 - 5.1 **To receive an update on the actions to address dog fouling in and around the village and on the proposed dog agility area on the playing field:** See the 'questions and comments from the floor' section of these minutes.
 - 5.2 **To receive an update regarding Lyddington Tennis and court resurfacing and discuss the reconfirmation of the letter of agreement with Lyddington Tennis:** Cllr B Sturgess updated the meeting on several areas:
 - **Tennis Court Resurfacing:** Lyddington Tennis have obtained 3 written quotes for resurfacing the court and Robert Dale (Chairman of Lyddington Tennis) was recommending the company Tout-en-Cas. This company laid the previous court surface. They provided a detailed quote and offered a 5 year guarantee for the work. They were the most expensive quote but it was felt that the quality of work would be very good. Lyddington Tennis have the required funds to complete the work and do not require any money from the Parish Council. Cllr B. Sturgess recommended that Lyddington Tennis should make the decision on the preferred contractor to carry out the work. The Parish Council agreed unanimously and Cllr B. Sturgess agreed to feedback to Lyddington Tennis. It was also agreed that the 3 week notice period required before entering into a contract of this value would be waived in this instance as the project was fully funded by Lyddington Tennis and no money was required from the Parish Council.

There had been previous discussions that the Parish Council could place the tennis court resurfacing order as the VAT could be recovered. There was some concern over whether this process was acceptable and whether the VAT could be legitimately reclaimed in this way. The Parish Council asked Mrs T Kaczmar to investigate this issue further.

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- **Ongoing management of Lyddington Tennis:** Cllr B Sturgess confirmed that he would be attending a meeting of Lyddington Tennis in the next few weeks and would be discussing with them various issues including: the control of membership, access to courts for infrequent players, membership fees and raising funds on an ongoing basis. These areas were discussed in detail by the Parish Council and it was agreed that Cllr B. Sturgess would feedback the views of the Parish Council but that the decisions regarding the management of the Tennis Courts would be left with Lyddington Tennis. In summary:
 - Cllr H East agreed to keep a key at The White Hart to enable residents to use the court on an occasional basis.
 - Tennis court locks need to be changed annually when fees collected. (1st January)
 - Fees should be kept low for residents.

It was agreed that the existing agreement with Lyddington Tennis would be reconfirmed for a further 12 months. There were no objections to this.

- 5.3 **To note the monthly safety check and annual safety check on the village play equipment and agree any actions required:** The annual safety check carried out by Wicksteed on the play equipment in the village was discussed. No areas were highlighted as high priority. Cllr James Tyers agreed to review the report, implement the required actions and update the Parish Council at the next meeting.

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 2015 (a total of £229.58) being 26 hours at £8.83 per hour and expenses of £1.86 (for postage) were 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:

Playing Field:

- Speak to Pedigree Pet Foods: funding dog area on play park.** See 'questions and comments from the floor' section of these minutes.
- Feedback to allotment holders re: Provision of water at the allotments.** Completed.
- Talk to the contractors about allotment cutting and price.** Completed.
- Sign for the play park as per Wicksteed recommendations:** On going. The sign is currently being made up.

Finance:

- Implement the move to online banking:** Outstanding. To be completed by the next meeting.

Other Matters:

- Edit letter to residents regarding dog issues and agree with all parties:** Completed and distributed.
- Confirm bin locations and number of dog owners in the village:** Kay Raitt confirmed 2 bins locations. Chapel Lane and near Andrew Brown's permissive right of way at Gretton end of the village. Mrs T Kaczmar to progress with Kay Raitt and RCC.

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- (iii) **Source stickers for bins (disposal of dog waste):** Completed.
- (iv) **Proposal for location of cremation plots:** Agreed to site new plots along the wall (separating old and the new cemetery) on the right hand side of the new cemetery.
- (v) **Top up graves:** Ongoing. Graves have been topped up with soil from recent burial. Agreed Mr E. Dorman would complete this with new topsoil so grass seed could be sown on the 3 graves.
- (vi) **Remove ivy on the church walls:** Ongoing. Mrs T Kaczmar informed the meeting that she was discussing the condition of the church walls between the old and new cemetery with RCC in order to establish the responsibility for maintenance.
- (vii) **Increase cemetery fees – Update the website and Mr E Dorman:** Completed.

OTHER MATTERS

9. Clerk's items

- (i) **Police Report:** The Police report from PC LePla was noted.
- (ii) **Undergrounding Project Update:** WPD confirmed there had been some progress since the last meeting and indicated that work on this may be able to start in spring 2016.
- (iii) **Tree Planting:** No 'public' areas were highlighted by the Parish Council where trees would be required. Cllr D Couldwell agreed to arrange to put a note in the Lyddington Benefice Magazine to highlight the fact that trees were available to individuals in the village and to contact M. Sharpe if interested.
- (iv) **Cemetery:** See earlier matters arising.
- (v) **Funding for compliance with the transparency Code:** Mrs T Kaczmar outlined the funding that was potentially available to Parish Councils to enable them to comply with the new Transparency Code. Funding for a Parish Council computer and scanner was considered. This was discussed and it was agreed that no application for funding would be made as the current arrangements, whereby the clerks own computer and scanner are used, work well.

10. **Village Newsletter:** It was agreed that this item on the agenda would be removed for future meetings. A village newsletter will be considered periodically and relevant village news will be posted on the Parish Council Website.

11. Dates of Next Meetings

- Monday 9 November 19.30 in the village hall.
- Monday 11 January 2016 19.30 in the village hall.

12. Other Matters

Cllr H. East informed the meeting that Alan Duncan had briefly raised the issue with her regarding the village sign and 30 mile speed signs at the Gretton end of the village. She was unsure of his points in relation to the signs and would follow up with him before the next meeting.

Chairman:

Date: