

# LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall Monday 9 November 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  
Cllr H Tassell

Tina Kaczmar (Parish Clerk)

**Members of the village/others  
in attendance:** Tina Elliot  
Brent Snape  
Sue Renton – Round Rutland

### PRELIMINARY MATTERS

#### 1. **Questions and comments from the floor:**

Sue Renton from Round Rutland gave an overview of the services offered by Round Rutland and these were discussed:

- **Round Rutland Club:** New initiative to bring people together through various activities.
- **First Contact:** Work with individuals to help source the support needed from various organisations. (20 + organisations ranging from Police, Age UK, CAB etc.
- **Good Neighbourhood Schemes:** People 'on call' in villages to help others. This was discussed and it was felt that this already existed informally in the village. Sue highlighted that she had funding to help set up a scheme if we were interested. Cllr J Tyers asked Sue to let us know if she had received any calls from the village (no details shared) to see if a scheme may be needed.

Cllr J. Tyers thanked Sue Renton for coming to the meeting. Sue left the meeting at 7.50pm.

No other questions or comments were raised.

#### 2. **Apologies for absence:** None. Cllr B. Sturgess joined the meeting at 8.10pm

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

#### 4. **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14 September 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:**

The Parish Clerk gave an update on the information requested at the last meeting regarding the insurance implications, risk assessment requirements and grounds maintenance costs. In summary:

- **Grounds maintenance:** Estimate £20 per cut. The area would need to be free of dog faeces which would be our responsibility.
- **Insurance:** Our existing public liability insurance would cover us. We would need to insure the equipment and fencing. They asked us to speak to our play park inspectors for advice and conduct a risk assessment.

## LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Play Park Inspectors:** Wicksteed recommended the area was fenced off or at least 25 metres away from the play park. The play park was regularly inspected for dog faeces and that bins were provided to dispose of dog faeces. A sign clearly stated that the area was for dogs and not children to play in. This was 'common sense' advice, no play park standards existed for this.

Cllr H East showed the meeting pictures of a dog agility area in another park so that councillors had an idea of how the area could look.

Cllr J Tyers asked the councillors whether they required any further information in order to discuss and make a decision on the proposed dog agility area. No further information was requested.

The dog agility area was discussed in detail. It was acknowledged that there was support for this project in the village. However there were a number of concerns raised by the councillors. The main area of concern was the location of the dog agility area. The playing field is an area where, historically, dogs are not allowed and are discouraged. The dog agility area will attract dogs to this area from our village and surrounding villages and so potentially more dogs will be in the playing field area. The dog agility area will attract dogs to an area near the children's play area and councillors were concerned about this and the safety of children if dogs were not properly supervised. It was also felt that, as we live in the country, there are places to exercise dogs nearby.

Cllr J Tyers asked the councillors to vote on the proposal. All councillors voted no to a dog agility area on the playing field (6 no votes). Cllr B Sturgess was not present and did not vote. The Parish Council agreed that the idea of a dog agility area was a good one but that the location of the playing field was wrong. The Parish Council would support a proposal if an alternative location could be found. The Parish Council agreed to respond to Kay Raitt and Pat Duffill in writing explaining the reasons for the decision. (Parish Clerk to action)

- 5.2 **To receive an update from Cllr B Sturgess regarding Lyddington Tennis and tennis court resurfacing:** Cllr J Tyers updated the meeting in Cllr B Sturgess' absence. The tennis court has been resurfaced. The VAT could not be claimed back on the work undertaken. When he joined the meeting later, Cllr B Sturgess confirmed that there was no further update as the scheduled meeting for Lyddington Tennis had been cancelled and was now due to take place in mid December. He agreed to update the Parish Council after this meeting.
- 5.3 **To note the monthly safety check on the village play equipment and agree any actions required:** All the play equipment was in good working order at the last monthly inspection. No actions are required.
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 September and October 2015 (a total of £227.37) being 25.75 hours at £8.83 per hour) and no expenses.

### 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:

- **Investigate the insurance implications (if any) of constructing dog agility area on the playing field:** Completed. See play park section earlier in the minutes.
- **Investigate the risk assessment requirements of constructing a dog agility area:** Completed. See play park section earlier in the minutes.

## LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

- **Establish the costs of maintenance of the dog agility area:** Completed. See play park section earlier in the minutes.
- **Follow up with Mr Mair re: topping the leylandii trees adjacent to the small children's play area:** Cllr J. Tyers to progress.
- **Sign for the play park as per Wicksteed recommendations:** Completed and sign installed.
- **Confirm to Lyddington Tennis that the Parish Council agreed with the recommendation on the tennis court resurfacing and that the work could start:** Completed.
- **Attend Lyddington Tennis meeting and feedback view from the Parish Council on various issues discussed:** Ongoing as meeting rescheduled to mid December.
- **Review annual play park safety report and implement required actions:** Completed.

### Finance:

- (i) **Implement the move to online banking:** Completed. On-line banking set up for Parish Clerk. Now needs to be set up for 3 Councillors so that payments can be made on-line. (Cllr Hobley, Cllr Tassell and Cllr Tyers.)
- (ii) **Investigate whether VAT could be recovered from the tennis court resurfacing.** Completed. The VAT could not be recovered by the Parish Council as the money was Lyddington Tennis money (separate from the Parish Council) and any transfer of money to the Parish Council could not be treated as a donation as Lyddington Tennis would directly benefit from the court resurfacing.

### Other Matters:

- (i) **Arrange with RCC to install 2 new bins in the village:** Parish Clerk Meeting with the Street Scene Officer from RCC on 10<sup>th</sup> November to confirm bin locations and establish timescales for installation.
- (ii) **Put note in Parish Magazine about the availability of trees for village residents.** Ongoing.
- (iii) **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. This work will now be completed in the spring. Agreed to remove item from matters arising.
- (iv) **Remove ivy on the church walls:** Ongoing. Cllr J Tyers confirmed that most of the ivy had been removed and successfully killed on the church walls but that the work was ongoing. He also confirmed that English Heritage were going to remove the ivy from Bede House in the next few weeks.
- (v) **Update the cemetery plan with the new location of the cremation plots.** Completed.

## 9. Finance

### Consider the draft budget for 2016/2017 and any implications for the precept.

A first draft of the budget for 2016/2017 was discussed. The councillors discussed what additional expenditure may need to be put in the budget and how money should be allocated for various future projects.

- Undergrounding project and any cost implications for street light replacements. Parish Clerk to investigate.
- Cemetery: In the future new land would be required if we wished to keep a cemetery in Lyddington. It was agreed that the Parish Council needs to establish its position on this, associated costs and develop a plan if necessary. Cllr E Hobley commented that the Parish Council had allocated money to this in the past but she was unsure of the amount. Cllr J. Tyers agreed to contact RCC to discuss the issue of land for a future cemetery as land adjacent to the cemetery is currently for sale.
- Cllr E Hobley highlighted the replacement of the noticeboard at The Old White Hart and village signs as 2 areas to consider in the budget for next year. Cllr J Tyers confirmed that the sign on the village green will be refurbished by RCC by March 2016 so no budget was required for this. Cllr H East confirmed that Alan Duncan had raised the issue of signs into the village at the Gretton end and she agreed to discuss this further with him.
- Cllr J Tyers made the meeting aware of a letter received from Kay and David Raitt and Andrew and Barbara Northern regarding speeding vehicles and the standard of footpaths at the Gretton end of the village. It was agreed that the Parish Clerk would investigate the issues further with RCC and that money may need to be allocated to any work required.

# LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

## To review the Parish Council's shareholding and agree any actions required.

This item was not discussed and will be added to the January 2016 agenda for discussion.

### 10. Grounds Maintenance

#### To review the grounds maintenance contract 2016/2016 and agree actions required for 2016/2017.

The Parish Clerk confirmed that the grounds maintenance contract for 2015/2016 had been completed with 14 cuts (paid for 13 cuts). The contract was discussed in detail and the councillors felt that the work had been completed to a good standard despite a few issues at the start of the year. The Parish Clerk highlighted that The Green would receive 3 extra cuts per year with pick-ups where needed. The first cut on The Green would be in March and 2 cuts and a pick up in the 2 weeks prior to the fete to ensure that The Green was in a good condition for the event. The contractor had confirmed that prices will be held for next year. The Councillors agreed to continue with the contract for another year. Parish Clerk to confirm the contract with the grounds maintenance contractor.

The issue of verge cutting was discussed and whether the Parish Council would want to cut the verges if RCC offered us the opportunity to do so again this year. It was decided that the verge cutting in the village should remain with RCC. It was felt that the standard of cutting would not necessarily improve if the Parish Council took the work on, and it would be unlikely that a contractor could cut the verges for the grant offered by RCC. This is based on the quotes received for the work last year.

## OTHER MATTERS

### 11. Clerk's items

- (i) **Police Report:** The Police report from PC LePla was noted. It was agreed that this item would be removed from the agenda unless there was crime within the village. It was agreed that the monthly police reports would be circulated to councillors.
- (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) **Bus stop improvements:** Agreed that none were really required. The bus stop on The Green would benefit from being painted inside and the windows treated. Parish Clerk to respond to RCC.
- (iv) **Meeting Dates for 2016 – 2017:** Dates agreed. Cllr J. Tyers can not attend the May 2016 meeting but it was agreed that the deputy chair would chair that meeting.
- (v) **Lions Santa Float:** Cllr J Tyers confirmed that he had volunteers to help with the float. There was some discussion as to how the money raised should be spent. It was agreed that the money should go to an event for the children in the village. Ideas included: film night, event at the play park in the summer, event similar to the one run by the village hall (puppet theatre). Agreed that Cllr J. Tyers would investigate ideas raised.

### 12. Dates of Next Meetings

- Monday 11 January 2016 19.30 in the village hall.
- Monday 14 March 2016 19.30 in the village hall.

### 13. Other Matters (at the discretion of the chairman)

Cllr H. East highlighted that several residents had raised concerns regarding a loose dog in the village. It was agreed that Cllr H. East would speak to the dog warden.

**Chairman:**

**Date:**