

LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall
Monday 11 January 2016 7.30pm to 9.00pm

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:** Ron Simpson (Arrived 8pm)

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. **Questions and comments from the floor:** None
2. **Apologies for absence:** None.
3. **Declaration of Interests:** None.
4. **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 09 November 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 from Cllr B Sturgess regarding Lyddington Tennis.

Cllr B Sturgess attended the Lyddington Tennis Meeting in December. He summarised the key points of that meeting:

- Robert Dale is stepping down from the committee and the 3 remaining committee members will run Lyddington Tennis – Katy Bryan, Tim Leah and Derrick Webb.
- The annual subs will be payable on 1st January. £50 family, £35 single membership.
- The padlock will be replaced with a combination lock and the combination will be changed annually.
- The resurfacing is complete and the lines will be repainted in the spring.
- The accounts have been produced for the last financial year.
- The subscriptions will cover the annual running costs, which are mainly the website at £100 per year, therefore there are no plans to do any additional fundraising at present. The website has been updated.

The Parish Clerk will ensure that up to date contact details are displayed on the parish website and noticeboards.

- 5.2 **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. Cllr H Tassell highlighted that the far picnic bench was no longer securely fixed to the ground but this was not a safety concern.

6. Planning Applications

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

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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 November and December 2015 (a total of £251.66) being 28.5 hours at £8.83 per hour) and £11.41 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:

- (i) **Write to Kay Raitt and Pat Duffil outlining the reasons for not going ahead with the dog agility area.** Completed.
- (ii) **Follow up with Mr Mair re: topping the leylandii trees adjacent to the small children's play area:** Completed.
- (iii) **Attend Lyddington Tennis meeting and feedback view from the Parish Council on various issues.** Completed.

Finance:

- (i) **Investigate the potential costs of undergrounding to establish budget requirements.** Completed. It was established that the only costs the Parish Council would incur would be when the low voltage lines are undergrounded. This would involve replacing the wooden poles with 5 proper street lights. (Approximate cost £450 per light).
- (ii) **Investigate land available for a cemetery in the village.** Cllr J Tyers to contact D Trubshaw regarding the fishponds. Ongoing.

Other Matters:

- (i) **Signs at Gretton end of the village. Discuss with Alan Duncan.** Cllr H East has contacted Allan Duncan and was awaiting a return call.
- (ii) **Investigate issues raised in letter from Mr and Mrs Raitt and Mr and Mrs Northern.** The issues raised in the letter to improve the footpaths and speeding vehicles leaving at the Gretton end of the village have been discussed with RCC Highways department. The Parish Council supports the proposal to extend the footpath to 1 and 3 Gretton Road. It was agreed that the Parish Clerk would progress the issues raised and feedback to the Raitts and Northern.
- (iii) **Confirm grounds maintenance contract with existing contractor for next year.** Completed.
- (iv) **Confirm work required on bus stops to RCC.** Completed.
- (v) **Remove ivy on the church walls.** Completed.
- (vi) **Investigate ideas to spend Lions Santa Float money.** £475.23 has been raised over 2 years. Cllr J Tyers proposed that this money was spent on a children's fun day in the summer. This idea was accepted by the Parish Council.
- (vii) **Contact dog warden re: loose dog in the village.** Cllr H East confirmed that this had been done and that the dog warden had visited the village twice and the issue of the loose dog was now resolved.

9. Finance

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

A second draft of the budget for 2016/2017 was discussed. Cllr J Tyers highlighted 3 areas to consider in addition to the general budget. These were:

- **Street lighting and the proposed undergrounding of electricity cables:** From discussions with WPD and E.ON estimated costs have been determined for the replacement of 5 street lights at the top end of the village when undergrounding goes ahead. Cllr J Tyers also asked for costings to replace other street lights. It was agreed to allocate £4,500 to cover the costs associated with undergrounding and street lighting improvements.

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- **Street lighting and the proposed undergrounding of electricity cables (cont.):** The Parish Clerk highlighted that Rutland County Council (RCC) has announced a review of how street lighting is managed in the county to ensure consistency across parishes. RCC is also looking at investing in street lighting to improve efficiency. Cllr T Fowell will attend the Parish Forum on 28th January which includes a presentation on street lighting by Neil Tomlinson. (Head of Highways – RCC). The Parish Clerk will investigate the costs of street lighting improvements further.
- **Cemetery:** In the future new land would be required if we wished to keep a cemetery in Lyddington. The Parish Council agreed unanimously to try and find a location to enable a cemetery to remain in Lyddington in the future. It was agreed that money will need to be allocated to this but further work needs to be done. Cllr J. Tyers agreed to start investigating this and to contact RCC to discuss the issue of land for a future cemetery as land adjacent to the cemetery is currently for sale.
- **Speeding:** It was agreed that some money may be required to implement any measures to reduce speeding within the village. No specific proposals were agreed but the idea of installing fences on either side of the road at the entrance to the village (similar to those in Caldecott) was discussed. It was agreed that the Parish Clerk would investigate this further.

Based on the draft budget and the areas highlighted above it was agreed to keep the precept at £7,500 for 2016/2017. The Parish Clerk will submit this request to RCC by 18th January deadline.

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

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

10. **Code of Conduct for the Parish Council**

10.1 **To review and agree the proposed Code of Conduct for the Parish Council.**

The Code of Conduct for Rutland County council was discussed and it was agreed that it should be adopted. Several areas where some amendments were needed were highlighted by Cllr E Hopley and it was agreed that the Parish Clerk would make these amendments and the Code would be formally adopted at the next meeting.

11. **Local Plan Review**

- 11.1 **To receive an update from Cllr T Fowell regarding the Local Plan Review and agree a response.** Cllr T Fowell updated the meeting. The Local Plan classifies Lyddington as a Small Service Centre and his conclusions were that we are unlikely to be affected by the plan. Any building work in the village will be infill rather than a larger development as larger developments are proposed in other areas. He advised the Parish Council that he felt the classification was correct and that in its current form the Local Plan Review did not cause any concerns. It was agreed that the Parish Clerk would respond to the plan as outlined above.

OTHER MATTERS

12. **Clerk's items**

- (i) **Undergrounding Project Update:** WPD confirmed that they were in discussion with Spire homes regarding access to one of the proposed sub stations. They still hoped to be able to start work on undergrounding in 2016. (See Matters Arising for more details.)
- (ii) **Appointment of Auditors for 2017:** The appointment of an auditor for 2017 was discussed. It was agreed to opt in to the national scheme for the appointment of auditors when the new audit requirements come into place in 2017/2018.
- (iii) **Annual Parish Meeting in April 2016:** It was agreed to include the cemetery for discussion.

13. **Dates of Next Meetings**

- Monday 14 March 2016 19.30 in the village hall. Parish Council Meeting.
- Tuesday 12 April 2016 19.00 in the village Hall. Annual Parish Meeting.

14. **Other Matters (at the discretion of the chairman)**

None raised.

Chairman:

Date: