

LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Lyddington Village Hall
on Wednesday 3 September 2008 at 19:30

Present: Cllr H Tassell (Chairman) Cllr A Marshall
Cllr R H Clarke Cllr E L-A Straw
Cllr S G Griffiths-Baker Cllr D P Sugden
Ms E A Hobley (Clerk)

**Members of the village
in attendance:** Mrs R Archer Miss J Ingram
Ms T Elliott Mr E Moss

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. **Questions and comments from the floor:** Mrs Archer asked whether the Parish Council would reconsider allowing dogs on the playing field. Since the majority of village questionnaires returned did not want dogs on the playing field (31 "against", 7 "for" and 2 "not sure") it was agreed that the policy of not allowing dogs on the playing field should remain unchanged for the time being.
2. **Apologies:** Cllr I C Canadine.
3. **Declaration of Interests:** There were no interests to declare.
4. **Minutes** of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2 July 2008 were approved as a correct record (subject to one minor amendment) and signed by the Chairman.
5. **Matters Arising:** The Council considered the schedule of matters arising from previous meetings.
- 5.1 *Traffic in the village:* Cllr Marshall reported on the final results from the Community Speedwatch session: 313 vehicles had been recorded exceeding the speed limit, including 188 vehicles travelling between 35 and 40mph and 58 over 40mph. The highest recorded speed was 50mph.

After completion of the scheme, speed monitoring devices were installed and, over a three day period, in excess of 800 vehicles were recorded exceeding the speed limit travelling north between Colley Rise and the northern exit from the village. Cllr Marshall is querying the calculation of the official results with Mr Mike Wilson, as they indicate there is no problem with speeding (85% of traffic is travelling at less than 30 mph).

A schedule setting out the views of volunteers on the completion of this exercise was also tabled, with all those who responded considering the exercise had been worthwhile. Problems areas identified were:

- Buses were recorded doing 32mph, which is too fast for the conditions
- Results were unpredictable because of parked cars
- The 30mph sign was too far from the village at the north end
- "Culprits" were from all "walks of life"
- Speeding was worst when there were fewer cars parked on Main Street

Noted that the Speeding Working Group had also met recently and drafted a letter to Mr Alan Duncan, MP, which was tabled and discussed along with a proposal for consideration. **Agreed that** the proposed letter to Mr Duncan be finalised for signature by the Chairman.

The Parish Council also supported the four options set out in the proposal, namely: At the southern end of the village, road narrowing and a speed activated sign indicating a dangerous bend, a speed calming table on Main Street at the junction with Colley Rise and, at the northern entrance to the village, a speed indicating device.

The Clerk also reported a recent conversation with the Head of Highways at Rutland CC (Mr Dave Brown) advising that the Parish Council should ask Mr Gadsby to fulfil the planning condition of his development to provide a Speed Indicating Device (SID) for the village before the houses became occupied (although Mr Gadsby had agreed to keep this offer open until the Parish Council were ready to go back to him).

LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Clerk had also spoken to Mr Brown about the potential resurfacing of the footpath from Lyddington into Uppingham. He had confirmed that the path is regularly sprayed to keep it open but that if the Parish wanted it resurfaced, the Parish Council should write to Rutland CC with its request. **Agreed** that this should be first discussed with County Councillor Deborah Stewart.

Actions:

- Finalise and send agreed letter to Mr Alan Duncan, MP **(AM, Chairman)**
- Write to Rutland CC regarding the 4 options agreed (including reference to a 20 mph limit as set out in the letter to Alan Duncan **(AM)**)
- Approach Mr Gadsby to supply a SID for the north end of the village, subject to agreeing the final positioning with residents **(Clerk)**
- Report on the results of the Speedwatch exercise in the next village newsletter and on the website **(ES)**
- Speak to Deborah Stewart prior to drafting a letter to the Highways Department at RCC to ask for a quote to upgrade the footpath into Uppingham to tarmac **(Clerk)**

- 5.2 *Chapel Lane:* The Clerk had spoken to the Rights of Way Officer at Rutland County Council (Ms Charlotte Horner) about the poor surface of Chapel Lane. As a public footpath it was her responsibility to preserve the public's right to use that footpath and ensure the surface was suitable. Ms Horner had agreed to visit the site, assess its state and confirm whether the CC would be prepared to contribute to its repair.

Noted also that Mrs Jane Healey now owned Stoneville Farm and the proposed site of the electricity sub-station needed to underground the electricity cables for the north end of the village.

Actions:

- Follow up with Ms Horner about possible contribution from the CC to the repair of Chapel lane **(Clerk)**
- Contact Mr Nobby Clarke (Senior Wayleave and Property Surveyor for Central Networks) about
 - (a) contacting Mrs Healey about whether she would be amenable to having the proposed sub-station positioned on her land; **(Clerk)**
 - (b) confirming if Central Networks will underground cables into individual houses at the same time as undergrounding the main cables; and **(Clerk)**
 - (c) a possible contribution to repair the surface of Chapel Lane following their work to lay cables along the lane circa 2004 **(Clerk)**
- Contact Ms Horner about having the designation of Chapel Lane changed from footpath to bridleway **(DS)**

- 5.3 *Playing Field:* Cllr Straw had spoken with Mrs Harnett about possible solutions to secure the playing field car park at night and confirmed that Mrs Harnett did not consider the problem bad enough to warrant such action at the moment. Should the problem become worse, Mrs Harnett will refer back to the Parish Council.

Cllr Straw had contacted Wicksteed about the adaptive part recommended by RoSPA for the "Log World Multiplay". Noted that they are unable to supply this and do not intend making it in the foreseeable future.

- 5.4 *Village Hall – request for funding:* A letter dated 30 August from Mrs Archer, Chair of the Lyddington Village Hall Trust, had been circulated in response to the Parish Council's request for further information. Mrs Archer confirmed that the project had stalled due to the builders letting them down and the work would now not take place this year. New building quotes will be sought and the Parish Council will be kept informed via its representative on the Village Hall Committee, Cllr Straw.

- 5.5 *Parish Chest:* The Village Hall Committee had agreed that the Parish Chest could be stored, empty, upstairs in the Village Hall.

Actions:

- Arrange for the Parish Chest to be moved to the Village Hall **(ES with ICC)**
- Pass remaining Parish documents to be lodged at the Leicester Records Office to Cllr Candadine **(DS)**

LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

BUSINESS

6. Village Questionnaire

The main themes from the questionnaires returned, plus a report from Cllr Marshall extracting some of the highlights from the responses, was considered and discussed. **Agreed** that road safety was the main concern for villagers. The possibility of adding links or information to the Parish Council's website about other village amenities, such as the WI, was discussed. Mrs Archer will raise the possibility of adding a section on the Village Hall Committee at the next Committee meeting.

Actions:

- Follow up with the WI about adding information on their organisation to the PC website (**AM**)
- Identify three of four main themes from the questionnaires for the next village newsletter and progress against those (**ES**)

7. Cemetery Fees

The proposal to bring the current cemetery fees into line with those set by Rutland County Council was discussed. **Agreed** that the fees should be aligned more with RCC's "administrative fee" rather than the whole fee (which included preparation of the grave) and that the proposal should be revised to show an increase in 10% for Lyddington residents and 50% for non-residents.

Action: Prepare and circulate for approval a proposal to increase cemetery fees by 10% for Lyddington residents and 50% for non-residents (**Clerk**)

REGULAR REPORTS

8. Playing Field

A report was received from Cllr Canadine in his absence. Noted that:

- The repair of the rubber tiles under the swings had been completed.
- The allotments were generally well-tended and that this was self-policing, apart from the tenants of plot 1 who were rarely seen. Weeds on plot 1 were causing concern and it was **agreed** that the tenants should be reminded of their responsibilities, particularly as there are a number of villagers waiting to take plots.
- There was concern about the apparent lack of control over the tennis courts by the Tennis Club Committee and Cllr Canadine had contacted them about this. **Agreed** that Cllr Canadine (and possibly Cllr Marshall) will meet with the Tennis Club Committee to decide on a way forward.
- **Agreed** that two additional "No Dogs" signs (for next to the five-barred gate and at the stile further down the lane) and a more permanent sign on the small children's play area be purchased.

Cllrs Canadine and Marshall had planted the baby oak tree from the Women's Institute by the bench on Stoke Road. **Agreed** that it would be helpful for the grass in that area to be cut regularly, so as to make a feature of the bench and tree.

Cllr Griffiths-Baker had investigated the costs of providing a water supply to the allotments and had received a quotation from Severn Trent Water of £899.91 including VAT to lay a pipe. In addition to this, it would be necessary to install an agricultural trough with a ball valve from which the water would be sourced. **Agreed** that the cost of providing water to the allotments was disproportionate to the current number of plots. The possibility of increasing the number of allotment plots, should there be sufficient interest, was discussed. The provision of water to the allotments will be reviewed when Chapel Lane needs to be resurfaced or should the number of plots be increased. Potential new allotment plot holders will be made aware that there is currently no water supply.

A report from Cllr Canadine on the RoSPA Play Area Safety Inspection Report dated 13 May 2008 was also received. The swings on the Green were considered a "medium" risk due to their proximity to a gravel drive and garage. It was also noted that the chains had become worn through age. **Agreed** that the swings could not be easily relocated elsewhere on the Green and that they should be removed.

LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Actions:

- Follow up with the tree surgeon regarding the work scheduled for November on the tree overhanging the small children's play area (SGB)
- Contact the tenants of allotment plot 1 to remind them of their responsibility to keep the plot clear of weeds (Clerk)
- Meet with the Tennis Club Committee to agree a way forward (ICC)
- Arrange quote from grass cutting contractor to cut the area around the bench in Stoke Road (Clerk)
- Purchase three additional signs for the playing field as agreed (ICC)
- Investigate the removal of the swings from the Green (ICC)

9. Planning Applications

9.1 *Schedule of planning applications:* Noted. Councillors found the "comments submitted" section useful although it was noted that in instances where the Parish Council objected to an application the Clerk circulated a draft response for agreement before submission.

Noted that the retrospective application regarding the erection of the hazel garden fence at Bede House had been rejected but the fence remained in place.

Noted that dormer windows were being installed at Ashleigh, Gretton Road but the Parish Council were unsure if these were included in the recent planning application.

Actions:

- Establish whether RCC Planning Department are taking enforcement action to have the fence at Bede House removed (Clerk)
- Check that the current installation of dormer windows at Ashleigh, Gretton Road were included in the recent planning application for that property (SGB)

9.2 *General Planning Policy:* The Parish Council considered the draft general Planning Policy circulated by the Clerk. **Agreed** that the request by Rutland County Council for local knowledge from the Parish Council and villagers was extremely pertinent and should be drawn out further in the policy. Subject to this amendment, it was **agreed** that the policy be adopted.

Actions:

- Follow up with RCC Planning Department about whether they are taking enforcement action to have the fence at Bede House taken down (Clerk)
- Amend Planning Policy as agreed, circulate to Councillors and post to the website (all)

9.3 *Old Stone Walls at Gadsby Estate development:* Cllr Canadine had spoken with Mr Gadsby about the old stone wall which fronts onto the orchard at the Gadsby development and had made him aware of the large colonies of quite rare lichens on the wall. Mr Gadsby has given his assurance that he intends only to conduct essential repairs to the wall which threaten its stability and is anxious not to cause damage to the lichen colonies.

Cllr Griffiths-Baker left the meeting

10. Finance

10.1 *Current financial position and ratification of cheques issued:* A report from Cllr Marshall on the Council's current financial position and a schedule detailing cheques issued since the last meeting from the Clerk, was tabled and noted. **Resolved that** the cheques issued since the last meeting be and are hereby ratified.

Noted that the street lighting grant for 2008 has been received from Rutland County Council.

Action: Prepare VAT claim (Clerk, AM)

10.2 *Clerk's Expenses:* The Clerk's salary for July and August 2008 was received and approved (a total of £259.68, being 33.25 hours at £7.81 per hour).

Action: Review level of Clerk's fees and put forward proposal for an increase, if appropriate (Clerk)

LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

- 10.3 *Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2008:* The closure of the audit of the annual return for the year ended 31 March 2008, by letter dated 6 August 2008 from the external auditor, Clement Keys was noted.

Action: Advertise the closure of the 2008 audit (Clerk)

OTHER MATTERS

11. Clerks' Items

- 11.1 *Street Lights:* Cllr Canadine had reported that Mr Gadsby had tried to arrange the mounting of the street light on the corner of 69 Main Street and the straightening of the lamp standard outside the entrance to his development with Rutland County Council but that they required instruction from the Parish Council.

Action: Contact Rutland County Council regarding the street lighting at the Gadsby development (Clerk)

- 11.2 *Village Defibrillator:* A paper from Cllr Canadine regarding the request for funding to reposition the defibrillator was considered. Noted that the defibrillator was covered by the Parish Council's insurance policy. The proposal put forward by the paper was agreed and in particular, funding of up to £150 to relocate the defibrillator was approved.

Action: Check that the relocation of the defibrillator does not need planning permission (Clerk, ICC)

12. Village Newsletter

Agreed that the next edition of the village newsletter should be issued shortly including items on Speedwatch, Planning, the website, main areas of concern identified by the responses to the village questionnaires and actions against them.

Action: Draft village newsletter for distribution (ES)

13. Dates of meetings for the remainder of 2008/2009

The next meetings will be held on Wednesdays at 19:30 in the Village Hall on:

- 5 November 2008
- 7 January 2009
- 4 March 2009

14. Other matters

Cllr Marshal requested that the draft minutes be circulated as soon as possible after the meeting.

The meeting closed at 21:10

Signed by Mrs H Tassell, Chairman on 5 November 2008

Chairman