



# LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

## REGULAR REPORTS

### 8. Playing Field

8.1 *Allotments:* Cllr Clarke had obtained the materials and together with the Chairman had installed fine mesh netting all around the allotment area to prevent small rabbits from getting onto the plots.

8.2 *Signage on the playing field:* The Chairman has cleaned the existing signs concerning dogs and reporting of accidents and put the new sign on the small children's play area – "Under 8 years only" – as agreed. New "Replace Cover" notices have been put on the sand pit and new "No Dogs" signs installed at the far end of the car park and the stile at the far end of the field. Subsequent to the replacement of the notice, the sand pit was damaged and a new sideboard is required.

8.3 *Tables/benches:* Cllr Clarke repaired the worst damage on one unit. Other non-urgent repairs are required.

8.4 *Small children's roundabout:* The bottom bearing was badly corroded as a result of soil build up from mole activity. Significant repairs have been conducted by the Chairman and it was noted that the mechanism required greasing twice a year.

8.5 *Chapel Lane footpath:* The Chairman has been promised a response from the County Council's Footpaths Officer (Ms Charlotte Horner) regarding the poor state of the Lane and particularly the footpath at the bottom of the playing field where drainage appears to be the main problem. As the Lane is also used by some heavy farm machinery, responsibility for its repair needs to be established.

#### Actions:

- Replace damaged sideboard on sandpit and top up sand (ICC)
- Repair tables/benches (ICC)
- Follow up with Footpath Officer regarding the state of Chapel Lane and arrange a site meeting with one/two Councillors to agree a plan of action (ICC)

*PC Peter Icke (Beat Officer for Rutland South) and PC John Christie (on job training) joined the meeting*

### 9. Police Report

PC Icke plans to attend Parish Council meetings whenever possible when on duty to report on current issues in the village and South Rutland as a whole. He reported on burglaries and crime within the area over the last 90 days. Although there has been a rise in burglaries across the county for the 12 months to July, there has been a 24% reduction in Rutland. PC Icke will make contact with the Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator (Mr Roger Edwards) to ensure that he is on their contact network and able to disseminate information to the village as required.

It was noted that the Police Beat Bus will be in Lyddington from 24 to 27 September and that police officers will be visiting all homes in the village to conduct a crime survey and give advice. The event will be advertised on the Police website and on Rutland Radio.

PC Icke will also endeavour to monitor traffic levels in the village during the Caldecott Bridge closure. He agreed that good signage is required as a high volume of traffic is expected to divert via Lyddington.

The Chairman thanked PCs Icke and Christie for attending the meeting.

**Action:** Advertise dates when Police Beat Bus will be in the village on the website and in the next village newsletter (Clerk, ES)

*PC Icke and PC Christie left the meeting*

### 8. Playing Field (cont'd)

8.6 *Safety inspections:* It was noted that Cllr Tassell continues to conduct monthly safety inspections of the play equipment.

8.7 *Swings on the Green:* Following the decision to retain the swings, it was noted that some re-grouting is required.

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- 8.8 *Football posts:* After inspecting the goal posts, Mr Michael Wilkins considers they can be kept subject to a new powder coating. He is seeking a quotation for this work. He has also volunteered to secure the loose base socket with new concrete. Once this work is completed, he would like the Parish Council to consider buying "clip-on" goal nets for match practice. They will do this subject to football practices being open to village children.
- 8.9 *Tennis Court:* The Chairman has met with Mrs Tanya Teesdale-Brown and Mr Tim Leahy and explained the need for an established body (either a formal tennis club or a sub-Committee of the Parish Council) to manage the tennis court and to deal formally with the Parish Council (acting on behalf of the Playing Field Charity). A successful tennis and social evening has been held and Mr Leahy reported an enthusiasm for setting up a club together with regular matches, coaching for children etc. This should allow the Parish Council to progress in setting up a formal working relationship defining responsibilities with a letter of agreement. The intention is to have the club up and running before the next Parish Council meeting.
- 8.10 *Blocking of ditch with felled tree:* The ditch is partially blocked with a fallen tree and other logs, felled wood, ivy, brambles and some plastic sacks. Cllr Clarke believes that the ditch is the responsibility of the person owning the adjacent boundary or hedge. The ditch appears to be part of the drainage for Main Street and needs clearing.

### Actions:

- Re-grout safety surface under swings on the Green (ICC)
- Ask advice of County Council on establishing the ditch's owner and responsibility for clearing it (ICC)

## 10. Planning Applications

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

## 11. Finance

- 11.1 *Ratification of cheques issued:* A schedule detailing cheques issued since the last meeting from the Clerk, was tabled and noted. **It was resolved that** the cheques issued since the last meeting be and are hereby ratified.
- 11.2 *Clerk's Expenses:* The Clerk's salary for July and August 2009 was received and approved (a total of £157.68, being 18.25 hours at £8.64 per hour).

## BUSINESS

### 12. Speeding in the village

The Parish Council discussed the forthcoming closure of the bridge at Caldecott, scheduled for up to six weeks starting in late September, and its correspondence with the County Council's Highways Department on this matter. The County Council has agreed to erect the majority of the diversionary signage suggested by the Parish Council but not all. It was agreed that it was obviously at the discretion of the County Council to decide on signage but the Parish Council still considered the original signage it had suggested worthwhile. PC Icke had also supported this. It was further noted that Gretton Parish Council and Corby Town Council had not been notified of the closure of the bridge by Northamptonshire County Council.

The Highways Department has confirmed the speed indicating devices are due to be installed in the village on 19 October. A temporary sign was offered for use during the Caldecott bridge closure but there was little enthusiasm to accept this offer as the sign would need ongoing attention to recharge its battery and so on. The effect on traffic in the village during the bridge closure remained of great concern. The Highways Department has promised a speed and volume of traffic survey before and after the bridge closure to measure this.

**Action:** Write to County Council's Highway Department to express continued concern about the effect of the Caldecott bridge closure on volumes of traffic in the village, request that this is kept under review and decline the offer of a temporary speeding sign (Clerk)

### 13. Potential works

The list of potential works for improving the village was considered and revised.

#### Actions:

- Revise and re-circulate list of potential works (Clerk)
- Put together proposal to replace notice board at Colley Rise (Clerk)

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### 14. Clerk's items

- 14.1 *Cemetery:* The Clerk has been liaising with the County Council and Mr Peter Lawson as Church Warden regarding the mowing of the cemetery, the fallen wall and the removal of ivy from the gravestones in the "wilderness" area of the cemetery.

**Action:** Continue to liaise with the County Council and members of the Church about works to the cemetery  
**(Clerk)**

- 14.2 *Colley Rise Planting:* The Parish Council recorded a vote of thank to Mrs Aileen Ward of Colley Rise who has planted up and tended the "middle square" of Colley Rise which, due to hard work, has produced a lovely show.

**Action:** Write to Mrs Ward to thank her for her hard work in planting and tending the square in Colley Rise  
**(Clerk)**

- 14.3 *Inspection by the Estates Officer, Spire Homes:* The Chairman had accompanied Mr Brian Kirby of Spire Homes on his recent inspection of the four ex-council houses in the village. He confirmed that Spire has a programme to replace kitchens and bathrooms in all their properties over the next four to five years. The Parish Council will be informed of and invited to all future inspections.

### 15. Village Newsletter

The next newsletter to include information on the Caldecott bridge closure and the visit by the Police Beat Bus will be issued as soon as possible.

**Action:** Compose and circulate village newsletter **(ES)**

### 16. Dates of meetings

- Wednesday 4 November 2009 at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall

**The meeting closed at 21:00**

*Signed by Dr I C Canadine, Chairman, on 4 November 2009*

**Chairman**