

LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held in Lyddington Village Hall
on Monday 13 September 2010 from 20:00 to 21:05

Present: Cllr H Tassell (Deputy Chairman, Chairman of the Meeting)
Cllr D L Couldwell
Cllr W J A Westwood
Cllr E L-A Straw

Ms E A Hobley (Clerk)

Members of the village/others in attendance: None

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. Questions and comments from the floor: None.
2. Apologies: Cllr Canadine (Chairman), Cllr A Marshall and Cllr D P Sugden
3. Declaration of Interests: None
4. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12 July 2010 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

REGULAR REPORTS

5. Playing Field:
 - 5.1 **Chairman's Report:** The Clerk reported on behalf of the Chairman, in his absence, that he has erected a temporary "No Dogs" sign and that once back from holiday, will liaise with Cllr Marshall on the outstanding jobs to be done in the playing field. He will also circulate the RoSPA report to the Council on his return.
 - 5.2 **Camping on the Playing Field:** The Council discussed the recent incidence of members of the public camping on the playing field without permission and whether the Council would provide permission if requested. It was noted that the mess left behind (empty bottles, etc) was cleaned up by Cllr Couldwell.
 - 5.3 **Goalposts:** Cllr Straw noted that the goal posts had been missed over the summer months and it was proposed that they be reinstalled while Mr Wilkins is investigating whether there is a Football Association Scheme which may allow the Parish Council to buy new goalposts for a similar cost to repairing the existing posts.
 - 5.4 **Blocked ditch:** The Chairman has been advised to wait until after harvest time to commission the work to clear the ditch as those recommended to him to carry out the work will be busy until then.
 - 5.5 **Tennis Club:** Cllr Westwood reported that the Tennis Club website and online booking system is now up and running although it is experiencing teething problems. Mr Robert Dale is testing it on a regular basis. A decision has been made to exclude Thorpe by Water and Stoke Dry from membership of the Tennis Club and the Council discussed whether they considered this appropriate if those communities paid towards Lyddington's precept. The Clerk will check the precept position with the County Council.

It was noted that the Tennis Club has determined to buy its own insurance cover for members in addition to the public liability and tennis court insurance cover provided by the Parish Council.

The Tennis Club will provide their annual accounts to the Council via the Council's representative, Cllr Westwood, and it was agreed that this is sufficient to ensure good governance by the Parish Council as Trustee of the Playing Field Charity.

Actions:

- Check with SLCC whether it is possible to grant permission for camping on the playing field (Clerk)
- Check with County Council as to whether Stoke Dry and Thorpe by Water pay a precept and if so, whether this attaches to Lyddington (Clerk)

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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:* The current financial position of the Parish Council for the year to September 2010 and a schedule detailing cheques issued since the last meeting were tabled and noted. **It was resolved that** the signing of the cheques issued since the last meeting be and is hereby ratified.

7.2 *Clerk's Expenses:* The Clerk's salary for July and August 2010 was received and approved (a total of £207.36, being 24 hours at £8.64 per hour).

7.3 *Close of External Audit 2010:* It was noted that the external audit for 2010 is now closed and that all the relevant notices have been posted by the Clerk.

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:

- (i) **Cemetery:** The Chairman and Clerk had met with Mr Eddie Dorman, the Funeral Director at the cemetery to discuss the misalignment of the latest graves dug. Mr Dorman will ensure this is corrected going forward. It was also agreed that an effort should be made to tidy the cemetery. The Clerk had received a quote from Spendlove Contracting for £144.00 plus VAT to remove the ivy from the wall behind the bench and by the spaces for cremated remains, and generally tidy this area. This expenditure was approved. The Clerk had also contacted the County Council about supplying a bin (in addition to the bins already provided for the use of the Church). There are costs involved in supplying and emptying the bin which the Clerk will fully investigate. The excess earth also needs removing and the Chairman will ask whoever is engaged to clear the ditch in the playing field to also quote for this work. This will also involve removing the ivy from the access panel into the cemetery from Church Lane.
- (ii) **Colley Rise sign:** The Clerk had located the directional sign from Colley Rise which had been accidentally demolished around 12 months ago although unfortunately it was found to be beyond repair. The County Council has therefore ordered a new sign which should be installed within the next few weeks.

Actions:

- Instruct Spendlove Contracting to remove the ivy as per their quote of 23 July 2010 (**Clerk**)
- Investigate options for providing a bin for use in the new cemetery (**Clerk**)
- Obtain quote for removing excess earth from the new cemetery (**Chairman**)

9. Undergrounding of electricity

The County Council has confirmed they will contribute up to 50 per cent of the cost of the under grounding project, subject to their budget. Cllr Marshall has circulated notes from the meeting with representatives from E.ON, held on 20 July 2010.

Actions:

- Follow up with Mr Nobby Clarke on progress of the under grounding project (**Clerk**)

10. Replacement of notice board at Colley Rise

The Clerk had sought three quotes to replace the notice board at Colley Rose and went through the detail of these, tabling a schedule of costs. The County Council's Planning Department has also confirmed that planning permission is not required to replace the board. It was agreed that the original posts should be retained if possible and that the board should be made in oak.

Actions:

- Circulate brochure from Arien signs for consideration and ask Cllr Marshall for his advice on whether the original posts can be retained (**Clerk**)

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OTHER MATTERS

11. Clerk's items

11.1 **Spire Homes:** The Deputy Chairman had accompanied Mr Brian Kirby, the Estates Officer from Spire Homes, on his annual inspection to check the state of repair of the three housing association homes in Lyddington. It was noted that new kitchens are being installed where residents are in agreement. Bathrooms are also being offered. The residents seen at home during the inspection were happy with the situation.

11.2 **Cemetery fees:** The Clerk will circulate a schedule of revised fees for consideration at the next meeting.

11.3 **Neighbourhood Watch:** Mr Roger Edwards, the Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator and PC Paul Le Pla, the Beat Officer for the area will be invited to attend and report at the next meeting.

11.4 **Telephone box:** The Clerk has contacted BT about repainting the telephone box. Their 2010 schedule for works is now complete so the work, if agreed necessary, will be completed in 2011. In the meantime, the Clerk is required to send in some photos of the telephone box to illustrate its poor state of repair.

11.5 **Insurance:** As part of the Council's insurance through Digley Associates a risk assessment of the mowing of the Village Green is required. This does not affect the validity of the insurance cover of the task but suggests that the Parish Council should spend some time considering the possible risks involved and how those might be best mitigated. Digley would charge £50 to do an assessment but it was agreed that the Clerk will do some further investigation on how this can be conducted before proceeding.

Actions:

- Arrange for Mr Edwards and PC Le Pla to attend the next meeting **(Clerk)**
- Send photos of the telephone box in the village to BT **(Clerk)**
- Check with SLCC and look on HSE website to find out more about conducting risk assessments **(Clerk)**

12. Village Newsletter

It was agreed not to publish a newsletter this time but consider again at the November meeting. Items to be included are: (i) Vandalism of no dogs sign and reminder of position about no dogs on the playing field; (ii) reminder that County Council planning letters are only sent to immediate neighbours so that care should be taken to look at the yellow planning signs around the village.

13. Dates of next meeting

Monday 8 November 2010 at 20:00 in the Village Hall

Signed by Cllr H Tassell, Deputy Chairman, on 8 November 2010

Chairman