

LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Lyddington Village Hall
on Wednesday 5 November 2008 at 19:30

Present:	Cllr H Tassell (Chairman)	Cllr E L-A Straw
	Cllr I C Canadine	Cllr D P Sugden
	Cllr A Marshall	
	Ms E A Hopley (Clerk)	
Members of the village in attendance:	Mrs R Archer	Mr R Brown
	Mrs P Brown	Miss J Ingram

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. **Questions and comments from the floor:** Mrs Brown explained that the monthly Village Newsletter is organised by the Church for the whole village and therefore everyone is welcome to add news, including the Parish Council. The print deadline is the 18/19th of the previous month.
Action: Forward details of the Parish Council meetings to Mrs Brown to add to the Village Newsletter (Clerk)
2. **Apologies:** Cllrs R H Clarke and S G Griffiths-Baker.
3. **Declaration of Interests:** There were no interests to declare.
4. **Minutes** of the Parish Council Meeting held on 3 September 2008 were approved as a correct record 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:* The letter to Alan Duncan, MP had been finalised and sent on 16 October.
 - 5.2 *Chapel Lane:* The Clerk reported that Central Network's Senior Wayleave Officer, Mr Nobby Clark, had approached Mrs Healey to propose siting the required electricity sub-station on her land at Stoneville Farm. Mrs Healey is considering the proposal and Mr Clark will follow up in due course. Noted that:
 - the undergrounding project will also include Central Networks undergrounding cables to individual houses;
 - Mr Clark had agreed to look into the history of work done by Central Networks at Chapel Lane and consider whether they would be prepared to contribute to the repair of the surface.

Agreed that Chapel Lane was becoming extremely dangerous and that a solution was required. Central Networks should be given a deadline by which to respond on a way to move forward.

Actions:
 - Speak to Mrs Healey about the proposal for the sub-station to be sited on her land (DS)
 - Ask Mr Clark what happens to the street lights and telephone cables that share an electricity pylon when the cables are undergrounded (Clerk).
 - 5.3 *Parish Chest:* Cllr Straw confirmed that the pre-school has been given the dimensions of the Parish Chest and have been asked to clear a space for it.
Actions:
 - Confirm that the pre-school has made room for the Parish Chest (ES)
 - Pass remaining Parish documents for lodging at the Leicester Records Office to Cllr Canadine (DS)
 - 5.4 *General Planning Policy:* In seeking village residents' comments on the proposal to make Stoke Dry Road one-way, it became apparent that there were a number of landowners in the parish who did not also live in the village.
Action: Research if the Parish Council has any responsibilities toward landowners that do not live in the village (Clerk)

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5.5 *Clerk's Expenses:* The Society of Local Council Clerks recommends that all Clerks have an employment contract with their Council.

Action: Research whether an employment contract is required for the Clerk and whether a review of fees is appropriate (**Chairman**)

5.6 *Grass Cutting:* Noted that the grass cutting contractor is now cutting up to the 30 mph signs.

REGULAR REPORTS

6. Playing Field

Cllr Canadine reported that:

- He will arrange for the 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 for the small children's play area to be purchased.
- The talking flowers appear to be in working order.
- The roundabout is getting stuck and needs some attention.
- The 3 picnic benches are in need of a coat of preservative. Proposed that they should not be bolted down, as suggested by RoSPA, as this makes sweeping leaves away difficult.
- Quotes should be sourced to remove the swings on the Green (identified as a high risk by RoSPA as very close to the garage of no 1 the Green) but that the work should not be carried out until the spring when the area can be returned.
- Weed killer had been put on the gravel at the tennis courts and that the lock had been replaced on the gate with a new notice to explain who the keys are available from. **Agreed** that the Parish Council should engage the Tennis Club Committee more closely and arrange for a letter of agreement to be put in place incorporating the mechanism by which villagers have access to the tennis courts.
- The goal posts are corroded and it would be more efficient to replace them rather than try to repair them.
- Allotment plot 1 was still untended. **Agreed** that the tenants should be given a month in which to clear the plot and confirm if they still wish to keep it on. If they did not respond in that time frame, the Parish Council will consider giving them notice. Noted that there were 3 village residents on the waiting list for plots.

Actions:

- Purchase weed killer to deal with the weeds in the small children's play area. Once the work has been completed on the tree in Mrs Harnett's garden, assess the condition of the turf and make a recommendation (**ICC**)
- Look to free up roundabout (**ICC**)
- Source a quote from Eric Russell to have the swings on the Green removed (**ICC, Chairman**)
- Meet with Tennis Club Committee to put in place an agreement (**ICC, AM**)
- Propose replacement for goal posts (**ICC**)
- Contact the tenants of allotment plot 1 to ask them to clear the plot clear and confirm (within a month) if they still require the plot (**Clerk**)

7. Planning Applications

7.1 *Schedule of planning applications:* Noted. Councillors discussed the current planning applications at the Old School House, 25 Main Street, and agreed their final response for submission to Rutland County Council.

Noted that Matthew Gadsby and Rutland County Council have been in contact regarding the repair of the street light standard outside the Gadsby Estate development and the fixing of the new lamp to 69 Main Street. RCC has confirmed that the work has now been passed to their contractor and should be completed imminently.

The use of skips on the Green by two residents was discussed.

Actions:

- Investigate the position with respect to trees in a Conservation Area and whether they automatically have a Tree Preservation Order on them (**Clerk**)
- Check whether skips used on the Green are causing damage so residents can be made aware and asked to repair any damage caused if appropriate (**ICC**)
- Check with RCC Planning Department whether the planning application at 16 Colley Rise has now been withdrawn (**Clerk**)

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8. Finance

8.1 *Current financial position and ratification of cheques issued:* A report from Cllr Marshall on the Parish 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.

Agreed that £1,000 should be transferred from the Parish Council's Treasury Account with Halifax to the Barclays current account.

8.2 *Clerk's Expenses:* The Clerk's salary for September and October 2008 was received and approved (a total of £179.63, being 23 hours at £7.81 per hour).

BUSINESS

9. Cemetery Fees

It was resolved that the proposal to increase fees by 10% for Lyddington residents and by 50% for non-residents should be approved and the revised schedule of cemetery fees be adopted with immediate effect.

10. Speeding in the village

10.1 *Calming measures:* Concerns were raised that the level of advice needed from the Highways Department at RCC to make progress on this matter was not forthcoming.

10.2 *Traffic at Gadsby development:* Mr Mair had raised concerns with Cllr Marshall about the traffic congestion and associated dangers caused by the large amount of work traffic and parked vehicles outside the Gadsby estate development on Main Street. Noted that the development is reaching completion and so the disruption should dissipate shortly. **Agreed that**, in future, the Parish Council will consider this sort of potential disruption when reviewing planning applications and request that conditions be placed on any approval given. Noted also that the kerblines have been moved out, narrowing the road at a critical point, and that a substantial amount of damage has been done to the verges.

Actions:

- Arrange separate meeting with Highways Department staff asking them to come prepared so that decisions can be made. Send them a copy of the table setting out potential calming measures (**Clerk**)
- Consider seeking views, via the next Parish Council newsletter, from village residents on tarmacing the path into Uppingham (**all**)
- Check with Matthew Gadsby about the extended kerb line and whether this was done in conjunction with RCC's planning department (**ICC**)

OTHER MATTERS

11. Clerks' Items

11.1 *Rutland Tidy Village 2008:* Noted that Braunston village had won the competition for 2008 and that the Chairman had attended the presentation on 25 October and was presented with a framed photograph from the previous year..

11.2 *Draft dates for 2009/10:* A schedule of draft dates was presented. **Agreed that** the start time of future meetings should be brought forward to 7.00 pm.

Action: Book village hall for meetings in 2009/10 (**Clerk**)

12. Village Newsletter

Agreed that the next edition of the village newsletter should be issued early in the new year.

Noted that the last newsletter, seeking views from village residents on the proposal by Rutland County Council to make Stoke Dry Road one-way, had resulted in the receipt of 24 responses, of which 19 were objections. The Parish Council had submitted these responses to the County Council along with its own unanimous objection to the proposals and has subsequently received confirmation that the County Council will now recommend to Cabinet that, following consultation, the plan be abandoned.

Action: Distribute to all houses in the village, and post on the internet and notice boards, the report on the results of the recent village consultation regarding the County Council's proposal to make Stoke Dry Road one-way (**Clerk**)

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13. **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 7 January 2009 at 19:00 in the Village Hall.

14. **Other matters**

14.1

Community Spirit: Cllr Canadine reported on this initiative, which is fairly active around the country with various schemes in various parishes employing part-time paid employees and volunteers. The aim of the scheme is to identify members of the community who may need help but are not falling into the current system. The scheme is attempting to form links with Parish Councils to help vulnerable people in communities without duplicating efforts or becoming too formal in its remit.

Action: Attend Community Spirit meeting to see how they suggest Lyddington might get involved and report at January meeting (**Chairman**)

Cllr Sugden left the meeting.

14.2

Councillor's details: Agreed that it would be helpful to have the addresses of Councillors posted on the Parish Council's website.

Action: Check that all Councillors are happy to have their private addresses added to the website (**Clerk**)

The meeting closed at 21:05

Signed by Mrs H Tassell, Chairman on 7 January 2009

Chairman