

LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held in Lyddington Village Hall
on Wednesday 4 November 2009 from 19:00 to 21:00

Present: Cllr I C Canadine (Chairman) Cllr A Marshall
Cllr H Tassell (Deputy Chairman) Cllr E L-A Straw
Cllr D L Couldwell

Ms E A Hobley (Clerk)

Members of the village in attendance: Mr P Lawson
Mrs R Archer

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. **Questions and comments from the floor:** None
2. **Apologies:** Cllr D P Sugden. Cllr Couldwell had advised that he would miss the start of the meeting due to a previous bell ringing commitment.
3. **Declaration of Interests:** There were no interests to declare.
4. **Councillor Hugh Clarke:** The passing of Cllr Hugh Clarke on 16 September 2009 was noted with sadness. The Chairman, on behalf of the Parish Council, had written a tribute to Cllr Clarke which had been posted on the website and sent to various publications. Condolences had been sent to Cllr Clarke's widow and family.

The Clerk has advised the County Council of Cllr Clarke's death and the process to fill the arising vacancy commenced today. If, by 24 November 2009, no request is received for an election to fill the vacancy then the Parish Council will be required to fill it by co-option.

5. **Minutes** of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2 September 2009 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Mrs Archer joined the meeting

6. **National Standards Conference – October 2009:** Mr Peter Lawson, Chairman of the Rutland County Council Standards Committee, gave a general overview of the structure of Standards for England together with the work and powers of the local Standards Committee for Rutland. As part of his presentation, Mr Lawson took the Parish Council through a paper (which he tabled) from the Monitoring Officer on the eighth annual assembly of Standards Committee held on 12 and 13 October 2009, which he had also attended.

Cllr Couldwell joined the meeting

There are 12 members of the Standards Committee in Rutland: Four from the County Council; four Parish Councillors; and four independent members. The new framework appears to be working well in Rutland with statistics for the area tracking the rest of the country although investigatory powers devolved to local Standards Committees have resulted in the District bearing certain unsupported costs, which is causing concern.

The Parish Council thanked Mr Lawson for his informative and interesting presentation.

REGULAR REPORTS

7. **Playing Field**
 - 7.1 *Tennis Court:* The Chairman had circulated to Councillors a draft constitution for the Tennis Club (drafted by Mr Robert Dale) and asked that these be reviewed to ensure that they meet the requirements of the Parish Council (acting on behalf of the Playing Field Charity). A general meeting is planned to establish the Club and for the Club to enter into a formal letter of understanding with the Parish Council on its operation and responsibilities.

Action: Review and comment on draft constitution for Tennis Club (all)

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7.2 *Football posts:* After initial investigations, Mr Michael Wilkins' preferred solution for the goal posts is to retain the existing "knuckles", replace the tubes and reset some of the foundations. He will arrange a quote for this. Training sessions on the playing field have commenced and some youngsters from Lyddington are participating.
Action: Follow up with Mr Wilkins on work to repair goalposts (ICC)

7.3 *Chapel Lane footpath:* The Chairman has chased again for a response from the County Council's Footpaths Officer (Ms Charlotte Horner) regarding the poor state of the Lane and the footpath at the bottom of the playing field. It was noted that the pathway is part of the Rutland Round and consequently well used by ramblers. It was therefore suggested that the Ramblers Association (via John Williams) and the Local Access Forum (via Rosemary Wood) may be able to assist in lobbying the County Council for action.

Actions:

- Contact Ramblers Association (via John Williams) and the Local Access Forum (ICC)
- Continue to follow up with Footpaths Officer (ICC)

7.4 *Blocking of ditch with felled tree:* As the ditch appears to be part of the drainage for Main Street and needs clearing, it was suggested that the County Council's Highways Department may be able to assist.

Action: Contact County Council's Highways Department about clearing the ditch (Clerk)

8. Planning Applications

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

8.2 *Tree Protection Orders:* Following an enquiry to the County Council's Planning Department by Mrs Archer, concerns were raised that some paperwork for the various Tree Protection Orders (TPOs) in the village may be missing. Ms Carolyn Cartwright, Head of Planning at the County Council, has agreed to provide the Clerk with copies of all recorded TPOs in the village (this may take some time as all the records are in hard copy) and welcomes the Parish Council's assistance in checking these to ensure all relevant trees are covered by TPOs.

Action: On receipt, circulate details of TPOs in village for checking to ensure (1) all relevant trees are covered; and (2) the status of all trees with a TPO in place (Clerk/all)

9. Finance

9.1 *Current financial position and ratification of cheques issued:* The current financial position for the Parish Council to 4 November 2009 and a schedule detailing cheques issued since the last meeting, was tabled and noted. **It was resolved that** the signing of the cheques issued since the last meeting be and is hereby ratified.

Action: Prepare VAT claim (Clerk/AM)

9.2 *Clerk's Expenses:* The Clerk's salary for September and October 2009 was received and approved (a total of £257.04, being 29.75 hours at £8.64 per hour).

9.3 *Close of External Audit 2009:* It was noted that the external audit for 2009 is now closed and that all the relevant notices have been posted by the Clerk.

BUSINESS

10. Speeding in the village

It was noted that delivery of the speed indicating devices was delayed until 16 to 20 November 2009 (subsequent to the meeting, the County Council's Highways Department advised a further delay due to a shortage of materials at the manufacturers. Installation is now expected around 20 December 2009).

Concern was raised about the speed of the Rutland Flyer bus through the village. Unfortunately, the speed and flow of traffic data captured by the County Council in the village during the Caldecott bridge closure is proving difficult to extract from the equipment. The Clerk has thanked the Highways Department (via Dave Brown) on behalf of the Parish Council for their hard work and attention to the signage during the bridge closure which helped to limit the (still significant) amount of traffic diverting through the village.

Actions:

- Monitor speed of Rutland Flyer and take the registration number of any bus causing concern so that the bus company and the police can be advised (all)
- Follow up with the County Council's Highway Department on extraction of the speed/flow data (Clerk)

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11. Cemetery Report

The Clerk tabled a report on the current work and actions in Lyddington Churchyard, including the status of:

- Ivy on the gravestones
- Clearing of the "wilderness" area
- The survey by the County Council of the fallen wall and plan to rebuild
- Repairs to an ornamental chain on a gravestone

It was reconfirmed that Rutland County Council is responsible for the closed section of the Churchyard (effective 25 February 2003) and that the Parish Council retains responsibility for the open section. The Clerk will assist where possible on matters related to the closed section of the Churchyard although the Church Council will be the first point of contact. The Reverend Baxter has also confirmed that permissions are required from the Church (via Faculty or otherwise) for all works conducted in the Churchyard.

Mr Lawson, as Church Warden, also briefed the Parish Council on safety concerns about the current position of the oil tank, which sits above the boilers on the south side of the Church. There are three options available to address this: Relocate the oil tank elsewhere in the churchyard, with the only potential sites being in the open section; move to gas; or install a vertical ground source heat pump, which is ecologically sound but expensive. Once a decision has been reached the Parish Council will be consulted should the open section of the Churchyard be affected.

12. Potential works

An updated list of potential works for improving the village, following review at the last meeting, was received and noted.

13. Matters Arising: The Parish Council considered the remaining items on the matters arising schedule, not already covered by the regular reports, including:

- (i) *Electricity sub-station:* Mr Nobby Clarke, the Wayleave Officer for E.ON has spoken to Mrs Healey about siting the sub-station on her land and will follow up in due course once she has had time to consider the proposal.

- (ii) *Village Chest:* The Chairman will pass the chest to Cllr Straw for storing in the Village Hall.

Action: Arrange for the village chest to be stored in the Village Hall (ICC/ES)

OTHER MATTERS

14. Clerk's items

- 14.1 *Loyalty Card:* The Clerk received an enquiry from a villager about a local Loyalty Card which has been advertised but not yet received.

Action: Investigate situation with regard to distribution of Loyalty Card (Clerk)

- 14.2 *Rutland Neighbourhood Watch Association:* A request to support the running of the RNWA has been received. The Parish Council discussed and agreed not to make a donation on this occasion although they consider the Neighbourhood Watch scheme itself to be very valuable.

Action: Touch base with Roger Edwards, NW Coordinator, on status of the NW Scheme in the village (ICC)

15. Village Newsletter

The next newsletter, to include information on the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, will be considered at the next meeting.

Action: Add Neighbourhood Watch as item for next newsletter (Clerk/ES)

16. Dates of meetings

- Wednesday 6 January 2009 at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall

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17. **Other matters**

Mr Lawson spoke about the introduction by Rutland Telecom of fast broadband into the village as it may cause some publicity in the next few weeks since Lyddington is the first village to support such an initiative. The Parish Council discussed some issues with the project and in particular, the noise from the communications box at the Uppingham-end of Main Street.

Action: Refer any press enquiries about the introduction of broadband to Mr Lawson (**Clerk**)

Signed by Dr I C Canadine, Chairman, on 6 January 2010

Chairman