

LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall
on Monday 12 November 2012 from 7.30 pm to 9.35 pm

Present: Cllr I C Canadine (in the Chair)
Cllr H Tassell
Cllr R Archer
Cllr D L Couldwell
Cllr J Tyers
Cllr W J A Westwood

Members of the village/others in attendance: None

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. Questions and comments from the floor: None – see above.
2. Apologies: None
3. Co-option and further vacancy on Parish Council: Mr James Tyers was welcomed to his first meeting following co-option onto the Parish Council.

It was noted, with regret, that Cllr Heather Johnson had tendered her resignation as a member of the Parish Council on 30 September 2012, creating a further vacancy. The Parish Council recorded their thanks to Cllr Johnson for her participation during her time on the Council.

Action: Notify the County Council of Cllr Johnson's resignation and to ask them to provide the formal Notice of Vacancy for display on the village notice boards (Clerk)

4. Declaration of Interests: None.
5. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10 September 2012 were approved as a correct record, subject to two minor corrections, and signed by the Chairman.

REGULAR REPORTS

6. Playing Field

6.1 The Chairman reported that:

- (i) He has spoken to Mr Mick Wilkins again about repairing the picnic tables.
- (ii) He has also asked Mr Wilkins to advise if the seats on the Green (near the swings) are worth repairing.
- (iii) The drains at the Chapel Lane end of the ditch now seem to be clear.
- (iv) The work to finish clearing the ditches remains outstanding.

Additionally:

- (v) Cllr Tassell had conducted the monthly inspection of the play equipment and there was nothing to report.
- (vi) There have been a number of complaints that the sand pit lid has not been replaced, leaving the sand open to the elements.

Actions:

- Repair the five-bar gate to the car park where it has rotted (ICC/DC/JT)
- Ask if Mr Wilkins would still like the old goal posts, otherwise they need to be disposed of elsewhere (ICC)
- In early Spring, sieve the remaining sand and add more to the sand pit (ICC)

- 6.2 *Lyddington Tennis (LT)*: Cllr Westwood had circulated the minutes of LT's Annual General Meeting held in April at which their 2011 Financial Statements were presented (as tabled at the Parish Council's meeting on 10 May 2012) and the amendment to their Constitution (as agreed with the Parish Council) was adopted. Draft minutes from the LT meeting held on 17 September 2012, attended by Cllr Westwood, had also been circulated and it was noted that Mr Robert Dale has succeeded Mrs Tanya Teesdale-Brown as Chairman, following her resignation as she had left the village. The next meeting is scheduled for February 2013 and the Parish Council thanked Cllr Westwood for attending the meetings and reporting back.

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6. Playing Field (cont'd):

6.2 The terms of the agreement with LT, as per the Letter of Agreement on the Use of Lyddington Tennis Court, (cont'd) signed in February 2011 (and last reconfirmed in November 2011) were reconfirmed.

6.3 **Allotment Extension:** Three tenders had been received for the allotment extension work and, after careful consideration, it was **agreed** to accept the quote from ABC Tidy Gardens (in the sum of £820, including VAT).
Action: Accept the quote from ABC Tidy Gardens and confirm to the others that their tenders had not been successful (ICC)

7. Planning Applications

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

8. Finance

8.1 **Current financial position and ratification of cheques issued:** The current financial position of the Parish Council to November 2012 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.

8.2 **Change in Bank Accounts:** It was noted that the Halifax has closed its Treasurer's Account facility and that the Parish Council's reserve funds would need to be moved elsewhere. It was **agreed** that the Parish Council's funds held with the Halifax should be moved to its current account with Barclays for the time being, while other options are investigated.

Actions:

- Arrange for funds to be transferred from the Halifax to Barclays (Clerk)
- Consider bank account provided by Bank of Ireland (ICC)

8.3 **Clerk's Expenses:** The Clerk's salary for September and October 2012 (a total of £96.22, being 11 hours at £8.747 per hour) was received and approved.

BUSINESS

9. Refresh of Play Equipment

Cllr James Tyers had approached Wren about their grant application process. As part of Wren's requirements, he had contacted residents requesting letters of support for the playground refresh. Unfortunately, only a modest number have been received so far so members of the Parish Council will remind villagers about the request and seek further letters of support.

It was **agreed** to submit an application to Wren for £34,000 with a commitment of an additional £10,000 from the Parish Council (subject to the confirmation of other forecast expenditure in particular for street lighting as part of the proposed undergrounding project). If the application is approved, the Parish Council will also be required to make a payment to release the funds of around 10 per cent (subsequently confirmed as £3,740).

The Parish Council thanked Cllr Tyers for all his efforts on this project so far.

Actions:

- Seek further letters of support from the village (all)
- Provide contact details for Western Power to enable the Chairman to follow up on potential street lighting costs relating to the undergrounding project (Clerk/ICC)

10. Matters Arising

The Parish Council considered the remaining items on the matters arising schedule, not already covered by the agenda and regular reports, including:

- Street lighting:** It was **agreed** that as and when street lights needed repair if possible, they should be replaced with the white lights (which use less electricity). It was also **agreed** that timers should be considered to save further electricity and money, and for anti-burglary reasons.
- Rubbish Bin at 93 Main Street:** It was noted that this was in need of repair and also requires emptying.

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BUSINESS (cont'd)

10. Matters Arising (cont'd)

- (iii) **Grit Bin on Main Street/Church Lane:** This has now been put in place by the County Council but concerns were raised that its placement obscures the view onto Main Street for vehicles turning out of Church Lane and creates a hazard. Various options to correct this were discussed.

Actions:

- Contact Rutland County Council about repairing the rubbish bin outside 93 Main Street (**Clerk**)
- Consider possible options for the grit bin to improve visibility for drivers turning out of Church Lane (**DC/JW**)
- Clear churchyard walls of ivy and deal with nearby saplings that may cause a problem (**JT/DC**)
- Speak with Rutland County Council about the churchyard wall (next to the new wall) where ivy has been removed and may be vulnerable to crumbling (**ICC**)

OTHER MATTERS

11. Clerk's items

- 11.1 **Membership renewals:** It was **agreed** to renew membership of the Society of Local Council Clerks for another year (at a cost of £61.00) but not to proceed with membership of the Leicestershire and Rutland Local Councils at present since the Clerk was unsure if it would add value commensurate with its cost.

- 11.2 **Police Report:** PC Le Pla had confirmed that there had been no recent crimes in the village or the immediate surroundings.

- 11.3 **Superfast Broadband in Rutland:** BT (via Mr Paul Bimson, EM Regional Partnership Director of BT) had engaged with the Parish Council regarding their plans for superfast fibre deployment in the area, working in partnership with Rutland County Council, and a meeting had been scheduled for 8 November in Lyddington. Disappointingly, the meeting was cancelled at the last minute by BT as they required a County Council representative to attend and the Parish Council will await re-engagement from BT.

Action: Await further contact from BT (**ICC**)

- 11.4 **Replacement hearing loop in Village Hall:** The Parish Council had been asked to consider helping the Village Hall Committee replace the lapel mike for the hall's hearing loop which disappeared during the refurbishment project. Cost of replacement is around £250. It was **agreed** that the Parish Council would contribute half of the cost of reinstating the Village Hall hearing loop, providing that the cost is within the estimate.

Action: Confirm to the Treasurer of the Village Hall Committee that the Parish Council will fund 50 per cent of the cost of the replacement hearing loop for the Village Hall (**ICC**)

12. Village Newsletter

It was agreed that no newsletter will be published following this meeting.

13. Dates of next meetings

- Monday 14 January 2013 at 19:30 in the Village Hall.
- Monday 11 March 2013 at 19:30 in the Village Hall.

Signed by Cllr I C Canadine, Chairman, on 14 January 2013

Chairman