

LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall
on Monday 11 November 2013 from 7.30 pm to 8.55 pm

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

Members of the village/others in attendance: None

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. Questions and comments from the floor: Not applicable.
2. Apologies for absence: Cllr K Clarke
3. Declaration of Interests: None.
4. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 9 September 2013 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

REGULAR REPORTS

5. Playing Field and Lyddington Park Project

5.1 It was noted that the remaining jobs to be completed as part of the Park Project are:

- a. Refill the sandpit – to be done in the Spring;
- b. Repair five-bar gate - Cllr Couldwell has arranged for John Oakley to provide a quote for the work;
- c. Anti-bird guard for swings – Cllr Tyers will source something suitable.

Any funds remaining under the Project will be used for ongoing repairs.

The allotment fencing is now complete although the invoice from ABC Tidy Gardens for £939.54 remains outstanding. The Chairman has asked for the invoice to be sent direct to the Clerk.

Cllr Westwood confirmed that the Heart Rhythm Charity will donate a new defibrillator to the village provided that £1,500 can be raised for a fully weatherproof, lockable, lit cabinet with a power supply. A request is being made to the Fete Committee for a portion of the 2014 Fete proceeds towards this.

In return for support in Uppingham, the Lions' Father Christmas float will be available to visit Lyddington on the Saturday before Christmas. Cllr Tyers agreed to provide and drive the towing vehicle, and members of the Parish Council offered their support.

The Parish Council discussed the pros and cons of providing a pathway for dog walkers on the playing field. The state of the public footpath down Chapel Lane, which is an unadopted lane owned by those who have properties along it, was discussed. As it is regularly used by heavy farm machinery it is continually in need of repair. Since more traffic is using the lane to access the park, this may become more problematic but it is accepted that this is a rural lane and there is no easy solution. Unfortunately, it was noted there is still an issue with dog fouling in the village and another campaign may be necessary. The Chairman and Cllr Archer will explore a possible scheme for dog walkers on the playing field and revert.

Following installation of the new play equipment, Cllr Clark spoke with Came & Co, the Parish Council's insurance provider regarding the regularity of playground inspections. Aviva (the underwriter of the insurance policy) has agreed that the inspections may be conducted monthly (rather than weekly) and an updated policy document has been sent to the Clerk. Inspections need to be carried out by a 'competent person' who the Parish Council considers able – they do not need to have any special qualifications. Cllrs Clark and Tassell will contact Wicksteed to provide a checklist for the monthly safety inspections.

LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

REGULAR REPORTS cont'd

5. Playing Field and Lyddington Park Project cont'd

Cllr Tyers confirmed that Wicksteed will carry out the formal, annual safety inspection of the village play equipment (including the swings on the Green) for the next three years and will automatically contact the Parish Council on the anniversary of the installation.

All of the grant money has now been received from WREN and the final payment made to Wicksteed. The opening ceremony for the Park Project went well. An email received from Mrs Allen providing feedback from some of the families attending the ceremony including whether additional equipment, specifically for the older teenager and adults for fitness such as the Xercap items, might be considered for a further project and an idea for a designated dog toilet was discussed. Unfortunately there appeared to be various restraints, including the high cost and extra regulation associated with the fitness equipment (3 to 4 pieces are circa £80,000).

- 5.2 **Lyddington Tennis (LT):** Cllr Westwood reported that there had been no further LT meetings since his last report. As requested at the last meeting (in his absence), he had clarified with LT that the administrative expenses of £195 in the 2012 accounts were made up of £81 for the hosting the LT website and £114 for the Lawn Tennis online booking system. The online booking system had been introduced part way through the previous year hence the lower expenses of £94 in 2011. LT has confirmed that most of the court bookings are now made online. LT's financial position has been boosted by the recent Lyddington Ball which provided £2,605.

The terms of the agreement with LT, as per the Letter of Agreement on the Use of Lyddington Tennis Court, signed in February 2011 (and last reconfirmed in November 2012) were reconfirmed. The Clerk will contact LT (via Robert Dale) to advise that the terms have been reconfirmed by the Parish Council.

6. Planning Applications

- 6.1 **Schedule of planning applications:** The schedule of pending planning applications was noted. Planning permission has been received to cut back the trees on the Green and a quote from Spendlove for the work has been requested.

7. Finance

- 7.1 **Current financial position and ratification of cheques issued:** 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.**

The invoice for the hire of the Village Hall for Parish Council meetings for the year (7 meetings of 2 hours @ £7.50 per hour, a total of £105.00) was approved. It was noted that as part of the standardisation of charges by the Village Hall Committee, the cost of hire for each Parish Council meeting has increased from £9.00 to £15.00.

- 7.2 **Clerk's Expenses:** The Clerk's salary for the four months from July to October 2013 (a total of £129.02, being 14.75 hours at £8.747 per hour) was received and approved.

BUSINESS

8. Matters Arising

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

9. Lyddington Village Hall Refurbishments

The Village Hall Committee was seeking views from users of the Village Hall on a refurbishment proposal for the porch and external areas in order to support grant applications. A form had been provided for completion. The Parish Council considered the questions and confirmed its answers. The Clerk will return the form as required.

10. Undergrounding of electricity

Bill Hardy (Western Power Distribution) had confirmed the legal documents for the new substation and access are with the solicitors and progress is expected by next Summer. It was noted that the white light in Church Lane has improved safety in that area and that the new white light in Bluecoat Lane is a great improvement. It was agreed that whenever a light needs replacing that the Parish Council will consider installing a white light.

LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

OTHER MATTERS

11. Clerk's items
- 11.1 **Police Report:** PC Le Pla had provided a crime report for Rutland South. There had been no crimes in the village although there had been a number of burglaries (other than dwellings) and thefts around the South Luffenham and Ketton areas. The current focus is to tackle theft from unattended motor vehicles around Rutland Water.
- 11.2 **Membership Renewals:** It was **agreed** to renew membership of the Society of Local Council Clerks for another year (at a cost of £63.00).
12. **Village Newsletter**
It was **agreed** that no newsletter will be published following this meeting.
13. **Dates of next meetings**
- Monday, 13 January 2014 at 19:30 in the Village Hall.
 - Monday, 10 March 2014 at 19:30 in the Village Hall.
14. **Other Matters**
Upgrade of Lyddington to Uppingham footpath: It was noted that this has been delayed due to the change in the County Council's contractor but should be rescheduled for the early part of 2014.

Signed by Cllr I C Canadine, Chairman on 13 January 2014

Chairman