

LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

SUMMARY REPORT (INCLUDING FINANCES) FOR THE YEAR: 1 APRIL 2017 TO 31 MARCH 2018

Chairman, Councillors and Clerk

The Parish Council up until December 2017 consisted of 7 Parish Councillors. Cllr. Geoff Macfarlane was co-opted on to the council in March 2017 as a new councillor following protocol and guidelines. The vacancy had been created by the relocation of Cllr. David Couldwell.

Members of Lyddington Parish Council up to December 2017 were noted as follows: Cllr. James Tyers, Cllr. Harriet Tassell, Cllr. Tony Fowell, Cllr. Holly East, Cllr. Elizabeth Hobley, Cllr. G Macfarlane and Cllr. Barnaby Sturgess. Cllr. James Tyers, as Chairman of the Parish Council with Cllr Harriet Tassell as Deputy Chairman. Mrs Julia Unna acting as Parish Clerk. In December 2017 Cllr. James Tyers relocated and a vacancy was advertised as per Rutland County Council guidelines and Lyddington Parish Council are now able to co-opt a new member to join the Parish Council. As of March 2018, no replacement has been confirmed. Cllr Harriet Tassell agreed to serve as Acting Chair until the Annual Parish Council meeting which takes place in May 2018.

Parish Council Meetings

Six Parish Council meetings and one Annual Parish Meeting were held during the year in the Village Hall. Meeting agendas are displayed on the village notice boards and the website in advance and minutes are available on the website. Members of the Parish are welcome to attend the meetings to ask questions and raise issues before the main business of the meeting commences. Regular reports on the playing field, finance and planning are provided at each meeting, together with other matters of interest relevant to the village. Meetings for the coming year (April 2018 to March 2019) are scheduled to take place on 21 May, 9 July, 24 September, 12 November 2018, 14 January 2019 and 11 March 2019 at 7.30 pm in Lyddington Village Hall.

Website (www.lyddingtonpc.org.uk)

The Parish Council website contains up to date details on the work of the Parish Council. It contains details of the meetings and aims to include the main information displayed on the two Parish noticeboards. Under the new Transparency Code the Parish Council is required to display certain information on the website, including financial information The website was hosted by Leicestershire County Council which was closed in September 2016 and transferred to a new provider Parish Councils Website, which is based in Stroud, Gloucestershire. The Parish Clerk email is still being hosted by 2Commune the previous web supplier and will continue to be supported until November 2018. The new website has been updated with key documents and time is being allocated to ensure that the site is accurate and up to date.

Playing Field and Play Park

The Play Park continues to be well used by the children of the village as well as attracting families from further afield. Cllr Harriet Tassell, with the help of other Councillors, continues to manage the ongoing maintenance and improvements in the play area. Monthly safety inspections of the play equipment are carried out by Cllr Harriet Tassell. Wicksteed completed the annual safety inspection in September 2017. As noted last year the 'No Dogs' signs were installed in response to comments made at the Annual Parish Meeting in 2015. The possibility of a dog agility area at the far end of the playing field was considered in 2016. The Parish Council was supportive of this proposal; however, it was felt that the location was not appropriate due to its proximity to the children's play area. New emergency signage has been prepared by Cllr. Barney Sturgess to replace out of date signage with generic signs.

Lyddington Tennis

Lyddington Tennis operate the tennis court on the playing field on behalf of the Parish Council. Cllr Barnaby Sturgess was appointed as the Parish Council representative on the Lyddington Tennis Committee. The tennis court was resurfaced in Autumn 2015. This was managed and funded by Lyddington Tennis. The new surface should last for over 10 years with minimal maintenance required. Tennis membership is available for Lyddington residents. Further details can be found on the website www.lyddingtontennis.co.uk. Discussions are currently underway to merge Lyddington Tennis website on to the Parish Council Website. It is hoped that the migration of the website will be completed by September 2018.

Grounds Maintenance and the Village Environment

4 Counties Ground Maintenance (previously CDG Contractors) provide the grounds maintenance for the Parish Council. The areas they maintain include the new cemetery, The Green, the bench on Stoke Road and the playing field, allotments and children's play area. They will continue to provide grounds maintenance for 2018/2019. They provide 13 cuts throughout the summer months with 3 additional cuts on The Green. Rutland County Council will continue to cut the verges in the village. It was noted last year that stickers had been placed on all bins to ensure people are aware they can be used for dog faeces and 'dog poo fairy' posters were put up around the village. It is felt that these actions continue to help reduce the amount of dog mess around the village. New village signage has been installed throughout the village in addition to speed signage which it is hoped will encourage careful driving and an awareness of speed and potential dangers. New speed signs have been installed at both ends of the village in addition to painted road markings in the hope that traffic speed will be reduced. Two new bins have been purchased from Rutland County Council which have been placed in the playpark and also on the Green. A new bench has been purchased and placed on the Green. The notice board at the Old White Heart has been repaired and investigations are underway to carry out routine maintenance of the notice board on Colley Rise.

The Cemetery

Cemetery fees were again reviewed and updated to bring them in line with Uppingham burial fees in 2017. The current fee schedule is available on the website. The Parish Council has started to consider the requirement for a cemetery space elsewhere in the village when the current cemetery is full. Although this will not happen in the near future it is felt that this needs to be considered and planned for well in advance if Lyddington residents wish to maintain a cemetery in the village in the future.

Allotments

The 12 allotment plots were occupied throughout the year. Two people has chosen to give up their plots on 1st April this year. These plots have been advertised as there are no names currently noted on the waiting list. Fees have been held at £15 per plot. There are currently no individuals noted on the waiting list for a plot in April 2018. Please contact the Clerk if you would like to be added to the allotment waiting list.

Planning Applications

44 planning and tree applications were considered (13 building, 4 listed building consents and 27 tree applications) and commented on during the year by the Parish Council. 42 of the 44 were supported by both the Parish Council and subsequently by Rutland County Council Planning Department. One application for the building of affordable housing and one market dwelling is currently awaiting a decision by the County Council planning department.

Street Lighting and Highways

During the course of 2017 Rutland County Council have completed the replacement of more energy efficient white street lights. From 2018 it has been confirmed that Rutland County Council will transfer the management of all street lighting back to Rutland County Council. This proposal will see greater investment in the street lighting stock and savings in energy costs. The Parish Council is awaiting further details. The project to underground the electricity lines at the north end of the village is still with Western Power and the Parish Council is in regular contact with them. It is hoped that some progress will be made during 2018 – 2019 to underground the high voltage lines to the village when the access to the new substation at the north end of the village is finalised.

It was noted in the summary in 2016 that this undergrounding of the low voltage lines within the village is likely to take several more years. It has been noted that the resurfacing of the pavements at the north end of the village had received adverse commentary which has been forwarded to Rutland County Council who will be monitoring the state of the pavements in the village.

Finance

Each year, the Parish Council prepares a budget for its estimated expenditure for the forthcoming financial year, commencing 1st April. This budget sets the amount to be requested from Rutland County Council - the "precept". The precept is raised by the County Council through the council tax and is shown on each individual council tax bill issued by the County Council, usually in March. The precept for the 2017/18 year was £7,500 and has been held at the same level for 2018/19.

Up to 2017/2018 an annual grant is received from the County Council which covers a proportion of costs. As the lighting has now been converted this grant will no longer be available to apply for however, the parish should see a reduction in costs. Other sources of income are cemetery fees, and annual allotment fees. Expenditure comprises grounds maintenance, street lighting, insurance, Clerk's salary and administration costs, general maintenance of facilities, audit fees, room hire and any other item budgeted for and approved by the Parish Council. The major sources of income and expenditure for the financial year 2017/18 are set out below. Items are shown without VAT as this is reclaimed from HMRC. The money noted down under 'income' from the 'Play on the Green' and the 'filming on the Green' were used to fund the new bench which has been placed on the Green.

Please note that this is not a balance sheet. The full accounts for the year will shortly be being prepared for submission to the external auditor. The accounts will be posted on the Parish Council website and any member of the Parish who wishes to view the full accounts may do so by appointment with the Clerk.

Income		Expenditure	
Precept	£7,500.00	Grounds Maintenance	£2,296.00
Street Lighting and Cemetery Maintenance	£987.28	Salary/Admin/Audit	£2,306.41
Cemetery Fees	£630.00	Street Lighting	£584.24
Shares Dividend	£7.24	New bins on Park/Green	£866.50
Mary Parnham Trust	£5,750.00	Play Park Inspection	£90.00
Allotments	£180.00	Insurance	£821.54
Western Power	£31.29	Room Hire	£86.25
Filming on the Green	£100.00	New Village Signage	£1,627.00
Play on the Green	£220.00	Website	£100.00
VAT reclaim (2016-2017 – awaiting payment)	£742.75	Membership	£80.00
		New bench on the Green	£391.66
		Repair OWH Notice Board	£240.00
		Bushcraft activity	£489.01
	£16148.56	TOTAL	£9,978.61
	<i>(Inc VAT claim)</i>		
Funds as of 30 March 2018	£	Funds as of 30 March 2017	£
Represented by Bank Account	£20119.99	Represented by Bank Account	£15,747.96
Investments (223 x 0.6515p)	£145.28	Investments	£139.15
	£20,265.27		£15,887.11

Julia Unna, Parish Clerk, on behalf of Lyddington Parish Council – 4th April 2018