**LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**HELD ON MONDAY, 12th NOVEMBER 2018**

**IN LYDDINGTON VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30PM**

**Councillors present:**

Cllr L.Hobley (Chair) Cllr B.Sturgess

Cllr H.East Cllr H.Tassell

Cllr G.Macfarlane

**Apologies for absence:**

Cllr T.Fowell

**Members of the public:**

Ms Tina Elliott

**PRELIMINARY MATTERS**

**1. Questions and comments from the floor**

None.

**2. Declaration of Interests**

None were declared.

**3. Minutes of the Parish Council**

The minutes from the meeting held on Monday, 24th September 2018 were approved as a correct record and signed by Cllr Libby Hobley.

**REGULAR REPORTS**

**4. Lyddington Playing Field and Park**

1. Lyddington Playing Field Charity

The Charity Commission’s annual return form that covers the financial year from 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018 has now been completed online.

1. Play equipment inspection

Cllr Harriet Tassell had conducted the inspection and reported that everything was in good working order. Work has been carried out to replace the broken cradle swing, repair the fence around the small children’s play area, insert a new hinge mechanism on the five-bar gate and a new latch on the smaller pedestrian gate. A planning application is being submitted to trim the oak tree bough near the small children’s play area. The log perimeter fencing around the car park has also been repaired.

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1. Proposed new play equipment and maintenance works

Lyddington Parish Council (LPC) is considering how to improve the outdoor range of play equipment for younger children. Cllr Harriet Tassell had previously met with representatives from Wicksteed Leisure and Sovereign Design Play Systems to discuss the cost of providing one or two new play items. Parish councillors agreed to form a working party that would look at the range of options available to increase the play items and report back in the spring.

A Wicksteed safety expert had also carried out the annual safety inspection on all the play equipment to ensure that each item is in good working order. A review of the recommendations will be undertaken to ensure that safety standards are fully maintained.

**Actions**

**LPC’s new working party, which includes Cllrs Harriet Tassell, Holly East, Barney Sturgess and John Meadows, will consider how the range of equipment can be improved.**

**Cllrs Tony Fowell and Geoff Macfarlane, with Cllr Holly East, will review the annual inspection report to identify the priorities and arrange a site visit with the local carpenter to collate a quote for the selected work.**

**The parish clerk to research further information regarding outdoor table tennis tables.**

**5. Lyddington Tennis (LT)**

The playing field, and the tennis court on it, is owned by the Lyddington Playing Field Charity and LPC is the trustee. It was agreed that the chair, Cllr Libby Hobley, would draft an amendment to the current ‘Letter of Agreement on the Use of Lyddington Tennis Court’ in place with LT to allow them to present unaudited rather than audited accounts (as originally envisaged by the letter) to the parish council given that LT’s income consists mainly of membership payments and there are very few outgoings each year.

**6. Planning Applications**

Responses to recent planning applications had been submitted by the stipulated deadlines and acknowledged by Rutland County Council.

No objections had been raised by parish councillors.

**7. Finance**

a) Spending summary

During the period of 25.08.18 to 12.11.18 LPC spent a total of £843.66 that included fees for grounds maintenance, Wicksteed Leisure’s annual inspection charge and a new cradle swing seat.

b) The parish clerk’s salary of £309.05 and expenses of £84.00, for annual membership of the Society of Local Council Clerks, were submitted and approved.

**Action**

**Parish clerk to compile a draft 2019/20 budget for discussion at the next meeting.**

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**BUSINESS**

**8. Matters arising from the previous meeting**

1. A Burning Affair

A complaint had previously been received concerning the burning of household items on land near the north end of the village. There is no law against having a bonfire, but there are by-laws to stop the nuisance they can cause. A homeowner may not dispose of household waste by burning their rubbish if it will cause pollution or harm people’s health.

Cllr Libby Hobley was able to give an update that Rutland County Council (RCC) was verifying the ownership of the field with the Land Registry before sending a Community Protection Warning Letter to ensure that all by-laws regarding the burning of domestic waste would be followed.

 b) New Cemetery improvements

Cllr Holly East informed LPC that work would be starting soon to extend the path in the New Cemetery and that residents living nearby would be notified as the required skip would be positioned in the road for a short period of time. The marker tiles to indicate when a burial plot has been reserved have also arrived.

Parish councillors expressed their commitment to ensure that the New Cemetery would be well maintained, and its future management directed by clear approved policy.

1. Lyddington Undergrounding Project

Western Power Distribution (WPD) has laid cables along three quarters of Lyddington’s Main Street, but this stage of the undergrounding work did not include the top end of the main road.

The work has been planned in stages because of the time taken to purchase a strip of land from Spire Homes to provide the required access. Cllr Libby Hobley explained that the legal process had progressed further and was about to be completed imminently. WPD had been waiting for the signed documents from the solicitors acting for Spire Homes.

1. New kerbing to protect grass verges at the north end of the village

Parish councillors had previously considered the different materials available for road kerbing. There would be further discussions when information had been collated on the range of costs.

**Action**

**Cllr Tony Fowell to enquire about the range of prices for new kerbs.**

 e) Rutland Remembers – World War One

Large horseshoe-styled plaques were presented to each village as part of the Rutland commemorative activities to mark the 100th anniversary of the ending of WWI.

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Parish councillors agreed to plant a Japanese Flowering Cherry tree at both the north and south entrances to the village, each with a commemorative plaque. The small ornamental tree’s foliage turns poppy-red in the autumn.

**Actions**

**Parish clerk to find out if planning permission is required to plant the trees at an appropriate spot on the grass verge.**

**Cllr Tony Fowell to ask the Lyddington Fete Committee if they wish to finance a commemorative bench, following the suggestions of several parishioners.**

**Cllr Libby Hobley to ascertain if the Village Hall Committee would like to mount the commemorative horseshoe at the Village Hall. The plaque is currently on display in St Andrew’s Church.**

1. Village Hall handrail and new display panel

LPC has agreed, as part of its remit concerning village improvements, to look at sourcing a new handrail for the steps leading to the Village Hall, which will be more in keeping with its surroundings. However, the cost of installing a perspex notice board to advertise events should be paid for by the Village Hall Committee (VHC).

One option is that the VHC purchase an “A” frame notice board that can be adapted to fit over the handrail. This would be a more cost-effective approach than attaching a notice board into the railings’ frame. A second suggestion was to incorporate the village’s name into the top railing.

The planning department at RCC has been consulted and before they can make a decision regarding planning requirements, they requested; the dimensions of the advertising panel in relation to the handrail, a list of likely activities that will be promoted and a sketch location plan or photograph, annotated to show the position of the steps and which way the promotional panel will face.

**Action**

**Cllr Holly East to consult the carpenter, who has agreed to carry out the work, to provide a detailed quote and sketched plan.**

**Cllr Libby Hobley to update the Village Hall Committee.**

1. Play on the Village Green 2019

Cllr Barney Sturgess was able to confirm that the Three Inch Fools will be returning to Lyddington next year. The Shakespearean production will be on Friday evening, 14th June.

**Action**

**Parish clerk to reserve St Andrew’s Church just in case bad weather threatens to stop play.**

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**Other Matters**

**9) Clerk’s items**

1. Application to reduce speeding cars in the village

Parish councillors had discussed the concerns of residents regarding the speed of some drivers travelling through Lyddington.

**Action**

**Cllr Geoff Macfarlane to research what actions are required to introduce traffic calming measures in the village.**

 b) Monitoring activity on agricultural land

Awaiting clarification from the planning department of RCC regarding what is permitted activity and the type of buildings that are allowed on a field classified as agricultural land.

**Action ongoing**

The meeting ended at 9.25pm

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, 14 January 2019.

Parish clerk is Fiona Buchanan (T 01572 821636 and 07711 160685)

Chairman ……………………………………………………………………..

Date ……………………………………………………………………..

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