**LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**HELD ON MONDAY, 24th SEPTEMBER 2018**

**IN LYDDINGTON VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30PM**

**Councillors present:**

Cllr L.Hobley (Chair) Cllr B.Sturgess

Cllr H.Tassell Cllr G.Macfarlance

Cllr H.East

**Apologies for absence:**

Cllr T.Fowell

**Members of the public:**

Tina Elliott

John Meadows, a Lyddington resident applying for the vacancy of parish councillor.

**PRELIMINARY MATTERS**

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

Mr Meadows explained that he was interested in applying for the vacancy of parish councillor. Members of the Lyddington Parish Council (LPC) highlighted the responsibilities and duties of a parish councillor.

**Action**

**Members agreed to consider Mr Meadows’ application for the role of parish councillor.**

**2. Declaration of Interests**

None were declared.

**3. Minutes of the Parish Council**

The minutes from the meeting held on Monday, 9th July 2018 were approved as a correct record and signed by Cllr L. Hobley.

**REGULAR REPORTS**

**4. Lyddington Playing Field and Park**

1. Lyddington Playing Field Charitable Trust

Notification had just been received that the Charity Commission Annual Return form that covered the financial year from 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018 was now available for completion online.

**Action**

**Parish clerk to complete and submit the Annual Return form for 2018.**

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1. Play equipment inspection

Cllr H.Tassell had conducted the inspection and reported that all play equipment was in good working order, but the oak tree bough near the small children’s play area required trimming and the log perimeter fencing around the car park needed repairing.

1. Proposed new play equipment

Parish councillors have been considering how to improve the range of outdoor play equipment for younger children. Cllr H.Tassell has met with representatives from Wicksteed Leisure to discuss the cost of providing one or two new play items. A Wicksteed safety expert has also carried out the annual inspection on all the equipment to ensure that each item is in good working order. LPC will review the report from the inspector on receipt.

The parish clerk had gathered quotes from a number of providers to install an outdoor table-tennis table on the playing field.

**Actions**

**LPC agreed to form a working party that would look at the range of options available to increase the items of play equipment and ensure that all required work is carried out to maintain safety standards. The working party will report back in the spring.**

**Cllr H.East to ask for a quote to repair the car park’s log boundary perimeter and parts of the fencing around the playing field. The additional cost will be factored into the forthcoming precept request to Rutland County Council.**

1. Oak tree planning application

Volunteer tree warden Simon Griffiths-Baker has agreed to complete a planning application in regard to the Oak tree on the playing field that requires further trimming.

1. Maintenance contract for grass cutting in the village

Parish councillors agreed to review the maintenance contract in the autumn to ensure the village is receiving the best service.

**5. Lyddington Tennis**

Cllr B.Sturgess reported that there were small holes in the court playing surface that required repair, but generally its condition was in good order. Current membership has increased by 25% and now includes 22 families. There is about £3000 in the club’s account.

**Action**

**Parish clerk to check when the club’s own website closes as the online booking system will then only be accessible via the parish council website. The club’s membership secretary will be asked to email all members to let them know where to book future dates and an information poster will be displayed on the village notice boards.**

**6. Planning Applications**

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

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No objections had been raised by parish councillors.

**7. Finance**

a) Spending summary

During the period of 08.07.18 to 24.09.18 LPC spent a total of £1,747.81 that included fees for grounds maintenance, the subscription for the Heartsafe AED locator positioned at the village hall and membership of Leicestershire and Rutland Association of Local Councils. Funds received featured a £979 VAT payment reclaimed from HM Revenue and Customs and the £250 profit from Hamlet on the Green.

b) The parish clerk’s salary for 2nd July to 31st August was submitted and approved.

**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 laws to stop the nuisance they can cause. A homeowner can’t dispose of household waste by burning their rubbish if it will cause pollution or harm people’s health.

The parish clerk had asked the advice of the Leicestershire and Rutland Association of Local Councils (LRALC) on what action could be taken to ensure that domestic rubbish was dealt with in the correct manner. The LRALC referred to the use of an abatement notice as a means of resolving the issue.

**Actions**

**LPC agreed to monitor the situation and alert the relevant Rutland County Council department to request an enforcement officer to attend when required.**

b) New Cemetery improvements

Parish Councillors approved the quotes received to repair the churchyard notice board and to extend the path.

**Actions**

**Cllr H.East to contact the contractor regarding the agreed projects of work.**

**Parish clerk to order appropriate marker tiles to indicate when a burial plot has been reserved.**

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.

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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. The latest update from WPD on the land purchase was that the company was waiting for the signed documents from the solicitors acting for Spire Homes. There had been no further progress.

**Action ongoing (Cllr L.Hobley)**

d) New kerbing to protect grass verges at the north end of the village

Parish councillors had previously discussed the different materials available for road kerbing and are awaiting further information regarding prices for the new kerbs.

**Action**

**Cllr L.Hobley to discuss the proposed plans with a parishioner who is affected by the damaged verges.**

e) Rutland Remembers – World War One

A special event will be held in the village hall on Saturday, 10th November to mark the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War. The speaker will be Roger Edwards and the title of his talk is ‘A Blundering Six Hours.’ There will be canapes in keeping with the era and LPC agreed to pay for the free glass of wine for participants. Free tickets are available from the Old White Hart.

**Actions**

**Parish clerk to ask the tree warden for advice on which tree saplings to plant in the village and highlight planned village activities to the Lord Lieutenant of Rutland, Dr Sarah Furness.**

**The parish clerk will also contact the Village Fete Committee to explain that LPC had agreed in principal to the proposal of siting a commemorative bench in an appropriate spot in the garden area of Bede House and contributing towards it.**

1. Village Hall hand rail

LPC agreed that the hand rail would benefit from further 'refining'. Parish councillors proposed that as part of its remit to improve the village surrounds it would obtain a quote to replace the hand rail, but the possible incorporation of an advertising panel/noticeboard would be at the expense of the Village Hall Committee.

**Actions**

**Cllr H.East to ask for a quote to improve the hand rail’s appearance and incorporate a clear perspex advertising panel to display posters promoting events such as film nights.**

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

1. Play on the Village Green 2019

Parish councillors agreed to invite the Three Inch Fools to perform a Shakespearean play again on the Village Green, but would request a Friday evening in June – and a lighter theme with more family appeal.

**Action ongoing (Cllr B.Sturgess)**

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**Other Matters**

**13) Clerk’s items**

1. Proposed development for the site of St George’s Barracks

LPC unanimously agreed to support the actions of local parish councils and Pilton Parish Meeting, who are opposed to the initial proposal of building 3,000 new homes. Cllr T.Fowell and Cllr G.Macfarlane wrote to the relevant chairmen to express the views of LPC, concerning the expected strains on the current county infrastructure and services. Members of the parish council agreed to monitor any further developments.

**Action ongoing**

1. Application to reduce speeding cars in the village

Members of the parish council had discussed the concerns of residents regarding the speed of some drivers travelling through Lyddington.

**Action**

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

c) General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The parish clerk requested members of the parish council to fill in new consent forms to comply with new data protection regulations.

**Action ongoing**

d) Monitoring activity on agricultural land

Parish councillors asked the parish clerk to seek clarification regarding what is permitted activity and which buildings are allowed on a field classified as agricultural land.

**Action ongoing**

The meeting ended at 9.10pm

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, 12th November 2018.

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

Chairman ……………………………………………………………………..

Date ……………………………………………………………………..

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