**LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**HELD ON MONDAY, 14th JANUARY 2019**

**IN LYDDINGTON VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 PM**

**Councillors present:**

Cllr L.Hobley (Chair) Cllr G.Macfarlane

Cllr H.East Cllr J.Meadows

Cllr F.Fowell

**Apologies for absence:**

Cllr Harriet Tassell and Cllr B.Sturgess

**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, 12th November 2018 were approved as a correct record and signed by Cllr Libby Hobley.

**REGULAR REPORTS**

**4. Lyddington Playing Field and Park**

1. Play equipment inspection

Cllr Harriet Tassell had conducted the inspection on behalf of Lyddington Parish Council (LPC) and reported that everything was in good working order. A planning application has now been submitted to trim the oak tree’s over-hanging bough near the small children’s play area.

1. Annual safety inspection by Wicksteed Leisure

A Wicksteed safety expert has also carried out the annual inspection on all the play equipment to ensure that each item is in good working order. A review of the recommended minor works is being undertaken to ensure that safety standards are fully maintained. Cllrs Tony Fowell and Geoff Macfarlane, with Cllr Holly East, have identified the priorities and have requested a quote for some of the itemised improvements.

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The recommendations include: the double twister mat to be held down by cable ties, tighten eyebolts on the traverse rope, and the bolts on picnic tables to be shortened and filed down.

LPC will also install a metal ring that can be used for tethering dogs while owners supervise their children in the park area (as dogs are prohibited on the Playing Field and Park).

The parish clerk has collated information on a range of outdoor table tennis tables for the new working party to consider. A further suggestion was to visit the Ketton play area that has a good range of equipment for younger children.

**Actions**

**Cllr Holly East will request a quote for the improvement work to the play equipment.**

**Cllr Libby Hobley to create and laminate information signs indicating the use of the new dog lead holder ring when installed.**

**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. The chair, Cllr Libby Hobley, has now produced an addendum to the current ‘Letter of Agreement on the Use of Lyddington Tennis Court’ that is in place with LT. The addendum enables LT to present unaudited accounts to LPC (rather than audited accounts as originally envisaged by the Letter) as annual financial activity only involves membership payments and few outgoings.

**6. Planning Applications**

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

**7. Finance**

a) Spending summary

During the period of 12.11.18 to 14.01.19 LPC spent a total of £2,689.89 that included fees for grounds maintenance, improvement works in the New Cemetery and WWI commemorative events.

b) Salary and expenses

The parish clerk’s salary of £344.37 and expenses of £15.47 were submitted and approved.

1. Budget forecast for 2019-2020

The draft LPC budget 2019-2020 gives parish councillors an indication of the expected annual expenditure and likely income. LPC is considering commissioning several new projects to improve the playing field and smaller children’s play area. The requested 2019- 2020 precept figure must be submitted to RCC by January 21st. One proposal is to install a new link fence to prevent children from climbing into a boundary ditch on the edge of the playing field. The ditch becomes very muddy in wet winter weather.

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**Action**

**Cllr John Meadows agreed to source a quote for installing a new link wire fence, before parish councillors confirm the 2019/20 precept figure for submission to RCC.**

1. Review of village maintenance contract

To ensure that best value for money and service delivery are being achieved for the village, LPC has agreed to put its maintenance contract out-for-tender. The current contractors will be approached to see if they wish to submit a quote for the work in the next financial year.

**Action**

**Parish clerk to contact the village maintenance contractors.**

**BUSINESS**

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

1. New Cemetery improvements

The new extended path has been completed and the future management of the New Cemetery will be directed by approved policy.

1. Lyddington Undergrounding Project

In the past Western Power Distribution (WPD) has laid cables along three quarters of Lyddington’s Main Street. Now that the sale of a small parcel of land has been completed, the final part of the undergrounding project for the top end of the village can be initiated. Parishioners will be kept fully informed of the future work schedule, its timing and possible short-term traffic disruption. It was unclear whether the work to reinstall the streets lights would be paid for by the parish council or RCC, which now has responsibility for street lighting.

**Action ongoing**

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

Parish councillors are considering the current range of materials available for road kerbing to ensure that any new additions are in keeping with the current village kerb stones, although different styles have been used in the past. Parts of the verge running along the northern part of Main Street are not protected by kerbing and are being steadily eroded. Cllr Tony Fowell has discussed the options with RCC’s Highways Department and reported that there is a range of prices, but the standard kerb would be the cheapest option. Members requested several samples to ensure that the selected colour will ‘weather in’ and be suitable for the planned location.

**Action**

**Cllr Tony Fowell to bring along a number of kerb stone samples to the next meeting for members to be able to judge the most suitable type and colour to use for the planned improvements.**

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 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. Parish councillors suggested that the most likely places for the plaque to be sited are St Andrew’s Church or the Village Hall.

Parish councillors have previously agreed to plant a tree at both the north and south entrances to the village, each with a commemorative plaque.

The preferred option was a small Japanese Flowering Cherry as its foliage turns poppy-red in the autumn. The Forestry Officer at RCC was consulted and he assessed the soil and considered the suggested planting areas before making his recommendations. He has submitted his plans to RCC to ascertain the location of underground services before committing to the exact sites for the small trees.

**Actions**

**Cllr Libby Hobley to ascertain if the Village Hall Committee would like to mount the commemorative horseshoe on the outside of the Village Hall or consider leaving the memorial on display in St Andrew’s Church.**

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

**Cllr Holly East to ask the village tree warden to study the list of suggested trees and reduce the number to three, which will enable LPC to ask parishioners for their preferred choice at the Annual Parish Meeting.**

1. Village Hall handrail and new display panel

LPC has previously 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, it was proposed the cost of installing a perspex notice board, to advertise events, should be paid for by the Village Hall Committee (VHC).

Cllr Holly East had sourced a quote for the work to improve the hand rail’s appearance, but the VHC has to consider the more expensive addition of a notice board.

**Action**

**Cllr Libby Hobley to update the VHC and report back on the decision.**

1. Play on the Village Green 2019

The 2019 Shakespearean production will be on Friday evening, 14th June. This year there will be the opportunity to purchase tickets on line via the Three Inch Fools’ website.

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**Other Matters**

**9) Clerk’s items**

1. Application to reduce speeding cars in the village

Cllr Geoff Macfarlance explained the process and range of different options available to reduce speeding cars travelling through the village. One suggestion was to change the speed limit from 30 mph to 20 mph. LPC agreed the next step was to canvass parishioners for their views which would give greater validity to any LPC request for action from RCC’s Highways Department.

**Action**

**Cllr Geoff Macfarlane and the parish clerk to design a feedback form that would enable LPC to capture the views of residents and any further information on traffic accidents or near misses in the village. The suggested text would be considered by parish councillors before being published.**

1. Monitoring activity on agricultural land

The parish clerk explained that the planning department of RCC had not responded yet regarding what is permitted activity and the type of buildings that are allowed on a field classified as agricultural land.

**Action ongoing**

1. Clarification on siting satellite dishes on cottages/houses in a conservation village

**Action**

**Parish clerk to ask for guidance from RCC’s planning department and share the information on the village notice boards.**

 d) Youth Volunteering

The Lord-Lieutenant of Rutland, Dr Sarah Furness, is promoting youth volunteering at a parish level. Dr Furness explains that ‘from a young person’s perspective dedicated volunteering enables young people to feel part of their community and to understand other people’s lives. It aids personal development and is a testament to character.’

Dr Furness highlights the plight of vulnerable people living in rural areas that perhaps need help with dog walking, gardening or having company when needed.

**Action**

**After checking the entry age of would-be participants, the parish clerk will circulate the information via the e-news village bulletin to ascertain the level of interest from young people in Lyddington before LPC commits to the volunteering programme.**

The meeting ended at 9.35pm

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The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, 11 March 2019.

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

Chairman ……………………………………………………………………..

Date ……………………………………………………………………..

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