**LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**SUMMARY REPORT (INCLUDING FINANCES) FOR THE YEAR:**

**1 APRIL 2018 TO 31 MARCH 2019**

**Chairman, Councillors and Clerk**

Lyddington Parish Council (LPC) is made up of seven parish councillors who elect the Chair and Vice Chair. Fiona Buchanan acts as the Parish Clerk. Cllr Libby Hobley is the current Chair and Cllr Tony Fowell is the Vice Chair. The five other parish councillors are Holly East, Geoff Macfarlane, John Meadows, Barney Sturgess (co-opted in November 2018) and Harriet Tassell.

Local elections will be taking place on May 2nd, but the Returning Officer at Rutland County Council (RCC) has announced that there was an uncontested election in Lyddington as the number of candidates did not exceed the available parish councillor vacancies. After more than 30 years as a councillor, with a number those as Chair and Vice Chair, Cllr Harriet Tassell is sadly standing down. The parish council would like to thank Cllr Tassell for her outstanding contribution and dedication to LPC’s work over the years. The remaining parish councillors will encourage interest from parishioners and a new member will duly be co-opted following the correct procedures.

**Parish Council Meetings**

During the year there were six parish council meetings and one annual parish meeting held in the Village Hall. Meeting agendas and a summary of the minutes are displayed on the village notice boards. The full minutes and agendas are available on the website. The dates of future meetings are also displayed on the notice boards and 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.

**Website (**[**www.lyddingtonpc.org.uk**](http://www.lyddingtonpc.org.uk)**)**

The parish council website features up to date details on the work of LPC. Since the introduction of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) there is a published privacy policy. Information and questions can be sent to the parish clerk through the website’s contact page for discussion and consideration at the next LPC meeting.

**Playing Field and Play Park**

The play park remains popular with the children of the village as well as attracting families from further afield. Monthly safety inspections of the play equipment are carried out by a trained member of LPC and the parish council also commission an annual inspection by a trained equipment inspection engineer. A new working party has been set up to consider installing an outdoor table tennis table and an additional item of play equipment in the small children’s area

**Lyddington Tennis**

Lyddington Tennis operate the tennis court on the playing field on behalf of the Parish Council. Cllr Barnaby Sturgess is the LPC representative on the Lyddington Tennis Committee. Members of Lyddington Tennis now book court sessions through LPC’s website.

**Grounds Maintenance and the Village Environment**

RCC continue to cut the verges in Lyddington and the parish council manages the ground maintenance around the village including the New Cemetery, The Green, the bench sites on Stoke Road and Thorpe Road, the playing field, allotments and children’s play area. To ensure value for money and an improved service, the parish council has recently appointed Spendlove Contracting to manage the ground maintenance contract with a requirement that there are a minimum of 13 cuts throughout the growing season in 2019. Repairs have been carried out on damaged fences, stile and the New Cemetery noticeboard. The footpath in the New Cemetery has also been extended.

*Survey on traffic calming measures*

LPC is proposing to canvas the views of parishioners on a range of possible traffic calming measures as parish councillors and the parish clerk have received complaints concerning speeding traffic through the village.

The collated results will be shared with the Highways Committee at RCC and LPC will campaign for the most preferred option (s) selected by parishioners.

*New kerbing*

Parish councillors are considering the range of materials available for road kerbing to ensure that any new additions are in keeping with the current village kerb stones. Parts of the verge running along the northern part of Main Street are being steadily eroded.

*Commemorative trees*

As part of last year’s WWI Commemorations, LPC agreed to plant a tree at the north and south entrances to the village, each with a commemorative plaque. After consulting with the village tree warden, the variety selected is the Midland Hawthorn. Please see the displayed picture at the Annual Parish Meeting.

**The Cemetery**

Cemetery fees were again reviewed in 2018 and updated to bring them in line with Uppingham’s burial fees. The current schedule is available on the website.

LPC is actively seeking to purchase a small plot of land within the boundaries of Lyddington that would become an extension to the current New Cemetery. There are burial and cremation places still available, but the parish councillors wish to make provision now rather than leaving the issue for a future council to find an appropriate solution for the village.

**Allotments**

There are12 allotment plots that are rented on an annual basis. Fees have been held at £15 per plot for the 2019 growing season. There are plots available for rent and no names on the waiting list. Please contact the parish clerk If you would like further information.

**Planning Applications**

34 planning and tree applications were considered (14 buildings, including 4 listed building consents, and 20 tree applications) during the year by the parish council. Thirty-two of the 34 applications were supported by both LPC and subsequently by RCC’s planning department. An appeal has been lodged against the refusal of planning permission for the building of affordable housing and one market house on the east side of Main Street in Lyddington that was submitted in February 2018.

**Street Lighting and Highways**

The street lighting in the village is now managed by RCC and the annual community street lighting charge for 2018/19 is £290.30. There is progress concerning the project to underground the electricity cables at the north end of the village. In the past Western Power Distribution (WPD) has laid high voltage cables along three quarters of Lyddington’s Main Street. WPD is now in the process of finalising the overhead line route with land owners. After all the consent agreements have been signed, WDP will be able to announce the start date. Parishioners will be kept informed of the future work schedule, its timing and possible short-term traffic disruption.

**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 RCC - the “precept”. The precept is raised by RCC through the council tax and is shown on each individual council tax bill issued usually in March. The precept for the 2018/19 year was £7,500, but LPC asked for an increase and was awarded a precept of £8,500 for 2019/20 to enable the parish council to make planned improvements on the playing field, including a new boundary fence and to seek a small plot of land for additional cemetery space.

Further sources of income are cemetery fees and annual allotment payments. Expenditure comprises of 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 2018/19 are set out below. Items are shown without VAT as this is reclaimed from HMRC.

**Please note that this is not a balance sheet.** The full accounts for the year will shortly be 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 parish clerk.

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| **Income** |  |  |  | **Expenditure** |  |  |
| Precept |  | £7,500.00 |  | Grounds Maintenance |  | £2,110.00 |
| Cemetery Fees |  | £325.00 |  | Street Lighting |  | £290.30 |
| Shares Dividend |  | £6.96 |  | Salary/admin/audit |  | £2,484.76 |
| Allotments |  | £165.00 |  | Play Park Inspection |  | £108.00 |
| From HMRC |  |  |  | Insurance |  | £904.40 |
| (VAT reclaim period 1st April ‘17- 31st to March’18) |  | £979.00 |  | Room Hire |  | £101.25 |
| Play on the Green |  | £250.00 |  | Website |  | £120.00 |
|  |  |  |  | Membership fees |  | £146.54 |
|  |  |  |  | Heartsafe AED locator |  | £49.00 |
| VAT to be reclaimed |  | £57.93 |  | New cradle seat swing |  | £135.63 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total |  | **£9,283.89** |  | **Total** |  | **£6,449.88** |

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| **Funds as of 30 March 2019** | | **£** |  | **Funds as of 30 March 2018** | | **£** |
| Represented by Bank Account | | £19,801.52 |  | Represented by Bank Account | | £20,119.99 |
| Investments (223 x 0.6245p) |  | £138.44 |  | Investments |  | £145.28 |
|  |  | **£19,939.96** |  |  |  | **£20,265.27** |
| This figure includes the £5,750 from the Mary Parnham Trust that is ring fenced for educational activities. |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Fiona Buchanan** Parish Clerk, on behalf of Lyddington Parish Council – 4th April 2019