**LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**HELD ON MONDAY,11th NOVEMBER 2019**

**IN LYDDINGTON VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 PM**

**Councillors present:**

Cllr L.Hobley (Chair) Cllr G.Macfarlane

Cllr T.Fowell (Deputy Chair) Cllr B.Sturgess

Cllr H.East

Cllr D.Hurwood

**Members of the public:**

Ms Tina Elliott and Mr Martin Fennemore

**PRELIMINARY MATTERS**

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

The recent events of antisocial behaviour in Lyddington were raised and have been reported to PC Peter Icke by the Chair of Lyddington Parish Council (LPC) Cllr Libby Hobley.

**2.** **Apologies for absence**

None

**3. Neighbourhood Watch Discussion**

Mr Russ Horne, Chair of the Rutland Neighbourhood Watch Association, had been invited to explain how Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) was operating across the county. Mr Horne, a former police superintendent, said that Rutland has one of the lowest crime rates in the country.

At the moment NHW is being restructured as there is a growing number of vacant NHW coordinator positions and the emphasis is moving towards communities using the NHW smartphone app to alert police of any suspicious activities, including the use of airborne drones over a resident’s home and gardens. The advice is to respond quickly and alert the police through the app which has 4,000 local users.

Mr Horne added that the best way of reducing crime is supporting crime prevention measures, which means local communities communicating in an effective manner and owners marking their property. An addition to the current crime prevention programme is the new Safer Villages Scheme that provides a box of supplies including a range of alarms and property marker pens etc that residents can use to protect their possessions. Mr Horne thought that the parish council and villagers in Caldecott were involved in the Safer Villages Scheme.

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Cllr Libby Hobley said that Lyddington maintained regular contact with PC Peter Icke concerning issues affecting Lyddington and he sometimes attends parish council meetings when available. He shares regular updates with the parish clerk which are circulated around the village by the email alert network and on the noticeboards.

Cllr Tony Fowell has agreed to take over the responsibilities of the NHW coordinator for Lyddington.

**Action**

**The parish clerk to contact PC Peter Icke to find out the name of the Caldecott contact for the Safer Villages Scheme.**

**4. Declaration of Interests**

None were declared.

**5. Vacancy on Parish Council**

Members of LPC thanked Mr John Meadows, who has now resigned as a parish councillor, for his contribution. Village resident Mr Martin Fennemore has applied to join LPC and, subsequent to the meeting, parish councillors agreed to co-opt Mr Fennemore onto the parish council to fill the casual vacancy created by the resignation of Mr Meadows.

**6. Minutes of the Parish Council**

The minutes from the meeting held on Monday, 9th September 2019 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair, Cllr Libby Hobley.

**REGULAR REPORTS**

**7. Lyddington Playing Field and Park**

New nets

The new football netting will cost £60.72 plus £9 carriage charge, excluding VAT. Only one quote was obtainable as the posts are of unusual dimensions.

**Action**

**Parish clerk to order the new football nets.**

Play equipment inspection

Wicksteed Leisure’s annual inspection report has been received and no high risk trip hazards or worn equipment has been identified. Cllr Dinah Hurwood will arrange to meet with a local carpenter to assess the recommended remedial work identified in the report that he can undertake and which repairs will be assigned to Wicksteed Leisure. One issue that is regularly identified in the annual inspection is the siting of the swings on The Green that are near a drive used by the homeowner. A suggestion to remove them had not been previously supported by villagers.

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**Action**

**Cllr Dinah Hurwood to arrange a visit to the playing field with the local carpenter and report back to LPC.**

Overgrown trees

Cllr Barney Sturgess highlighted that the trees on The Green were beginning to obscure the view of people waiting at the bus stop. Councillors agreed to organise a working party to trim back the ends of the branches.

Fallen leaves in the enclosed play area

The play area is close to several large deciduous trees.

**Actions**

**Parish councillors to organise the minor tree trimming.**

**The parish clerk to request that the fallen leaves in the small children’s play area be cleared by the Spendlove Contracting team when they next visit Lyddington.**

**Lyddington Tennis (LT)**

Cllr Barney Sturgess explained that he would be attending the 21st November committee meeting to discuss the 2019-2020 activities.

Cllr Sturgess had previously provided the 2018 LT accounts and Cllr Libby Hobley had circulated the relevant documents from the meeting of the Lyddington Playing Field Charity, held on 9th September.

**8. Planning Applications**

The parish clerk had compiled a list of recent Rutland County Council (RCC) decisions and planning applications. Responses to recent planning applications have been submitted by the stipulated deadlines and acknowledged by RCC. The parish clerk explained that they had received a high number of applications from residents that involved the trimming of mature trees. LPC agreed that only applications that involved cutting down a tree would be sent to Lyddington’s volunteer tree warden for his informed commentary.

**9. Finance**

The latest Barclays bank statement dated 28th Sept - 30th Oct 2019 revealed a closing balance of £24,442.21. All cheques had been cleared. The total expenditure for this period was £482.73, which included the payment for the annual playground inspection and improvements to the play area. The total amount of income received was £98.93 that included a VAT credit repayment of £96.43 from HMRC.

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**BUSINESS**

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

1. Lyddington Playing Field and Park

Cllr Libby Hobley will arrange for the bird ‘spikes’ to be installed on the top pole of the swings’ frame.

1. New boundary fence

LPC is considering installing a new fence along part of the playing field’s boundary where the ground dips into a ditch and small stream.

**Action**

**The parish clerk to email the recent quotes - collated by a former councillor - for further consideration by LPC.**

c) Lyddington Undergrounding Project

Western Power Distribution is in the process of contacting local land owners concerning the laying of the cable. An update on the start date is expected soon.

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

Parish councillors have viewed photographs of the kerb stone which was temporarily placed next to the eroded grassy bank on Main Street. This model of kerb stone is slightly higher than an average kerb to provide greater protection to the verge. Cllr Barney Sturgess pointed out that motorists would have to be careful not to ‘kerb’ - scratch - their wheels when parking vehicles alongside the kerb stone if installed. LPC has decided to postpone any plans to introduce new kerbing until the parish council has received RCC’s recommendations following the results of the village traffic survey. RCC may suggest a traffic calming measure that would include a new kerb alternative.

 e) Next stage of the Lyddington Traffic Survey

The traffic survey is now underway and the results will be collated into a report and presented to LPC and RCC’s Highways Committee for consideration and recommendations.

**11. New Cemetery**

New fees and policy introduced

LPC agreed that their burial fees for adults would match the charges imposed by Uppingham Town Council. Requests from non- residents of Lyddington to purchase a burial or cremation plot in the New Cemetery will be considered on a case by case basis. Parish councillors agreed a policy which stipulates that a marker plaque for a cremation plot may have a slight raised gradient but no higher than one inch.

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**Action**

**The parish clerk to update all relevant documents.**

New notice board

Parish councillors agreed to replace the New Cemetery notice board which is looking rather dilapidated. The new replacement will be made from European oak and crafted by a local carpenter.

Repointing the boundary wall in the New Cemetery

Cllr Libby Hobley has sourced a quote from a local contractor to repoint the boundary wall.

**Actions**

**Cllr Libby Hobley will seek a site meeting with the RCC officer responsible for closed cemeteries to discuss sharing the cost of the repair work as part of the wall damage has been caused by trees in the closed cemetery at St Andrew’s Church. Cllr Hobley will ascertain which planning permissions are required before the work commences. The relevant church authorities will also be contacted.**

**Other Matters**

**12. Clerk’s items**

a) Village Improvements

Residents have raised concerns about filled dog waste bags being dumped around parts of the village.

**Actions**

**Cllr Libby Hobley to source new information awareness posters.**

**Cllr Dinah Hurwood to see what options are available for providing dog litter bags with dispensers that attach onto litter bins.**

b) The Return of the Three Inch Fools

The next planned production will be the Merry Wives of Windsor on Friday, 12 June 2020.

**Action**

**The parish clerk to find out the legal position governing the LPC paying an advance to the Three Inch Fools theatre company to cover promotional costs.**

 c) Charitable donations

**Action**

**The parish clerk to find out the legal position regarding a parish council making a charitable donation.**

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d) Village Fete 2020

Parish councillors approved the request from Cllr Tony Fowell to stage the annual Lyddington fete on the Village Green on 09 May 2020.

 e) Midland Hawthorne remembrance trees

RCC has now planted the trees at the main entrances to the village. LPC agreed to install the trees to mark the centenary of the ending of the First World War.

**Action**

**The parish clerk to contact the British Legion to find out their recommendations on suitable commemorative plaques and the price of lamp-post poppies for the 2020 commemorations.**

**13. Date of the next parish council meeting**

The meeting ended at 9.50pm.

The next meeting of LPC is 7.30pm on Monday, 13th January 2020.

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

Chair ……………………………………………………………………..

Date ……………………………………………………………………..

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