**LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**HELD ON MONDAY, 9th MARCH 2020**

**IN LYDDINGTON VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 PM**

**COUNCILLORS PRESENT:**

Cllr L.Hobley (Chair) Cllr D.Hurwood

Cllr H.East Cllr G.Macfarlane

Cllr M.Fennemore Cllr B.Sturgess

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:**

Ms Tina Elliott

**PRELIMINARY MATTERS**

**1. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR**

A member of the public expressed disappointment that the old swings on the Green had been removed due to safety concerns highlighted in the annual inspection report. The Chair explained the parish council’s rationale behind the decision to remove the swings and confirmed that it was not possible to amend the problem at the present location. Moving the swings to another, level location on the Green had been considered but (1) the related costs were prohibitive, particularly given the age of the swings, and (2) it would ultimately be disruptive to village events such as the fete.

A further comment concerned the past bequests from individuals who had lived in Lyddington. A member of the public felt that it is important that current inhabitants remember the contributions of former residents who have bequeathed sums of money to the village. Consequently, it was agreed that the Mary Parnham Trust’s funds should be used to provide a lasting memorial if possible.

**2.** **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr T.Fowell (Deputy Chair)

**3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

None

**4. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

The minutes from the meeting held on Monday, 13th January 2020 were approved as a correct record and signed by Cllr Libby Hobley.

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**REGULAR REPORTS**

**5. LYDDINGTON PLAYING FIELD AND PARK**

**a) Play equipment inspections**

Lyddington Parish Council (LPC) is committed to ensuring that the play equipment provided meets current safety standards and is fully compliant with the conditions stipulated in its employers’ liability insurance policy.

LPC agreed to request an additional operational check on the play equipment at the end of May before the school summer holidays begin. This year’s full annual inspection is due in September.

**b) Improvements**

Repair work has been completed recently to ensure that the main cable tension on the zipwire achieves a minimum of 400mm ground clearance.

LPC has agreed to replace the fence around the small children’s play area which was erected 13 years ago. Work is due to start before the end of March, weather permitting.

**ACTIONS**

**Parish clerk to request a local safety contractor to undertake the operational inspection and to install new information notices around the play area.**

**Lyddington Tennis (LT)**

Cllr Barney Sturgess will provide an update when activities begin again.

**6. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

The parish clerk had compiled a list of recent Rutland County Council (RCC) decisions and planning applications. LPC’s responses to recent planning applications have been submitted by the stipulated deadlines and acknowledged by RCC.

**7. FINANCE**

**a) Bank statement**

The latest Barclays bank statement dated 31st December 2019 - 30th January 2020 revealed a closing balance of £18,598.01 which includes repairs to village play equipment. The total expenditure for this period was £1,281.99 and the received income was £320.34.

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**b) Precept 2020-2021**

LPC’s precept request for £9,000 was approved by RCC as part of the Council Tax report on 24th February.

**c) Play on The Green**

The Three Inch Fools will be performing on the Village Green on 12 June 2020. Tickets will be on sale from The White Hart and the bookshop in Uppingham.

**d) Staff salary**

LPC had approved an increase in salary for the parish clerk from £8.83 to £9.96, in line with the 2018-19 National Salary Award, agreed by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services, to be effective from 1st April 2019. The parish clerk submitted an invoice for November 2019 to January 2020 of £425.15 and the period from January to March 2020 of £358.56 including an expenses’ claim of £240.24.

**ACTION**

**Cllr Barney Sturgess to request an appropriate invoice from The Three Inch Fools.**

*Cllr Holly East joined the meeting.*

**BUSINESS**

**8. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

**a) Lyddington Undergrounding Project**

Western Power Distribution hopes to conclude its negotiations in the near future concerning the cabling required to a substation/transformer to enable the remaining overhead electricity lines in the village to be undergrounded.

**b) Lyddington Traffic Survey**

RCC's Integrated Transport Feasibility Study Report is due to be presented to the County Council’s Highways and Transport Working Group on the 31st March. LPC has considered its recommendations and responded with several additional suggestions highlighting that the most favoured option, selected by residents in Lyddington, was a reduction in the speed limit to 20 mph.

**9. NEW CEMETERY**

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**a) Replacement noticeboard**

The new oak noticeboard has now been installed at the New Cemetery.

**b) Repointing the boundary wall in the New Cemetery**

Cllr Libby Hobley has sourced a quote from a local contractor to repoint the boundary wall. LPC is considering how to proceed to gain approval and support for the repair work from RCC and the church authorities.

*Cllr Barney Sturgess joined the meeting.*

**Other Matters**

**10. CLERK’S ITEMS**

**a) Midland Hawthorne remembrance trees**

The plaques have been sited by the memorial trees at the main entrances to the village. The inscription reads ‘Planted by Lyddington Parish Council to commemorate the centenary of the end of the First World War (1918 - 2018)’.

**b) Additional lighting to illuminate Village Hall steps and pavement**

The parish clerk has submitted the appropriate application to request additional ground floor lighting to be installed on the steps leading to the Village Hall to address a request from the Village Hall Committee who had been approached about safety concerns and to prevent someone tripping on the steps at night.

**c) Mary Parnham Trust**

Parish councillors agreed that the £5,750 held by LPC from the Mary Parnham Trust should be put towards a project that would have lasting value for the village.

They suggested a new item of play equipment or a portable stage for the Village Hall. Cllr Libby Hobley will ask if the Village Hall Committee would consider financing a joint enterprise with their bequest from the trust.

**d) Annual Parish Meeting**

The date of the Annual Parish Meeting is 7.00pm on Monday, 30th March 2020. Parish councillors discussed items for the agenda that will be displayed on the village notice boards.

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If sanctions are imposed as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic, parishioners will be encouraged to email their questions to the parish clerk and the meeting’s reports will be displayed on the website. Parish councillors will consider an alternative way to discuss items on the meeting’s agenda.

**e) Website accessibility**

New legislation is being introduced by 22nd September 2020 to ensure that websites meet the needs of users with disabilities. To ensure the LPC website meets the new stipulations, changes need to be introduced to its framework. This includes the design (colours, fonts etc) and the way the site is programmed so that it is accessible to all visitors including those using screen readers.

**f) Parish Council Liaison Group (PCLG)**

The PCLG has appealed to LPC to send a representative to join their meetings. The PCLG aims to influence how the county of Rutland can inform decisions affecting the proposed development on the site of St George’s Barracks.

**g) Items for the Annual Parish Meeting**

A resident had suggested several items for consideration that included how to improve the condition of an unadopted road in the village.

**ACTIONS**

**Cllr Libby Hobley to suggest a joint venture with the Village Hall Committee that would have lasting value for Lyddington.**

**Parish clerk to contact Town & Parish Council Websites to request that the work be undertaken to ensure the Lyddington website meets the requirements of the new regulations.**

**Parish clerk to request further information from the PCLG.**

**Parish clerk to check with RCC concerning the status of the unadopted road in the village.**

**Parish clerk to compile a draft agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting.**

The meeting ended at 9.35pm.

**11. DATES OF THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Meetings may be changed to virtual events, following the introduction of new government legislation and advice from RCC. This action is in response to the anticipated increase in Covid 19 cases in Rutland.

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Annual Parish Meeting. Monday, 30th March 2020 at 7.00 pm.

Annual Parish Council Meeting. Monday, 11th May 2020 at 7.30pm.

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

Chair ……………………………………………………………………..

Date …………………………………………………………………….

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