**LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the 2019 Annual Parish Meeting held in**

**the Village Hall, Main Street, Lyddington**

**on Wednesday, 17 April 2019**

**from 7.00pm to 8.00pm**

**PRESENT:**

Cllr Tony Fowell (Deputy Chair)

Cllr Geoff Macfarlane

Cllr John Meadows

Cllr Harriet Tassell

**MINUTES:** Fiona Buchanan, parish clerk

**SPEAKERS:** PC Pete Icke, Rutland South Police Support Officer

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** Three parishioners

**1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

Vice Chair, Cllr Tony Fowell, who was Acting Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from the Chair, Cllr Libby Hobley, Cllr Holly East and Cllr Barney Sturgess.

**2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 18TH APRIL 2018**

Cllr Tony Fowell highlighted that the minutes had previously been published on the website and displayed on the noticeboards. No points were raised and the minutesof the 2018 Annual Parish Meeting were approved as a correct record by the Acting Chair.

**3. MATTERS ARISING**

All matters arising would be dealt with as part of the overall agenda.

**4. LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

Local elections will be taking place on May 2nd, but the Returning Officer at Rutland County Council (RCC) has announced that there will be an uncontested election in Lyddington as the number of candidates did not exceed the available parish councillor vacancies.

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After more than 30 years as a councillor, with a number of those as Chair and Deputy Chair, Cllr Harriet Tassell is sadly standing down. Cllr Tony Fowell noted that there was now a vacancy for a parish councillor.

**5. SUMMARY AND FINANCIAL REPORT 2018/2019**

The Summary and Financial Report 2018/2019 had been displayed on the notice board at the corner of Colley Rise and on the Parish Council website [www.lyddingtonpc.org.uk](http://www.lyddingtonpc.org.uk). Parishioners were provided with copies at the meeting. Questions from the floor were invited.

Brief Summary of key points:

**Meetings**

It was noted that 6 meetings are held through the year plus the Annual Parish Meeting. 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.

**Chairman, Councillors and Clerk**

Lyddington Parish Council (LPC) is made up of seven parish councillors who elect the Chair and Deputy Chair. Cllr Libby Hobley is the current Chair and Cllr Tony Fowell is the Deputy Chair. The five other parish councillors are Holly East, Geoff Macfarlane, John Meadows, (co-opted on - November 2018) Barney Sturgess and Harriet Tassell, who will be retiring from her role.

**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 by the parish councillors.

**Playing Field and Play Park**

Monthly safety inspections of the play equipment are carried out by a trained member of LPC and the parish council also commission an annual survey by an 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.

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**Lyddington Tennis**

Lyddington Tennis operate the tennis court on the playing field on behalf of the Parish Council. Cllr Barney 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. Repairs have been carried out on damaged fences, stile and the New Cemetery noticeboard. The footpath in the New Cemetery has also been extended.

**The Cemetery**

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

**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 for further information.

**Planning Applications**

Thirty-four 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 was £290.30. There is progress concerning the project to underground the electricity cables at the north end of the village. Western Power Distribution (WDP) is now in the process of finalising the line route with land owners.

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After all the consent agreements have been signed, WPD 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. A full financial report will be available later in the year.

**6.POLICE REPORT**

PC Pete Icke was welcomed to the meeting and was introduced as the Police Officer for Rutland South covering Oakham and Uppingham. PC Icke explained that his function was to support the community with any issues or concerns raised. He can be contacted via email: Peter.icke@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk and the Leicestershire Police website ([www.leics.police.uk](http://www.leics.police.uk)) is very informative.

PC Icke provided a summary of criminal activity and highlighted that Lyddington had suffered minimal criminal activity, in fact since May 2018 one cycle had been stolen and the most recent incident was the theft of a field wildlife camera in March. The total number of house burglaries in Rutland during the last 12 months was 20, five less than in 2017-2018.

The Rutland South preventative priorities remain burglaries, car crime and theft. PC Icke urged parishioners to avoid losing items from locked cars by remembering to place their valuables in the car boot before arriving at a rural carpark if they are leaving their vehicle to go for a walk. There has also been a recent rise in the theft of car number plates.

Rutland South has been running Operation Galileo, in conjunction with Lincolnshire Police, to target hare-coursing and PC Icke was able to report that there had been a 60% drop in this illegal activity. The ANPR camera in Rutland was helping to identify vehicles travelling through the county with no required driving documents or had been linked to a crime.

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**New Safer Village Scheme**

In an attempt to reduce acquisitive crime, Leicestershire Police is aiming to equip each Rutland village with a box of crime prevention information and equipment that is managed by a volunteer ‘champion’.

The designated person will be asked to attend a two-hour crime prevention training session to learn how to mark-up property and offer guidance to residents. The boxes will include the following:

Shed alarms and signs

Window alarms

Attack alarms

Pens

Wraps

Cremark

Purse bells

Personal alarms

**ACTIONS:**

LPC agreed to promote the scheme around the village and appeal for a volunteer to train as the crime prevention champion.

The parish clerk would request new neighbourhood watch signs for the village.

**7. LYDDINGTON CEMETERY**

Cllr Tony Fowell explained that LPC was still looking to purchase a small area 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.

The piece of land would have to be 30 metres away from a water course and LPC would need to apply for planning permission for its change of use. Cllr Tony Fowell appealed for any helpful suggestions to be emailed to the parish clerk.

**8. LAUNCH OF VILLAGE SURVEY ON TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES**

LPC is proposing to canvass the views of parishioners on a range of possible traffic calming measures.

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A number of 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 villagers.

Cllr Geoff Macfarlane explained that the survey leaflet would be distributed around the village and it was hoped that parishioners would rate the range of suggested options. The survey closes on Friday, May 3rd.

**9. NEW KERB STONES TO PROTECT GRASS VERGES ON MAIN STREET**

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.

Cllr Tony Fowell explained that he was researching the likely costs and was seeking confirmation that RCC was still prepared to pay for the installation if an approved style was chosen. To place kerb stones along a 100 metre stretch could cost up to £3,200, but if LPC had to meet the charge, the parish council would be able to claim back the VAT figure.

**10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**Commemorative trees for the village**

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. The parish clerk is liaising with RCC’s forestry officer to confirm if the county council will cover the cost of the trees and offer guidance on when to plant.

**Retiring Cllr Harriet Tassell**

Cllr Tony Fowell presented a bouquet of flowers to Cllr Harriet Tassell and thanked her on behalf of village residents, and parish councillors, for her many years of service and hard work.

**Cllr Tony Fowell**

**Deputy Chair, Lyddington Parish Council Date**

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