**LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

Matters arising from the meeting held on 9th March 2020

and subsequent actions regarding LPC business.

**PLAYING FIELD**

**NEW FENCES**

The old wood and chain-link fence around the small children’s play area has been replaced. Cllr Dinah Hurwood had raised several points which have been circulated to Lyddington Parish Council (LPC) for consideration.

The issues are:

The green link netting has been secured to the top horizontal post with a couple of stainless-steel staples between each vertical post which may not be adequate in the long term.

The green horizontal wire is held in place with clips which may need re-enforcing.

Should LPC consider installing a base board along the bottom of the chain-link fence - next to the ditch - to prevent children crawling underneath?

**Further update by Cllr Dinah Hurwood and parish clerk**

**Status ongoing**

**FUTURE SAFETY CHECKS**

The play inspectors’ website (www.playinspectors.com) explains that an operational inspection is a more detailed process and checks the operation and stability of the equipment for any wear. Local company Playscapes Playgrounds Ltd has been commissioned to carry out an operational check at the beginning of June. This year’s full inspection is due in September.

**No further update**

**Status ongoing**

**FURTHER INSIGHT**

After consulting with the council’s insurers, the swings on The Green have been removed as there were safety concerns highlighted and remedial action could not be undertaken. A village resident requested that the Deeds for The Green be reviewed to establish its boundaries, but the Deeds have not completely clarified the situation. Further investigations will be continued once restrictions imposed by COVID-19 have been eased.

**Update supplied by Cllr Libby Hobley**

**Status ongoing**

**FINANCE**

**EXPENDITURE AND INCOME**

The latest Barclays bank statement dated 31st December 2019 – 30th January 2020 revealed a closing balance of £18,598.01. The total expenditure for this period was £1,281.99. The amount of income received was £320.34.

**Update by parish clerk**

**Status ongoing**

**PAYMENTS FOR VILLAGE EVENTS**

Following advice from the Leicestershire and Rutland Association of Local Councils (LRALC), LPC agreed to an advance payment to The Three Inch Fools as a straightforward grant under S137 that enables local councils to spend a limited amount of money for purposes for which they have no specific statutory expenditure. The date in June has been cancelled and the theatre company has suggested an alternative performance in August.

**Update by Cllr Barney Sturgess**

**Status ongoing**

**COUNCIL INSURANCE RENEWAL**

Last year LPC accepted a three-year long-term agreement option with its preferred provider, which reduced the annual premium by 5%. LPC agreed to accept the 2019-2020 quote of £894.81 for the total annual premium. Came and Company, the local council brokers, have emailed to say that our renewal date is 31st May 2020 and the price for the 2020-2021 annual premium is £919.47. This is the second year of our long-term agreement.

**Update by parish clerk**

**Status ongoing**

**LPC Audit**

The local council audit timings have been extended. The publication date for final, audited accounts for local councils will move from 30th September to 30th November 2020.

To give local councils more flexibility, the requirement for the public inspection period to include the first 10 working days of July has been removed. Instead, local councils must commence the public inspection period on or before the first working day of September 2020. This means that draft accounts must be approved by 31 August 2020 at the latest.

Authorities must publish the dates of their public inspection period this year, and the government recommends that they provide a public notice on their websites (where available) when the public inspection period would usually commence, explaining why they are departing from normal practice for 2020.

**Update by parish clerk**

**Status ongoing**

**BUSINESS**

**NEW CEMETERY**

LPC is seeking to repair the boundary wall in the New Cemetery that is now free of the ivy growth. The Head of Property Services for Rutland County Council (RCC), explained that the site had been surveyed and the section of wall that requires repair is owned by RCC and is therefore responsible. The repairs will be funded by RCC’s Central Maintenance Fund. Listed Building Consent will not be required due to the minor nature of the works. The Diocese has already confirmed their approval. RCC has a quote from a contractor but his team are furloughed and unable to work due to COVID-19 restrictions.

**No further update**

**Status ongoing**

**FURTHER CEMETERY SPACE**

Research to find an additional burial space for the village is ongoing.

**No further update**

**Status ongoing**

**LYDDINGTON TRAFFIC SURVEY**

RCC's Integrated Transport Feasibility Study Report was due to be presented to the County Council’s Highways and Transport Working Group meeting on the 31st March, which was cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions. LPC has considered its recommendations and responded with several additional suggestions highlighting that the most favoured option was a reduction in the speed limit to 20 mph.

County Councillor Andrew Brown agreed to petition for a review of the report’s recommendations, when normal business is resumed, with the support of the County Councillor for Uppingham.

**No further update**

**Status ongoing**

**OTHER MATTERS**

**MARY PARNHAM TRUST**

The proposal is to spend some of the funds on a project that would provide lasting value to the young families of Lyddington.

The Village Hall Committee (VHC) has been approached about a possible joint project, but they have already agreed how to use their portion of the Mary Parnham Trust funds, which they remain comfortable with.

The next proposed stage is to appeal directly to parishioners for suggestions that can be considered by parish councillors.

**Update by Cllr Libby Hobley**

**Status on going**

**WEBSITE ACCESSIBILITY**

New legislation, to be introduced by 22nd September 2020, stipulates that local authority websites must provide for the needs of users with disabilities. The Town and Parish Council Websites has updated the LPC website which has included revisions to 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. All documents from September 2018 onwards must be re-formatted to ensure compliance.

Some of the rules include:

• Use short sentences and paragraphs

• Use a sans serif font like Arial or Helvetica. Make the minimum size 12pt.

• Avoid using ‘all capitals’ text or italics

• Left align your text, don’t justify text

• Use centred text sparingly and only where you want it to stand out such as the main heading

• Use tables sparingly – only for data and avoid splitting or merging cells.

**Update by parish clerk**

The parish clerk is starting to update the files and using the new format in all new documents.

**Status ongoing**

**BROKEN VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGN (VAS)**

RCC’s Highways Operations Manager has explained that the VAS on Gretton Road, which is not currently operating, is owned by LPC and was purchased from Unipart Dorman. The Highways Department currently do not have any other county projects that require repairs. Ordinarily, if RCC has a number of signs requiring attention, they would be repaired at the same time and the parish council would be billed. The Highways Department recommends that LPC contact Unipart Dorman. The parish clerk has emailed the company who have agreed to undertake a free inspection and supply a quote once the COVID-19 restrictions are eased.

**Update by parish clerk**

**Status ongoing**

**FOODBANK COLLECTION POINT**

RCC has circulated information on setting up a foodbank collection point in local villages. Lyddington resident Lisa Dawson Phazey volunteers at the Oakham Foodbank and would be willing to help with its management in Lyddington.

Lisa thinks that a suitable place for the food bank collection box would be the bus shelter. The village e-news bulletin could be used to promote the specific times when people can drop off their food donations so that supplies are not left for days. Lisa has also said that people can drop donated food at her door or she will collect if an elderly person cannot get out. (Social distancing rules will be followed).

I have asked her to send an email that confirms I can share her name, email address and telephone number.

**Update by parish clerk**

**Status ongoing**

**NEW ELECTRICITY BILL**

The organisation called Power for People requested support for The Bill that if made law, would empower local communities to sell locally generated clean energy directly to local customers by establishing a statutory Right to Local Supply. This action is currently impossible because of the huge setup and running costs involved in doing so.

**Update**

LPC decided not to support The Bill.