**LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**HELD ON MONDAY,13th JANUARY 2020**

**IN LYDDINGTON VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 PM**

**Councillors present:**

Cllr L.Hobley (Chair) Cllr M.Fennemore

Cllr T.Fowell (Deputy Chair) Cllr G.Macfarlane

Cllr H.East Cllr B.Sturgess

Cllr D.Hurwood

**Members of the public:**

Ms Tina Elliott

**PRELIMINARY MATTERS**

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

None

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

None

**3. Declaration of Interests**

None

**4. Minutes of the Parish Council**

Chair, Cllr Libby Hobley welcomed Cllr Martin Fennemore as he commenced his new role as a parish councillor for Lyddington.

The minutes from the meeting held on Monday, 11th November 2019 were approved as a correct record and signed by Cllr Hobley.

**REGULAR REPORTS**

**5. Lyddington Playing Field and Park**

**a) New nets**

The new football nets have been purchased and will be attached to the goal posts in the spring.

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**b) Play equipment inspections**

Wicksteed Leisure’s annual inspection report recorded that there were no high-risk hazards or worn equipment. 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 seek quotes for repair work to eliminate minor trip hazards on safety mats sited at the base of two play items and to replace the fence around the small children’s play area which was erected 13 years ago. The old fence is showing signs of wear and tear.

**Actions**

**Cllr Holly East to seek a quote from a local carpenter to repair the safety mats and replace the fence.**

**Parish clerk to ask for further quotes for the new fencing and an estimate for additional operational inspections on the play equipment. The parish clerk will also request a quote from Wicksteed Leisure to increase the ground clearance distance below the zipwire’s seat that was highlighted as a medium risk in the annual inspection report.**

**Parish clerk to also consult with LPC’s insurers on maintaining the safety standards of the swings sited on The Green.**

**Cllr Libby Hobley, if possible, to ascertain from the Land Registry records where the boundary lies between The Green and the driveway next to it.**

**Lyddington Tennis (LT)**

Cllr Barney Sturgess had attended the 21st November 2019 committee meeting of LT to discuss the 2019-2020 activities.

**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.

*Cllr Barney Sturgess joined the meeting.*

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**7. Finance**

The latest Barclays bank statement dated 8th November 2019 - 8th January 2020 revealed a closing balance of £18,649.10 which includes payment for the ground maintenance work in the 2019 season. The total expenditure for this period was £4,798.17 and the received income was £5.00.

**a) Draft Budget for 2020-2021**

The calculated LPC expenditure from 04.04.2019 to 13.01.2020 is £13,037.54 and its income is £9,148.03, which includes the precept figure of £8,500 from RCC.

Parish councillors are considering several improvement projects for the coming financial year including a new fence for the small children’s enclosed play area and repairs to the stone boundary wall in the New Cemetery. The estimated general expenditure for 2020-2021 is expected to be around £12,000, which incorporates an inflationary increase of 2%.

LPC has ring-fenced a sum to potentially purchase a small plot of land on the outskirts of the village to extend the cemetery provision to meet future requirements. A second figure of £5,750 from the Mary Parnham Trust is also ring-fenced for educational activities for children in Lyddington.

This calculated expenditure also includes a provision for unexpected/one-off payments which in 2019-2020 amounted to £3,438 that included items such as a replacement village sign and a new wooden noticeboard in the churchyard.

The income for 2020-2021 is estimated at a similar rate of £9,000. Parish councillors agreed to ask for an increase in the precept figure from £8,500 to £9,000 for the next financial year 2020-2021.

LPC also approved the assistance of an auditor for LPC’s internal audit of expenditure and income from April 2019 to March 2020.

**b) Play on The Green**

Parish councillors agreed to make a grant under S137 of the Local Government Act 1972 to the Three Inch Fools in relation to their planned performance on 12 June 2020. The grant would enable the small theatre company to meet their initial advertising costs and the sum of money will be recouped from the proceedings.

LPC approved the clerk’s expenses for Nov 2019 - Jan 2020 of £83.43 and agreed an increase in salary, 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.

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**Actions**

**Parish clerk to complete the 2020-2021 precept form with a request for £9,000 to RCC.**

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

**Parish clerk to calculate her salary claim now the increase has been agreed and back dated.**

**BUSINESS**

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

**a) 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.

**b) Lyddington Undergrounding Project**

Western Power Distribution is in the process of negotiating with relevant landowners concerning the cabling required to a substation/transformer to enable the remaining overhead electricity lines in the village to be undergrounded.

**c) Next stage of the Lyddington Traffic Survey**

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

**9. New Cemetery**

**a) Replacement noticeboard**

The new oak noticeboard will be installed the week beginning 13th January 2020.

**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.

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**Actions**

**Cllr Libby Hobley will arrange 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**

**10. Clerk’s items**

**a) Midland Hawthorne remembrance trees**

Parish councillors agreed to purchase the stainless steel tree plaques to be sited by the memorial trees at the main entrances to the village. LPC agreed to plant the trees to mark the centenary of the ending of the First World War. The agreed inscription was ‘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 trustees of the Village Hall Committee have received a request to install additional lighting to prevent someone tripping on the steps at night. There is no street light nearby and the Village Hall facilities are well used in the evenings. Cllr M. Fennemore suggested installing solar brick lights which would be less intrusive to nearby residents, but would provide additional illumination in the required area.

**c) Two metre height restriction barrier**

A resident had suggested that LPC consider installing a barrier across the entrance of the playing field car park to deter unwelcome visitors.

**d) Annual Parish Meeting**

The new time and date for the Annual Parish Meeting is 7.00pm on Monday, 30 March 2020.

**Actions**

**Parish clerk to purchase the tree plaques and commission the agreed inscription.**

**Parish clerk to raise the issue of additional lighting for the steps of the Village Hall with RCC.**

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**Parish clerk to check with the LPC’s maintenance contractor to see if a barrier would cause problems for their vehicles that are required to transport the commercial mowing machines.**

**Parish councillors to email suggested agenda items for the Annual Parish Council meeting.**

The meeting ended at 9.45pm.

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

The next meeting of LPC is 7.30pm on Monday, 9th March 2020.

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

Chair ……………………………………………………………………..

Date ……………………………………………………………………..

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