**LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**HELD ON MONDAY,13th JULY 2020 AT 7.30 PM VIA ZOOM**

Due to current COVID-19 restrictions and, until further notice, the meetings of Lyddington Parish Council (LPC) will be staged via Zoom, a cloud platform for video and audio conferencing. Village parishioners were invited to either email comments and questions to the parish clerk, prior to the meeting for consideration by LPC, or request instructions to join the meeting.

**COUNCILLORS TAKING PART:**

Cllr L.Hobley (Chair) Cllr D.Hurwood

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

Cllr H.East Cllr B.Sturgess

Cllr M.Fennemore

**CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:**

Mrs Ros Horton and Mr Jeremy Rider.

**PRELIMINARY MATTERS**

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

A member of the public commented that there was an out-of-date COVID-19 notice highlighting that the play area was closed. Cllr Libby Hobley would check that the old notice and the red and white restriction tape had been removed when the play area was opened on 5th July, following a risk assessment by the Parish Council in response to government guidelines allowing parks to reopen from 4th July.

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

None

**3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

None

**4. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

467

The minutes from the meeting held on Monday, 11th May 2020 were approved as a correct record and signed by Cllr Libby Hobley.

**REGULAR REPORTS**

**5. LYDDINGTON PLAYING FIELD AND PARK**

**a) Play equipment inspections**

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.

The monthly safety check has been carried out by Cllr Dinah Hurwood. A further operational check on the play equipment has been undertaken by Playscapes, and LPC is awaiting the full report. One item of play equipment has developed a fault.

**b) Additional improvements to new fence**

The new wood and chain-link fence around the small children’s play area has been erected. Additional staples and clips have been added to further secure the green link netting and a base board has also been installed along the bottom of the fence that borders the boundary ditch. The base board will prevent the wire being pulled up by children.

**ACTION**

**Parish clerk to contact Wicksteed Leisure concerning the faulty item of play equipment.**

**c) 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. There were two outstanding proposals awaiting comments from parish councillors, one application was a revised submission after RCC had previously refused permission.

468

**7. FINANCE**

**a) Bank statement**

The latest Barclays bank statement dated 30th May 2020 - 29th June 2020 shows a closing balance of £22,168.69. The total expenditure of LPC since 30th May 2020 was £1,269.39 and income was zero.

**b) 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%. The parish clerk had forwarded an updated asset register to Came and Company which resulted in an increased premium of £970.79.

**c) Staff salary**

The parish clerk submitted an invoice for £428.28 for the period commencing 11th May – 10th July 2020 plus an expenses’ claim of £42.83.

**BUSINESS**

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

**a) Cancelled Performance**

The Three Inch Fools have cancelled their summer 2020 performances and have launched a fund raising campaign on www.kickstarter.com. Information has been shared on the village e-news bulletin and notice boards.

Subsequent to the meeting, The Three Inch Fools suggested an alternative date in September 2020.

**ACTION**

**Cllr Barney Sturgess to recirculate the appeal and share the information with other supporters who have attended previous performances.**

**b) LPC audited accounts**

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. The parish clerk is liaising with the external auditor.

Work is ongoing.

469

**c) 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 RCC explained that the site had been surveyed and the section of wall that requires repair is owned by RCC. A quote from a contractor has been accepted, but his team has delayed starting work due to the COVID-19 restrictions. No further update has been received.

**d) Further cemetery space**

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

No further update available.

**e) Lyddington Traffic Survey**

RCC's Integrated Transport Feasibility Study Report was due to be presented to its Highways and Transport Working Group meeting in March, which was cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions. LPC has considered its recommendations and responded with a list of detailed suggestions, which included the most popular option - a reduction in the speed limit to 20 mph.

LPC’s feedback and recommendations are due to be discussed at the next meeting of the Working Group on 15th September 2020.

**ACTION**

**Parish clerk to ask Cllr Andrew Brown if he would like a Zoom meeting between parish councillors and Cllr Lucy Stephenson, the portfolio holder, prior to the meeting in September.**

**f) Water supply to the allotments**

A suggestion was received from a parishioner for LPC to provide a water supply to the allotments. LPC would consider making a contribution to the costs, if the allotment holders came to a joint agreement to install the system and pay the majority of the expenses incurred. The parish clerk circulated the information for discussion amongst the allotment gardeners and the preferred option is a mains supply to a tank controlled by a ballcock for watering can use only.

**ACTION**

**Parish clerk to research the cost of installing a water supply to the allotments.**

470

**g) 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. LPC appealed directly to parishioners for suggestions that can be considered by parish councillors. The suggestions received were:

- Allow a grass strip on the playing field to grow and cultivate wild flowers and grasses in the area.

- Create an eco-friendly space for children in the small wooded area at the bottom of the playing field.

- Create a musical event for children in the village that involves the youngsters improving their instrumental skills.

- Acquire a mobile stage that could be used for events in the Village Hall.

- Provide a playhouse and offer den-making with some basic structures like a wig-wam frame or den structure so that children can use their imagination and communication skills to play within the space.

- Establish a wildlife area; a dedicated space where children can grow veg to learn about our food chain / planting wild flowers to attract creatures and bees. Gain a greater insight into why creatures are so important with an information board.

- Create an outdoor classroom with wooden benches and tilted tables to encourage creative drawing.

- Promote a project in which the present children of the village write biographies of themselves and/or their parents and/or the village for reference in years to come. The contributions could be professionally bound/embossed to be long lasting.

- A collection of large pots filled with compost at various places around the village, which families can plant up and cultivate - possibly with a different theme each year.

Cllr Libby Hobley said that LPC had previously organised a bushcraft session which had been very popular and might be a possible joint event with the Village Hall Committee for 2021.

**ACTION**

**Parish councillors agreed to review in six months.**

**h) Broken vehicle activated sign (VAS)**

The village VAS on Gretton Road, which is not currently operating, is owned by LPC and was purchased from Unipart Dorman. An engineer will investigate the sign and his report, on how much the repairs will cost, will be circulated.

**ACTION**

**Parish clerk to request the report.**

471

**i) Foodbank Collection Point**

The Oakham Foodbank is helping with the management and collection of donated supplies. The drop-off point in Lyddington is the village bus shelter.

**j) Village pay phone**

The Lyddington public pay phone is now included in the planned BT 2021 repainting programme. This year’s schedule has been put on hold due to the pandemic.

**k) Midlands Airport Future Airport Space**

The Department for Transport published ‘Upgrading UK Airspace’, a document that sets out why and how the airspace in the UK is going through a process of change. Proposed changes will see further commercial aircraft flying below 7,000 feet across Rutland. The parish clerk informed RCC’s CEO and emailed the local media to promote the consultation to a wider public audience.

**l) Street cleaning and grass cutting**

Parked cars on the village’s Main Street can prevent RCC’s crews from being able to clean the highway and trim the verges. The parish clerk has emailed RCC for a timetable that can be promoted to parishioners to encourage car owners to move their vehicles when grass cutting etc is due to take place. LPC’s request has now been sent to Ben Thompson, Streetscene Contracts Officer, who does have the relevant information.

**ACTION**

**Parish clerk to request an update**

**OTHER MATTERS**

**9. CLERK’S ITEMS**

To review progress in reducing the anti-social activity in Chapel Lane and the playing field and car park.

LPC has liaised closely with local police, RCC officers and county councillors concerning the incidents of anti-social behaviour occurring in June. The behaviour was late at night, had disturbed residents living close to the playing fields, and had included loud music, cars being raced up and down Chapel Lane, significant littering (including many glass bottles), a missile being thrown at a resident’s dog, graffiti on the electricity sub-station and serious vandalism of two residents’ cars.

472

Residents, who had previously asked for the music to be turned down, were now feeling intimidated by the late night visitors. The Parish Council considered a previously circulated note from a resident urging more tolerance towards the visitors in light of the timing post COVID-19 lockdown easing, and whilst it did not accept the assertions and implications in it, it was agreed that the resident of course had a right to comment and that they should be advised that their comments had been noted. This action was taken in order to draw a line under the continuing correspondence and to avoid the situation escalating further.

**ACTION**

**Parish clerk to research the procedures to create a byelaw that stipulates the carpark is closed after 7.00pm and the affordability of a solar-powered CCTV camera for the carpark area. Parish councillors will consider the options.**

**10. OTHER MATTERS (at the discretion of the Chair)**

Parish councillors agreed that they would respond to the request from the Parish Council Working Group concerning the exclusion of the Parish Council Forum from the consultation process on planning and Local Plan development.

**ACTION**

**Parish clerk to send a message of support for the inclusion of the Parish Council Forum in the consultation process. The deadline was 17th July. Changes on consultation processes have been introduced due to the pandemic restrictions.**

The meeting ended at 9.10pm.

**11. DATE OF THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING**

The date of the next virtual parish council meeting will be Monday, 7th September. Log-in details will be shared on request.

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

Chair ……………………………………………………………………..

Date …………………………………………………………………….

473