**LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

Matters arising from the virtual meeting held on 11th May 2020

and subsequent actions regarding LPC business.

**PLAYING FIELD**

**NEW FENCES**

A new wood and chain-link fence has been installed around the small children’s play area. As requested, the number of stainless-steel staples and clips has been increased to further secure the green link netting to the horizontal posts and top wire. A base board has also been installed along the bottom of the fence, the section which is next to the ditch. The base board will prevent children crawling underneath the fence.

**No further update**

**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 the week beginning 13th July. The operational inspection was postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions. 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.

**No further update**

**Status ongoing**

**FINANCE**

**EXPENDITURE AND INCOME**

The latest Barclays bank statement dated 31st March – 29th April 2020 revealed a closing balance of £24,219.06. The total expenditure for this period was £3,429.37 The income figure was £9,180.00 which included the precept figure of £9,000.00.

**Update by parish clerk**

**Status ongoing**

**CANCELLED PERFORMANCE**

The Three Inch Fools have cancelled all their 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.

**Update by parish clerk**

**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 renewal date was 31st May. The parish clerk updated the LPC list of assets and the annual premium was £970.79. This is the second year of our long-term agreement.

**Update by parish clerk**

**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.

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.

The parish clerk is liaising with Mr Peter Hems, the parish council’s external auditor.

**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. 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 was unable to work due to the 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 in March, which was cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions. LPC has considered its recommendations and responded with a list of detailed suggestions, including 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 and Transport portfolio holder Cllr Lucy Stephenson. Parish clerk has emailed Cllr Brown for an update.

**No further update**

**Status ongoing**

**OTHER MATTERS**

**WATER SUPPLY TO THE ALLOTMENTS**

A suggestion was received from a parishioner for LPC to provide a water supply to the allotments. One possible solution was to install a system that captures rainwater. 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 has circulated the information for discussion amongst the allotment gardeners. No response has been received despite a further email requesting an update.

**No further update**

**Status ongoing**

**NEW HEDGE FOR THE PLAYING FIELD**

The proposal was to improve the hedge at the bottom of the playing field as the current hedge has gaps in places. The parish clerk has visited the site and there is a fence at the boundary of the playing field and the hedge is on the other side, which is a public footpath. The hedge stops at a large tree and there are bushes dotted along its further length rather than a continuous hedge. The suggestion was that the village could prepare the ground and plant additional ‘whips’. This would be a big project and may receive limited uptake concerning current restrictions on large groups meeting.

**Update by parish clerk**

**Status ongoing**

**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 are:

* Allow a grass strip on the playing field to grow long 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.

**Update by parish clerk**

**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 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.

The parish clerk has almost finished the process of updating the files by using the new format in all documents.

**Update by parish clerk**

**Status ongoing**

**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 is due on July 7th to investigate the sign and his report, on how much the repairs will cost, will be circulated.

**Update by parish clerk**

**Status ongoing**

**FOODBANK COLLECTION POINT**

RCC circulated information on setting up a foodbank collection point in local villages. The Oakham Foodbank is helping with its management and in Lyddington the drop-off point is the village bus shelter.

**Update by parish clerk**

**Status ongoing**

**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. Should LPC request the pay phone to be decommissioned, alternative uses for red phone boxes include becoming a defibrillator location, a small library or a greenhouse. The last two options would require regular over-sight by a volunteer.

**Update by parish clerk**

**Status ongoing**

**EAST 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.

Further information on the consultation process is online at: [www.eastmidlandsairport.com/community/future-airspace](http://www.eastmidlandsairport.com/community/future-airspace)

The parish clerk informed RCC’s CEO and emailed the local media to promote the consultation to a wider public audience.

**Update by parish clerk**

**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. Despite several calls and email requests, no information has yet been received, but now LPC’s request has now been sent to Ben Thompson, Streetscene Contracts Officer, who does have the relevant information.

**Update by parish clerk**

**Status ongoing**