**LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**HELD ON MONDAY, 7th SEPTEMBER 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 G,Macfarlane

Cllr T.Fowell (Deputy Chair) Cllr B.Sturgess

Cllr H.East

Cllr D. Hurwood

**CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:**

None

**PRELIMINARY MATTERS**

**1. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

None

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

Cllr Martin Fennemore.

**3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

None

**4. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

The minutes from the meeting held on Monday, 13th July 2020 were approved as a correct record and signed by Cllr Libby Hobley.

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**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 parish clerk reported that the broken play items had been repaired. Cllr Dinah Hurwood highlighted that the basketball net needed to be replaced and the swamp net was starting to fray near one of the anchor bolts.

Parish councillors also discussed moving the basketball pole and net to a different part of the carpark or to another area of the playing field.

Cllr Dinah Hurwood was thanked for donating new play toys for the sandpit.

**ACTION**

**Parish clerk to contact Playscapes Playgrounds to seek replacement netting items and to ask for a quote concerning moving the basket ball pole to an alternative site.**

**b) Lyddington Tennis (LT)**

No update.

**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.

**7. FINANCE**

**a) Bank statement**

The latest Barclays bank statement dated 30th June 2020 - 4th September 2020 shows a closing balance of £22,092.51. The total expenditure of LPC for this period was £855.57.

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**b) Staff salary**

The parish clerk submitted an invoice for £398.40 for the period commencing 13th July – 5th September 2020 plus an expenses’ claim of £1,070.11. which included paying for repairs to the Vehicle Activated Sign and the anti dog fouling posters.

**BUSINESS**

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

**a) Play on the Green**

The Three Inch Fools are back on the road and are due to appear for one night on 11th September to perform A Midsummer Night’s Dream on The Village Green. Tickets are available online and for sale at The Old White Hart. Social distancing rules will be followed.

**b) LPC audited accounts**

The local council audit timings have been extended. The publication date for final, audited accounts for local councils moved 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.

The required documentation concerning the audit of LPC has been circulated to the parish councillors for their approval. The documents have been posted on the website and information concerning their availability for public scrutiny starting from August 30th (Notice of Date of Commencement of Period for the Exercise of Public Rights - the Account and Audit Regulations 2015 (SI 2015 No. 234) is displayed on the website and on the main village notice board. The Exemption Certificate has been emailed and acknowledged by the appointed accountants, PKF Littlejohn LLP.

**c) Repair of wall in New Cemetery**

Chair, Cllr Libby Hobley, reported that RCC’s repair team had visited the New Cemetery and had treated the new ivy growth within the damaged stone wall to kill the roots. This is the first stage of the planned repair.

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On the 18th – 19th September the team will rebuild the wall section and repoint all voids/joints to ensure there are no gaps.

**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 on traffic flows in Lyddington 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. Cllrs Andrew Brown and Lucy Stephenson are meeting with Cllrs Tony Fowell and Geoff Macfarlane and Lyddington resident Mr Brent Snape to discuss LPC’s feedback report.

**f) Water supply to the allotments**

A suggestion was received from a parishioner for LPC to provide a water supply to the allotments. Research has revealed that the cost to create a bore hole would be too prohibitive and LPC is waiting for Seven Trent to respond to a request for a site visit to look at the options to install a water supply to the allotments.

**ACTION**

**Parish clerk to contact Severn Trent again for a progress update.**

**g) 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 to carry out the repair work on September 14th now the invoice for £840 has been paid.

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**h) 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 circulated the dates when the ground maintenance team will visit Lyddington.

**OTHER MATTERS**

**9. CLERK’S ITEMS**

**a) 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 that have been occurring.

Chapel Lane is an adopted public footpath that is maintained at public expense.

The parish clerk has arranged a site meeting with RCC officer Hugh Crouch, who deals with incidents of anti social behaviour, to discuss possible options.

**ACTION**

**Parish clerk to keep residents, who have access onto Chapel Lane, fully informed and to seek their feedback on the selected options through email feedback or via a meeting.**

**b) Anti dog fouling posters**

Parish clerk has purchased A4 size posters and bin stickers to be distributed around the village.

**ACTION**

**Parish clerk to display the new posters and stickers.**

**c) New no parking sign for The Green**

Parish councillors approved the purchase of a new no parking sign that is in keeping with the current signage and can be attached onto the existing structure.

**ACTION**

**Parish clerk to order.**

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

**a) Traffic and parking issues in Lyddington**

Parish councillors agreed to set up a working party to look at traffic and parking issues and to report back to the parish council. Membership includes Cllrs Tony Fowell and Geoff Macfarlane with parish clerk and Lyddington resident Mr Brent Snape.

**ACTION**

**Parish clerk to arrange a meeting.**

**b) Undergrounding Project**

Western Power Distribution has sent out letters to Lyddington residents concerning the planned undergrounding of high voltage cables. Work will commence on 18th September for approximately 10 weeks.

**c) Discretionary COVID-19 support grant**

LPC has qualified for a £10,000 grant from the discretionary COVID-19 support grant that has been approved by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and administered by RCC. The purpose of the grant is to cover the usual expenses that a parish council would normally pay during the year and are to, in effect, replace income that has been lost due to the corona virus outbreak to help normal business to continue. Cllr Barney Sturgess suggested that the money be ring fenced to purchase an extension site for the cemetery in Lyddington.

**d) Revamp for village noticeboard**

Cllr Holly East explained that the notice board by the Old White Hart requires repainting to protect the wooden frame.

**ACTION**

**Parish clerk to contact a local painter for a quote for the renovation work.**

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**11. Election of New Chair and Deputy Chair**

Cllr Tony Fowell was elected as the new Chair and Cllr Geoff Macfarlane was elected as the new Deputy Chair. The former Chair, Cllr Libby Hobley, will remain as a parish councillor and was thanked for all her hard work, dedication and insight which has been invaluable in her role as Chair.

The meeting ended at 8.40 pm.

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

The date of the next virtual parish council meeting will be Monday, 9th November. Log-in details will be shared on request.

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

Chair ……………………………………………………………………..

Date …………………………………………………………………….

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