**LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**HELD ON MONDAY, 9th NOVEMBER 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 T.Fowell (Chair) Cllr L.Hobley

Cllr G.Macfarlane (Deputy Chair) Cllr D.Hurwood

Cllr H.East Cllr B.Sturgess

Cllr M.Fennemore

**CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:**

None

**PRELIMINARY MATTERS**

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

None

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

None

**3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

None

**4. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

The minutes from the meeting held on Monday, 7th September 2020 were approved as a correct record and signed by Chair, Cllr Tony Fowell.

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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.

Parish councillors will review the expected annual safety report from Wicksteed Leisure. The Wicksteed safety expert carried out his inspection on November 5th.

LPC requested a more detailed quote for painting the outline of a small court area underneath the basketball hoop.

Parish clerk to also remind Playscapes that LPC has requested a repair on the swamp net as one of the net’s ropes has frayed a little but the metal core is not damaged.

**ACTION**

**Parish clerk to request a more detailed quote from Playscapes Playgrounds regarding the proposed new signage and highlight the net repair to be caried out as soon as possible.**

**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. There was only one outstanding application for parish councillors to comment on.

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**7. FINANCE**

**a) Bank statement**

The latest Barclays bank statement dated 29th August – 29th September 2020 shows a closing balance of £31,565.27. The total LPC expenditure for this period was £3,539.59. Its total income was £2,546.25.

**b) Staff salary**

The parish clerk submitted an invoice for £438.24 for the period commencing 6th September - 8th November 2020 plus an expenses’ claim of £47.74.

**BUSINESS**

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

**a) Play on the Green**

The Three Inch Fools performed Midsummer Night’s Dream on September 11th. Tickets sold well and the total profit was £1,728. LPC paid the theatre group £1,264. The final profit for LPC was £464; the sum will be ringed fenced to help with initial costs of the planned 2021 event.

**b) Further cemetery space**

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

No further update available.

**c) Lyddington Traffic Survey**

RCC’s Integrated Transport Feasibility Study Report recommended that:

* at the southern end of Lyddington - the High Friction Surface (HFS) be refreshed and install a new village name plate with yellow backing both sides of the carriageway,
* adjacent to Windmill Way - narrow and deflect carriageway by extending kerb line,
* at the northern end of Lyddington - install dragon teeth, red HFS and slow markings.

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There was no mention of the preferred option of reducing the speed limit through the village to 20 mph. LPC’s working group met with a RCC highway engineer, Mr Paul Slater, who explained that a restricted speed limit of 20 mph would not be considered by the county council’s Highways and Transport Working Group as a speed limit had to be self-enforcing and a 20 mph limit would require additional measures such as speed humps and a chicane that were not popular with residents. Leicestershire Police also had limited resources to effectively enforce it.

A further option was discussed of restricting the speed limit approaching the village from the south and north ends to 40 mph before entering the 30 mph zone.

Mr Slater has sent his revised plan to Leicestershire Police for comments re the installation of 40mph buffer zones. If he receives a positive response from the Police, Mr Slater will revise the proposed design for traffic calming measures for Lyddington.

**ACTION**

**Parish clerk to circulate the revised plan to parish councillors.**

**d) To approve the recommendation to recognize the ‘right of Prescription’ in regard to access across The Village Green.**

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. LPC agreed to form a working party to look into the matter.

The working party considered parking on the Village Green and subsequent causation of swings being decommissioned as a result of Public Liability Insurance concerns.

Background information

The heart of The Village Green was originally gifted in 1947 to the village for the purpose of being Public Pleasure Grounds (with all of the Village Green being registered as such by the PC with RCC in 1973 under The Commons Registration Act 1965) by Ethel Clarke, on condition that it “benefit and protect the adjoining property of the Donor [Ethel Clarke] known as “Home Farm” Lyddington aforesaid and every part thereof but not so as to render the Council themselves liable in damage for any breach of covenant committed after they shall have parted with all interest in the premises”.

Understanding the term - Right of Prescription

As far as can be ascertained, a ‘Right of Prescription’ concerning access can be claimed if a practice has been established for over 20 years.

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LPC’s working party recommended that the parish council accept that a ‘Right of Prescription’ has been established and minute the decision. LPC approved the recommendation but would review other options if the incidents of parked cars on The Green increased.

**ACTION**

**Cllr Holly East to inform a local resident of the restrictions concerning parking on The Green.**

**e) 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. The delays have been caused by COVID-19 restrictions.

**ACTION ONGOING**

**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.

Chairman Cllr Tony Fowell and parish clerk Fiona Buchanan attended a zoom meeting for free advice with Frances Webster of Wellers Hedleys solicitors. Frances explained that LPC has no legal power to install a retractable bollard on a public right of way. To do so could lead to a legal challenge where obstruction of a public right of way is considered to be a public nuisance.

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LPC has met with a representative of Weston Power who has agreed to install a power supply by the side of the transformer; LPC would only have to pay for the waterproof installation cabinet. A quote has been received of £1,396 for the work.

The electricity supply would enable LPC to request a temporary CCTV platform from RCC to be installed as a deterrent if there were further incidents of anti social behaviour.

An additional measure being discussed is to reduce the size of the carpark entrance and install retractable bollards which can be raised if there is a spate of further incidents. No planning permission is required but a notice would need to be displayed.

**ACTIONS**

**Parish clerk to research the cost of installing retractable bollards at the entrance of the carpark and update the affected residents.**

**Chair, Cllr Tony Fowell to speak to a local farmer concerning a temporary wooden structure to also reduce the wide carpark entrance.**

**Deputy Chair, Cllr Geoff Macfarlane to maintain liaison with Weston Power and the cabinet manufacturers.**

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

**a) To receive an update on LPC’s request for ground lights to be inserted on the street steps leading to The Village Hall.**

Parish clerk has again liaised with RCC to remind them that LPC is expecting a response.

**ACTION ONGOING**

**b) To consider the offer of new swings to be sited on The Village Green. A local resident had offered to pay the cost of the installation.**

LPC consulted with a Wicksteed Leisure safety expert. His report explained that the swings would need to be installed as close to the centre of The Green as possible to allow sufficient space for the impact surface and free space around the unit

As The Village Green is located adjacent to the main through road and a residential access road, the provision of an enclosure fence and gate around the swing or roadside barriers would be recommended to prevent children running into either road. This could be costly and not visually appealing.

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LPC agreed to thank the resident for his kind offer but felt barriers on The Green would affect the area’s appeal and there were suitable swings on the playground away from passing traffic.

**ACTION**

**Parish clerk to contact the village resident to explain LPC’s position and share the guidance received.**

**c) Light up Lyddington Scheme**

The Village Hall Committee (VHC) is proposing that as part of the scheme, individual households decorate/light up their windows on Christmas Eve. The VHC has also suggested that LPC consider placing lights in the trees on the Village Green or installed a decorated Christmas tree. Parish councillors agreed to support the plan and asked the parish clerk to undertake research on the best option for decorating The Green.

**ACTION**

**Parish clerk to research Christmas tree suppliers and the cost of solar powered, outdoor tree lights to decorate three trees on The Green in time for Christmas.**

**d) Parish Forum representation**

Cllr Dinah Hurwood has agreed to be Lyddington’s representative on the Parish Council Forum. The Parish Forum will be the formal method of communication between RCC and the parishes to facilitate discussion on the implications of county council policies and activities for parishes.

The meeting ended at 9.40 pm.

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

The date of the next virtual parish council meeting will be Monday, 11th January 2021. 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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