**LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

Matters arising from the virtual meeting held on 7th September 2020

and subsequent actions regarding LPC business.

**PLAYING FIELD**

**FUTURE SAFETY CHECKS**

Local company, Playscapes Playgrounds Ltd, was commissioned to carry out an operational inspection on the play equipment. The two faults that were discovered have been repaired. There is now a new top on the spinning play item and a new braking system on the zip wire. This year’s annual inspection by Wicksteed Leisure is being carried out on 5th November.

**No further update**

**Status ongoing**

**FURTHER INSIGHT**

After consulting with the council’s insurers, the swings on The Green were removed as there were highlighted safety concerns 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. Lyddington Parish Council (LPC) agreed to form a working party to look into the situation.

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, the owner of 1 The Green/24 Main Street has been driving across the piece of Village Green to his garages for over 20 years.

Therefore ‘a right of prescription’ can be claimed by the owner of 1 The Green/24 Main Street to drive across the driveway piece of The Village Green.

LPC’s working party recommends that the parish council accept that a ‘right of prescription’ has been established and minute the decision.

**Update by Cllr Tony Fowell**

**Status ongoing**

**FINANCE**

**EXPENDITURE AND INCOME**

The latest Barclays bank statement dated 29th August 2020 - 29th September 2020 shows a closing balance of £31,565.27. The total expenditure of LPC for this period was £2,535.75 and income received was £2,461.25.

**Update by parish clerk**

**Status ongoing**

**NEW PERFORMANCE DATE**

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 £1,264,00. The final profit for LPC was £464.00.

**LPC AUDITED ACCOUNTS**

The publication date for final, audited accounts for local councils moved from 30th September to 30th November 2020.

The required signed documentation concerning the audit of LPC was posted on the website and information concerning their availability for public scrutiny started 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) was displayed on the website and on the main village notice board. The Exemption Certificated has been emailed and acknowledged by the appointed accountants, PKF Littlejohn LLP.

**BUSINESS**

**NEW CEMETERY**

The boundary wall in the New Cemetery has been repaired and was funded by RCC’s Central Maintenance Fund. Listed Building Consent was not required due to the minor nature of the works and the Diocese had already confirmed their approval.

The repair team rebuilt the wall section and repointed all voids/joints to ensure there were no gaps.

**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 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. (Costs approximately £3.5k)

Adjacent to Windmill Way - narrow and deflect carriageway by extending kerb line. (Costs approx £8k)

At the northern end of Lyddington - install dragon teeth, red HFS and slow markings.(Costs approx 2.5k)

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 Mr Paul Slater, a highway engineer with RCC, 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 limit of 20 mph would require additional measures such as speed humps and a chicane that had not been selected by village residents.

Furthermore Mr Slater and County Councillor for Uppingham Lucy Stephenson, transport portfolio holder, were not in favour of the 20 mph speed restriction as they understood that limited resources meant that Leicestershire police would not be able 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 favourable response from the Police, Mr Slater will revise the proposed design for traffic calming measures for Lyddington.

County Councillor Andrew Brown has previously agreed to petition for a review of the report’s recommendations with the support of Cllr Lucy Stephenson.

**Update by Cllr Tony Fowell and Cllr Geoff Macfarlane**

**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. No response received yet from the Severn Trent team.

**No further update**

**Status ongoing**

**BROKEN VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGN (VAS)**

The village VAS on Gretton Road has now been repaired.

**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. The collection service is continuing and the next collection dates are 18th November and 16th December.

**Status ongoing**

**REDUCING ANTI-SOCIAL ACTIVITY**

LPC has liaised closely with local police, RCC officers and county councillors concerning the incidents of anti-social behaviour that have been occurring on the Lyddington Playing Field area, car park and Chapel Lane.

Stuart Crook, Highways Asset Management and Policy Manager, advises that a land registry search has been conducted and the lane is unregistered. RCC do not know who owns it, but this is not uncommon for old roads and public rights of way. As far as RCC is concerned, Chapel Lane is a public footpath that is maintained at the public expense (adopted).

Chairman Cllr Tony Fowell and parish clerk Fiona Buchanan attended a zoom meeting for free advice with Frances Webster, with Wellers Hedleys solicitors, who 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.

She suggested a public space protection order, but it is unlikely the situation in Lyddington would meet the criteria as the incidents are not of a regular occurrence.

Ms Webster suggested that the parish council, as managing trustee of the charity owning and managing the car park area, may wish to consider whether it can introduce alternative measures to limit use of the area for anti-social behaviour.

LPC has meet with a representative of Weston Power who has agreed to install a power supply by the side of the transformer, but LPC would have to pay for the waterproof installation cabinet. Cllr Geoff Macfarlane has been in contact with a company that quoted a price of £782.43 to build the cabinet as per the specification. The electricity supply would enable LPC to have the option of installing a light that is activated in the evenings as well considering a further option of CCTV.

An additional measure is to reduce the size of the carpark entrance and install retractable bollards which can be raised if there is a spate of anti-social behaviour in the car park.

The parish clerk has asked for advice from RCC concerning the required planning approvals and is waiting for a further response from RCC’s Development Manager Mr Justin Johnson. The parish clerk has asked a local contractor for a quote to change the entrance of the carpark.

**Update by Cllrs Tony Fowell, Geoff Macfarlane and parish clerk**

**Status ongoing**

**PARISH COUNCIL WORKING GROUP**

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.

The parish clerk sent a message of support requesting the continued inclusion of the Parish Council Forum in the consultation process. Changes on consultation processes had been introduced due to the pandemic restrictions.

The latest news is that RCC is reinstating the Parish Council Forum, but in a slightly different format. The Parish Forum will be the formal method of communication between RCC and the parishes to facilitate discussion on the implications of county council’s policies and activities for parishes.

Starting on Monday 16 November there will be monthly parish forums that start at 7pm on Zoom (details on accessing the meeting to follow):

Monday 16 November 2020 Monday 14th December 2020

Monday 18 January 2021 Monday 8th February 2021

Monday 15 March 2021 Monday 19th April 2021

To promote an equal voice across all parishes, RCC requests that each parish elect one representative to the forum (ideally a parish councillor). The November Forum will include the following items:

Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Clinical Commissioning Group Proposals to Transform Acute Hospitals and Maternity Services

Planning for the Future – White Paper

Urgent Business/Future Work Plan Items.

**Status ongoing**