**LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**HELD ON MONDAY, 11th JANUARY 2021 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 M.Fennemore

**CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:**

None

**PRELIMINARY MATTERS**

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

None

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

Cllr Barney Sturgess

**3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

None

**4. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

The minutes from the meeting held on Monday, 9th November 2020 were approved as a correct record and signed by the 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.

A Wicksteed safety expert carried out his inspection on November 5th and actions are being taken in light of the report’s recommendations, including a repair on one of the swamp net’s anchor ropes that was showing slight wear but the central metal core is intact.

The sandpit also requires attention as the covering lid is damaged and the surrounding grassy ground is pitted with small holes.

Cllr Dinah Hurwood explained that despite public information notices, some dog owners were taking their animals into the play area which is prohibited. One owner had groomed their animal near the equipment and had left clumps of discarded animal hair where children play.

**ACTIONS**

**Parish clerk to ask a local maintenance contractor to review the sandpit area.**

**Cllr Holly East to create and install further laminated information notices warning dog owners not to take their animals where children play.**

**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.

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Parish councillors discussed the ramifications of a Prior Approval Application (PAA) that had been submitted to RCC. A PAA is not bound by local and national planning policies, but the criteria and restrictions of the General Permitted Development Order.

There was concern expressed that an approval for one new dwelling would open the door to further developments on the site.

**ACTION**

**Parish clerk to seek further information from the planning department at RCC.**

**7. FINANCE**

**a) Budget planning for 2021-2022**

When all the outstanding expenditure had been taken into account the current LPC balance is £19,849; after the ring-fenced amount of £5,750 from the Mary Parnham Trust and £464 for the 2021 payment to The Three Inch Fools has been removed.

Income for 2020-2021 (up to January 2021) was £20,838, including the one-off payment of £10,000 from the Covid-19 discretionary support grant. The year’s precept figure was £9,000. The estimated expenditure for the financial year ending March 2021 is £10,859.

Expenditure 2021-2022

The figure for the estimated general expenditure for 2021-2022 is £10,643 which includes a 2% increase where applicable. The estimated sum for future one-off new projects is £11,000; giving an anticipated expenditure total of £21,643 if approved.

Income 2021-2022

Expected income for 2021-2022 is £9,959 if LPC requests a precept of £8,500. The reduced precept figure reflects that the parish council received £10,000 from the Covid-19 discretionary support fund. Using the estimated 2021-2022 income and expenditure figures gives an anticipated end of year bank balance in March 2022 of £8,165 which includes payment for three proposed projects of new kerb stones to protect grass verges; a new light, CCTV platform and retractable bollards in the playing field carpark and rainwater collection butts for the allotments. (Ring-fenced funds not included in anticipated end of year balance.)

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The parish council approved the draft 2021-2022 budget; agreed to request a precept figure of £8,500 and to further research the costs of the three proposed new projects.

**ACTIONS**

**Chair of LPC, Cllr Tony Fowell, to contact the Highways Authority to discuss appropriate kerb stones that would be suitable for Lyddington and the works involved concerning traffic flow during the installation.**

**Parish clerk to send in the precept request to RCC’s finance department.**

**b) Staff salary**

The parish clerk submitted an invoice for £418.32 for the period commencing 9th November 2020 - 10th January 2021 plus an expenses’ claim of £33.35.

**BUSINESS**

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

**a) 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 painted dragon teeth, red HFS and slow markings.

LPC’s working group has 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.

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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. He is waiting for the officer with responsibility for road safety issues in Rutland to visit Lyddington. The officer has only recently returned to work after a period of recuperation. If he receives a positive response from the Police, Mr Slater will revise the proposed design for traffic calming measures for Lyddington.

Members of LPC felt the situation had been delayed too long and urgent action was required.

**ACTIONS**

**Parish clerk to ask Mr Slater if there is another officer in Leicestershire/Rutland Police that can be contacted to move forward the proposed actions to reduce speeding traffic in the village.**

**Parish clerk to request from Leicestershire Police that they run a speed monitoring exercise in the village as they are conducting this activity around Rutland.**

**b) Water supply to the allotments**

A suggestion was received from a parishioner for LPC to provide a water supply to the allotments. LPC is still 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. A further option is to install rainwater collection butts; the likely cost is included in the approved 2021-2022 LPC budget.

**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.

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LPC has met with a representative of Western Power who has agreed to install a power supply by the side of the transformer; the parish council would only have to pay for the waterproof installation cabinet and a lamp post light. The electricity supply would enable LPC to also request a temporary CCTV camera from RCC to be installed as a deterrent if there were further incidents of anti social behaviour.

An additional measure being discussed is to have the option of temporarily closing the carpark to reduce anti social behaviour. Retractable bollards could be raised and lowered when required. No planning permission is necessary but a notice would need to be displayed.

Final discussions are now taking place between Deputy Chair, Cllr Geoff Macfarlane, and Cllr Tony Fowell with representatives from Western Power and RCC as well as recommended installation contractors.

**ACTION**

**Cllr Geoff Macfarlane and Cllr Tony Fowell to report back to LPC on the final proposed design and costs.**

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

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

Parish clerk explained that RCC had declined to install ground floor lights on the steps and suggested painting a white line on each step to aid visibility in the dark.

**b) Undergrounding Project**

LPC agreed the work had gone well and the transformer had been successfully moved to a less obvious point in the village, behind the trees at the north end of Lyddington.

**ACTION**

**Parish clerk to contact the Western Power representatives to express the parish council’s thanks for their help in concluding the Undergrounding Project and the installation of the power source.**

**c) Flooding problems**

There have been a number of flooding issues in Lyddington during the recent heavy rains. The parish clerk explained that a drainage contractor appointed by RCC was due to visit the village the week commencing 11th January.

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The purpose of the visit was to clean the storm drains, jet the drainage system adjacent to no.28 and 26 and investigate any blockages found.

**ACTIONS**

**Parish clerk to thank County Councillor Andrew Brown for his assistance during the wet weather and to request that RCC keeps the parish council fully informed of any future drainage/ flooding issues affecting Lyddington**.

**d) Parish Council Forum representation**

Cllr Dinah Hurwood, Lyddington’s representative on the Parish Council Forum, said that there had been a recent presentation to forum members concerning the establishment of an expanded Rutland police section at Melton.

**ACTION**

**Parish clerk to approach PC Peter Icke to find out if there has been an operational re-organisation of Leicestershire Police in regard to Rutland.**

**e) Lyddington Village Fete**

LPC approved the date of Saturday, 15th May for the 2021 Village Fete.

The meeting ended at 8.50 pm.

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

The date of the next virtual parish council meeting will be Monday, 8th March 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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