**LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the 2020 Annual Parish Meeting**

**scheduled for Monday, 30 March 2020**

**the Village Hall, Main Street, Lyddington**

**L01-20 | THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND POLICE AND CRIME PANELS (CORONAVIRUS) (FLEXIBILITY OF LOCAL AUTHORITY AND POLICE AND CRIME PANEL MEETINGS) (ENGLAND AND WALES) REGULATIONS 2020**

**INTRODUCTION**

The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 (“the 2020 Regulations”) come in to force on 4 April. Broadly speaking, the 2020 Regulations enable local councils to hold remote meetings (including by video and telephone conferencing) for a specified period until May next year. They also remove the requirement to hold an annual meeting. The 2020 Regulations apply to local council meetings, committee and sub-committee meetings in England. Separate legislation is anticipated for Wales.

**STATEMENT BY THE CHAIR, CLLR LIBBY HOBLEY**

Lyddington Parish Council (LPC) was scheduled to hold its Annual Parish Meeting on March 30th due to the personal commitments of several members of LPC. The restrictions on meetings due to the COVID-19 pandemic meant that suggestions already received from members of the public were shared with parish councillors and their observations were collected remotely. Their views were assimilated into the document that will be shared on the village noticeboards and the Lyddington website. During the restrictions, village residents are encouraged to email their views to the parish clerk which will be taken into account by the parish councillors. There will also be opportunities to contribute remotely in the first part of meetings, which is set aside for contributions from the public.

**CURRENT PARISH COUNCILLORS**

Cllr L.Hobley (Chair)

Cllr T.Fowell (Deputy Chair) Cllr D.Hurwood

Cllr H.East Cllr G.Macfarlane

Cllr M.Fennemore Cllr B.Sturgess

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**1. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 17TH APRIL 2019**

Cllr Tony Fowell highlighted that the minutes had previously been published on the website and displayed on the noticeboards. No points were subsequently raised and the minutesof the 2019 Annual Parish Meeting were approved as a correct record by the Chair.

**2. MATTERS ARISING**

All matters arising would be dealt with as part of the overall agenda.

**3. SUMMARY AND FINANCIAL REPORT 2019/2020**

The Summary and Financial Report 2019/2020 were displayed on the village notice boards and on the Parish Council website [www.lyddingtonpc.org.uk](http://www.lyddingtonpc.org.uk).

**4. BRIEF SUMMARY OF MAIN POINTS**

**MEETINGS**

It was noted that 6 meetings are held through the year plus the Annual Parish Meeting. Meeting agendas and a summary of the minutes are displayed on the village notice boards. The full minutes and agendas are available on the website.

**CHAIRMAN, COUNCILLORS AND CLERK**

LPC is made up of seven parish councillors who elect the Chair and Deputy Chair. Cllr Libby Hobley is the current Chair and Cllr Tony Fowell is the Deputy Chair. The five other parish councillors are Holly East, Martin Fennemore (co-opted on to LPC in November 2019), Dinah Hurwood, Geoff Macfarlane and Barney Sturgess.

**WEBSITE (**[**www.lyddingtonpc.org.uk**](http://www.lyddingtonpc.org.uk)**)**

The parish council website features up to date details on the work of LPC. Information and questions can be sent to the parish clerk through the website’s contact page for discussion and consideration by the parish councillors.

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**PLAYING FIELD AND PLAY PARK**

Monthly safety inspections of the play equipment are carried out by a trained member of LPC and the parish council also commission an annual survey by an equipment inspection engineer.

Parish councillors have also agreed that an additional operational survey should be carried out six months prior to the annual inspection in the autumn.

**LYDDINGTON TENNIS**

Lyddington Tennis operate the tennis court on the playing field on behalf of the Parish Council. Cllr Barney Sturgess is the LPC representative on the Lyddington Tennis Committee. Members of Lyddington Tennis book court sessions through LPC’s website.

**GROUNDS MAINTENANCE AND THE VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT**

RCC continue to cut the verges in Lyddington and the parish council manages the ground maintenance around the village including the New Cemetery, The Green, the bench sites on Stoke Road and Thorpe Road, the playing field, allotments and children’s play area.

**THE CEMETERY**

Cemetery fees were again reviewed in 2019 to bring them in line with Uppingham’s burial fees. The current schedule is available on the website.

**ALLOTMENTS**

There are12 allotment plots that are rented on an annual basis. Fees have been held at £15 per plot for the 2020 growing season. All plots are occupied and there are no names on the waiting list.

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Thirty-seven planning and tree applications were considered (19 buildings, including 11 listed building consents, and 18 tree applications) during the year by the parish council. Thirty-five of the 37 applications were supported by both LPC and subsequently by RCC’s planning department. An appeal has been lodged against the refusal of planning permission for sub-division of site into two separate buildings at 15 Main Street, Lyddington.

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**STREET LIGHTING AND HIGHWAYS**

The street lighting in the village is now managed by RCC and the annual community street lighting charge for 2019/20 was £335.72. There is progress concerning the project to underground the electricity cables at the north end of the village. Western Power Distribution (WDP) is now in the final stage of the project.

After all the consent agreements have been signed, WPD will be able to announce the start date. Parishioners will be kept informed of the future work schedule, its timing and possible short-term traffic disruption.

**FINANCE**

Each year, the parish council prepares a budget for its estimated expenditure for the forthcoming financial year, commencing 1st April. This budget sets the amount to be requested from RCC - the “precept”. The precept is raised by RCC through the council tax and is shown on each individual council tax bill issued usually in March. The precept for the 2019/20 year was £8,500, but LPC asked for an increase and was awarded a precept of £9,000 for 2020/21 to enable the parish council to make planned improvements on the playing field, including a new boundary fence and to seek a small plot of land for additional cemetery space. A full financial report will be available later in the year.

**5.** **LYDDINGTON CEMETERY**

LPC is still looking to purchase a small area of land within the boundaries of Lyddington that would become an extension to the current New Cemetery. There are burial and cremation places still available, but the parish councillors wish to make provision now rather than leaving the issue for a future council to find an appropriate solution for the village.

The piece of land would have to be 30 metres away from a water course and LPC would need to apply for planning permission for its change of use.

**6. LAUNCH OF VILLAGE SURVEY ON TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES**

LPC conducted a survey of parishioners on a range of traffic calmingmeasures and the two most popular options were to reduce the current 30 mph speed limit to 20 mph and reduce the existing speed indicator displays/ vehicle activated signs currently set at 30mph to 20 mph. A total of 121 parishioners gave their views and a few residents emailed their comments without giving a score.

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RCC conducted a traffic feasibility study in the village and their report was due to be presented to RCC’s Highways and Transport Working Group (HTWG) in March 2020. Parish councillors have shared their views with County Councillor Andrew Brown to inform the debate and recommendations, but selected meetings have been postponed due to the current Covid-19 crisis.

**7. NEW KERB STONES TO PROTECT GRASS VERGES ON MAIN STREET**

Parish councillors considered a range of materials available for road kerbing to ensure that any new additions are in keeping with the current village kerb stones. Parts of the verge running along the northern part of Main Street are being steadily eroded. LPC agreed to wait until RCC announce their decision concerning traffic calming measures for Lyddington in case they may affect the village’s Main Street.

**8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

 **COMMEMORATIVE TREES**

Midland Hawthorne trees have been planted at the north and south entrances to the village to mark the WWI Commemorations. An accompanying plaque says ‘Planted by Lyddington Parish Council to commemorate the centenary of the end of the First World War (1918 - 2018)’.

The received suggestions from parishioners will be considered and reported back at the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

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**Cllr Libby Hobley**

**Chair, Lyddington Parish Council Date**

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