**LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**SUMMARY REPORT (INCLUDING FINANCES) FOR THE YEAR:**

**1 APRIL 2020 TO 31 MARCH 2021**

**1. CHAIRMAN, COUNCILLORS AND CLERK**

Lyddington Parish Council (LPC) is made up of seven parish councillors who elect the Chair and Deputy Chair. Fiona Buchanan acts as the Parish Clerk. Cllr Tony Fowell is the current Chair and Cllr Geoff Macfarlane is the Deputy Chair. The four other Parish Councillors are Holly East, Libby Hobley, Dinah Hurwood and Barney Sturgess.

There is currently a vacancy as Parish Councillor Martin Fennemore has resigned.

County Councillor Andrew Brown, independent, represents Lyddington.

**2. PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Due to lockdown restrictions parish council meetings have been staged on Zoom, an internet online platform. 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. The dates of future meetings are also displayed on the notice boards and website. Members of the parish are welcome to join the Zoom meetings to ask questions and raise issues before the main business commences.

**3. 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 via email or through the website’s contact page for discussion and consideration at the next LPC meeting.

**4. PLAYING FIELD AND PLAY PARK**

The play park remains popular with the children of the village, as well as attracting families from further afield, when it is allowed to be open. Monthly safety inspections of the play equipment are carried out by a trained member of LPC and the parish council has also commissioned additional operational checks and an annual inspection by an equipment inspection engineer.

There has been a number of late night incidents involving anti social behaviour in the Chapel Lane carpark. LPC, guided by Deputy Chair Cllr Geoff Macfarlane, has liaised closely with local police, Rutland County Council (RCC) officers and county councillors concerning the spate of incidents. Chapel Lane is an adopted public footpath that is maintained at public expense.

Western Power Distribution has agreed to install - at no charge - a power connection facility to enable LPC to erect a lamp post light in the carpark with a platform that would carry a CCTV camera, provided and managed by RCC, when required.

**5. 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 now book court sessions through LPC’s website.

The tennis court has been closed for periods in the last year due to Government advice.

**6. 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 areas. Spendlove Contracting was awarded the grounds maintenance contract again for the 2021 season with a requirement that there is a minimum of 13 cuts throughout the growing season. A new fence around the enclosed children’s play area has been erected and broken play equipment replaced.

Parish councillors have agreed to commission a tree survey on the major trees in the village to ensure their longevity and continued growth.

**7. SURVEY ON TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES**

RCC conducted a traffic feasibility study in the village. Parish councillors have shared their views with County Councillor Andrew Brown to inform the debate and recommendations.

Although parish councillors campaigned for the 20 mph limit, the recommended actions are:

* 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,
* 40 mph buffer zones to be sited before entering the 30 mph zones on the main entrances to the village.

The parish council is still committed to campaigning for the introduction of 20 mph in the village if the above measures are not effective at reducing the number of drivers breaking the current speed limit of 30 mph.

LPC has also requested that Leicestershire Police conduct speed monitoring exercises in the village.

RCC is expected to announcement a start date in their 2021 programme of works.

**8. NEW KERBING**

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. Now lockdown restrictions are easing, LPC can look at suitable kerbs to install with the most affected areas taking priority.

**9. THE CEMETERY**

Cemetery fees were not increased during 2020-2021 in recognition of the difficult times being experienced by families due to the pandemic. The current schedule is available on the website.

**10. ALLOTMENTS**

There are 12 allotment plots that are rented on an annual basis. Fees remained at £15 per plot for the 2020-2021 growing season. There are no current plots available for rent. LPC has agreed to install a number of free-standing water butts to help gardeners during any dry spells in the summer.

**11. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Forty-seven planning and tree applications were considered (13 buildings, including 5 listed building consents, and 29 tree applications) during the year by the parish council. The majority of applications were supported by both LPC and subsequently by RCC’s planning department.

RCC refused planning permission for an application to widen an existing vehicular gateway on Main Street through an existing boundary wall and enlargement of a verge crossover. This refusal has resulted in an appeal by the homeowners.

**12. STREET LIGHTING AND HIGHWAYS**

The street lighting in the village is now managed by RCC and the annual community street lighting recharge for 2020/21 was £381.56. The project to underground the electricity cables at the north end of the village has been completed by Western Power Distribution.

**13. 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 2020/21 year was £9,000 to carry out planned improvements.

Further sources of income are cemetery fees and annual allotment payments. Expenditure comprises of grounds maintenance, street lighting, insurance, clerk’s salary and administration costs, general maintenance of facilities, audit fees, and any other item budgeted for and approved by the parish council. This year LPC received a one-off payment of £10,000 from the COVID-19 discretionary support fund. Further major sources of income and expenditure for the financial year 2020/21 are set out below.

**Please note that this is not a balance sheet.** The full accounts for the year will shortly be prepared for submission to the external auditor. The accounts will be posted on the parish council website and any member of the parish who wishes to view the full accounts may do so by appointment with the parish clerk. Figures are shown excluding VAT, which will be reclaimed.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Income** |  |  |  | **Expenditure** |  |  |
| Precept |  | £9,000.00 |  | Grounds Maintenance |  | £2,768.88 |
| Covid-19 support |  | £10,000.00 |  | General village maintenance |  | £1,694.24 |
| Cemetery Fees |  | £895.00 |  | Street Lighting |  | £381.56 |
| Shares Dividend |  | £1.27 |  | Salary |  | £2,708.79 |
| Wayleave (electricity) |  | £32.54 |  | Including/admin/audit |  |  |
| Allotments |  | £180.00 |  | Play Park Inspections |  | £210.00 |
| Performance on The Green |  | £675.00 |  | Play park/equipment repairs |  | £704.45 |
| From HMRC |  |  |  | Insurance |  | £970.79 |
| (VAT reclaim period late payment 2016/17- £733.25 and £885.26 - 2019/20) |  | £1,618.51 |  | Website (including email/hosting) |  | £230.00 |
| VAT to be reclaimed 2020/21. |  | £982.91 |  | Membership fees |  | £188.03 |
|  |  |  |  | Heartsafe AED locator  No payment requested |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | Miscellaneous costs |  | £1,345.04 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Total** |  | **£23,385.23** |  | **Total** |  | **£11,201.78** |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Funds as of 30 March 2021** | | **£** |  | **Funds as of 30 March 2020** | | **£** |
| Represented by Bank Account | | £25,910.64 |  | Represented by Bank Account | | £17,687.45 |
| Investments (223 x 41.8p) |  | £93.21 |  | Investments |  | £78.05 |
|  |  | **£26,003.85** |  |  |  | **£17,765.50** |
| This figure includes the £5,750 from the Mary Parnham Trust that is ring fenced for educational activities. |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Fiona Buchanan** Parish Clerk, on behalf of Lyddington Parish Council – March 2021