**LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

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

**1 APRIL 2021 TO 31 MARCH 2022**

**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. During the past year the five other parish councillors were Holly East, Libby Hobley, Dinah Hurwood, Barney Sturgess and more recently James Robinson.

Cllr Libby Hobley resigned at the March meeting after many years of service beginning as parish clerk before becoming a parish councillor and then several terms as Chair of LPC.

County Councillor Andrew Brown, independent, represents Lyddington.

**2. PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS**

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 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, particularly when there was a limited number of facilities open for children due to Covid restrictions. Monthly safety inspections of the play equipment are carried out by a trained member of LPC and the parish council also arrange for additional operational checks and an annual inspection by an equipment inspection engineer.

LPC commissioned a series of extensive repairs to the play equipment and paid for the construction of a new sandpit as the old model was no longer fit for purpose.

Due to a series of late night anti-social incidents in the playing field carpark, LPC agreed to finance the installation of a lamp post light in the carpark with a platform that would carry a CCTV camera, provided and managed by Rutland County Council (RCC), when required. The power connection facility was installed for free by Western Power Distribution.

A new fence was erected next to the small children’s play area to create an enclosed wildlife area for insects and wild flowers. The fence was installed as, unfortunately, this area had been repeatedly used as a toilet by some young families. It was hoped the new fence will curtail further incidents and elevate nearby residents’ concerns.

New signage has been installed around the playing field and the fence around the carpark has been renovated.

**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.

**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. The grounds maintenance contractor undertakes a minimum of 13 cuts throughout the growing season.

The contactors have recently explained that there has been a 21% increase in the price of the diesel fuel over the last 12 months, and due to a rise in the minimum wage, their labour costs have risen by 7%. Some of the costs they are trying to absorb, but this year’s quote has increased by 4%. The price for the 2022 season will be £2,965.66 plus VAT. The cost of grass cutting and spraying of weeds in 2021 totalled £3,421.92.

In 2021 the old swings on The Green were removed as the structure had rotted and was in danger of collapse.

Parish councillors commissioned a tree survey and paid for the recommended actions on the major trees in the village to ensure their longevity, continued growth and safety of pedestrians.

The vehicle activated sign at the north end of the village had to be repaired, unfortunately it has been damaged again in 2022 by a falling tree. The parish council has sent the details of the incident to their insurers.

**7. TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES**

The work has been completed which included new painted slow signs on the main road running through the village; improved High Friction Surfaces and 40 mph buffer zones just before the entering the village and encountering the 30 mph limits.

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.

**8. THE CEMETERY**

Regular grass cutting takes place around the graves and fallen leaves are cleared away. The current schedule of fees is available on the website.

**9. ALLOTMENTS**

There are 12 allotment plots that are rented on an annual basis. Fees remained at £15 per plot for the 2021-2022 growing season. There are no current plots available for rent. The parish council installed a series of large water butts with bases in the allotments.

**10. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Forty-two planning and tree applications were considered (17 building proposals, including 7 listed building consents, and 25 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.

**11. STREET LIGHTING AND HIGHWAYS**

The street lighting in the village is now managed by RCC and the annual community street lighting recharge for 2021-22 was £363.52.

**12. 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 2021-22 year was £8,500.

**Increase in Precept Figure**

LPC requested an increase of £2,000 to £10,500 for the next financial year of 2022-2023. The parish council asked for an increase because the cost of new projects and increasing maintenance costs during 2021-2022 had depleted its cash reserves and it has made a commitment to help fund the installation of new kerb stones in the village. The kerb stones will protect the grass verges that are most at risk of being eroded. LPC has liaised with RCC who advised parish councillors to set aside £5,000 during the next financial period as its estimated contribution towards the scheme.

Further sources of income for LPC 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 including play equipment, audit fees, and any other item budgeted for and approved by the parish council.

**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 |  | £8,500.00 |  | Play park maintenance |  | £5,653.61 |
| Cemetery Fees |  | £290.00 |  | General village maintenance |  | £6,860.60 |
| Shares Dividend |  | £2.76 |  | Street Lighting |  | £363.52 |
| Wayleave (electricity) |  | £6.90 |  | Salary |  | £2,712.46 |
| Allotments |  | £180.00 |  | Including/admin/audit |  |  |
| 3 Inch Fools Performances |  | £1,267.90 |  | Play Park Inspections |  | £210.00 |
| VAT reclaimed |  |  |  | Play park/equipment repairs |  | £4,411.70 |
| From HMRC –  Still waiting for  Payment of £946.20 |  | *£946.20* |  | Insurance |  | £998.41 |
|  |  |  |  | Website (including email/hosting) |  | £250.00 |
| VAT to be reclaimed 2021/22. |  | *£2,635.81* |  | Membership fees |  | £309.79 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | Miscellaneous costs |  | £117.80 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Total** |  | **£13,829.57** |  | **Total** |  | **£21,887.89** |

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| **Funds as of 30 March 2022** | | **£** |  | **Funds as of 30 March 2021** | | **£** |
| Represented by Bank Account | | £10,808.65 |  | Represented by Bank Account | | £25,910.64 |
| Investments (223 x 41.8p) |  | £110.14 |  | Investments |  | £93.21 |
|  |  | **£10,918.79** |  |  |  | **£26,003.85** |
| This figure includes £3,522.20 from the Mary Parnham Trust that is ring fenced for educational / developmental activities. |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Fiona Buchanan** Parish Clerk, on behalf of Lyddington Parish Council – March 2022