**LYDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**HELD ON MONDAY, 16th MAY 2022 AT 7.30 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

If village parishioners do not wish to attend a meeting, comments and questions can be emailed to the parish clerk for consideration by Lyddington Parish Council (LPC).

**COUNCILLORS TAKING PART:**

Cllr Tony Fowell (Acting Chair)

Cllr Holly East

Cllr Dinah Hurwood

Cllr James Robinson

Cllr Barney Sturgess

**CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:**

Ms Tina Elliott and Stephane Palluault.

**PRELIMINARY MATTERS**

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

The generated proceeds from the recent village fete were expected to be around £6,000.

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

None.

**3. Election of the Lyddington Parish Council Chair for 2022/2023**

Cllr Tony Fowell was elected but agreed to only continue in a temporary capacity as Acting Chair. He declared his intention to resign as a parish councillor in the summer.

Fellow councillors thanked Tony for all his hard work and dedication to the role. The position of Deputy Chair remains vacant. Mr Geoff Macfarlane has resigned from the parish council.

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**4. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

None

**5. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

The minutes from the meeting held on Monday, 14th March 2022 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Acting Chair, Cllr Tony Fowell.

The minutes had been previously circulated to members who had raised no objections.

**REGULAR REPORTS**

**6. LYDDINGTON PLAYING FIELD AND PARK**

**a) Play equipment repairs**

Wicksteed Leisure has completed a repair to a swing in the double swing bay. Cllr Dinah Hurwood highlighted that in area 3 (the enclosed play area) the turnstile needs oiling as it squeaks when rotated. Several swing seats were starting to look old and worn but were still safe and operational. The seats may need replacing in the near future.

**ACTION**

**Parish clerk to ask LPC’s local maintenance contractor to undertake the task of oiling the play equipment.**

**b) Lyddington Tennis**

Cllr Barney Sturgess reported that Lyddington Tennis is planning to repaint the tennis court in the coming week – weather permitting.

**c) New tree to mark platinum jubilee**

Sanderson Tree Care has placed an order for an Oak tree sapling to be planted on the Playing Field. The tree planting will take place in the autumn.

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**7. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

The parish clerk had compiled a list of recent Rutland County Council (RCC) decisions and planning applications.

Parish councillors highlighted that one proposal involved the removal of up to 47 trees which contribute to the character of the conservation area.

**ACTION**

**Parish Clerk to inform the planning department of LPC’s objection and concerns.**

**8. FINANCE**

**a) LPC’s financial summary**

Retired accountant Peter Hems is currently undertaking an audit of the LPC’s accounts. The annual spend for 2021-2022 was £22,025 and the income was £10,659, which included a precept figure of £8,500.

The current balance at the end of April 2022 is £20,802, which includes the precept figure of £10,500 for 2022-2023.

There are several cheques outstanding that amount to £2,218, which includes our annual insurance payment of £1,279 and the payment for the Wybone bench of £627.58.

Once the outstanding cheques have been cleared, the balance will be £18,584, this figure includes £3,522.20, the amount remaining of the Mary Parnham Trust which is ring-fenced for activities that benefit local children.

The parish clerk is also disputing a payment of £275.52 made to npower for street lighting, which has since proved incorrect.

**b) Staff salary**

The parish clerk submitted a salary invoice for £448.20 for the period covering 14th March – 135h May 2022 plus a claim for expenses of £18.96, which covers monthly payments for the Microsoft office package.

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**BUSINESS**

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

**a) New kerb stones**

RCC has agreed to source new kerb stones for the village, with a financial contribution from LPC.

The parish council agreed that its priority for 2022-2023 would be to install appropriate kerbs and to plan the work in affordable stages. Acting Chair, Cllr Tony Fowell is awaiting an update from RCC, which he will share with LPC.

**b) Outstanding actions to control speeding traffic**

Cllr Dinah Hurwood had highlighted that there were still some outstanding actions concerning the road safety programme that should have been completed by the end of December 2021.

The outstanding actions were:

- introduction of painted ‘dragon teeth’ on the approach to the 30mph zone at the northern end of Lyddington

- refresh the High Friction Surface at the southern end of the village.

The parish clerk explained that a Highways Engineer at RCC said that the introduction of the 40 mph buffer zones had superseded all the other outstanding recommendations.

The works completed by Tarmac at the end of November 2021 were actions ordered by the Integrated Transport Feasibility Study Report (ITCP 2019-23). RCC has completed the improvement intended and so would not instruct further work at this time.

Parish clerk informed County Councillor Andrew Brown of the situation, who contacted RCC’s portfolio holder for Planning, Highways and Transport, Cllr Razzell. Cllr Razzell said that he would ask council officers to look into the history of the case.

Cllr Dinah Hurwood explained that Cllr Razzell had recently stepped down and LPC’s enquiry remained unresolved.

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**ACTION**

**Parish clerk to raise again with Cllr Andrew Brown to pose the question with the new portfolio holder.**

**OTHER MATTERS**

**10. CLERK’S ITEMS**

**a) Broken Vehicle Activated Sign**

Parish clerk reported that LPC’s insurers had agreed to pay for the initial site visit by an engineer from Unipart Dorman to assess the damage and prepare a report.

The Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) was damaged during Storm Eunice (18.02.2022) when a falling tree crashed into the sign at the north end of the village.

Unipart Dorman asked for a fee of £495 to visit the site and make a report and has indicated that the replacement parts could include a new GRP Enclosure - £608.00 and a new LED Display - £949.00.

**b) Celebrating the Platinum Jubilee**

The parish council agreed to finance celebratory mugs to mark the platinum jubilee for children living in Lyddington. The funds will be taken from the Mary Parnham Trust and will display the name - The Mary Parnham Trust of Lyddington and include an age appropriate quiz on the reign of HM The Queen.

St Andrew’s Church and the Village Hall Trustees will also donate money from their portions of the Mary Parnham Trust.

**c) Recruitment**

Parish clerk explained that she had spoken to a local resident who had applied to become a parish councillor. He is very active in village events and wanted to become more involved in helping his local community.

**ACTION**

**Parish clerk to inform the Electoral Services Team at RCC to initiate the appropriate procedure.**

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

**a) Three Inch Fools**

The confirmed dates for the 2022 performances are June 10th, Twelfth Night, and September 9th, which will feature the Gunpower Plot. Cllr Barney Sturgess said that sales were going well, but was planning to promote the event on social media and place promotional posters in Lyddington and Uppingham.

The meeting ended at 8.15pm.

**12. DATE OF THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

The date of the next parish council meeting is Monday, 18th July 2022 at 7.30pm.

Parish clerk is Fiona Buchanan (T 01572 821636 and 07711 160685)

Email: Parishclerk@lyddingtonpc.org.uk

Acting Chair ……………………………………………………………………..

Date …………………………………………………………………….

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