

## Lyddington Parish Events 1894-1994.

Peter Tomalin

This is a selection of the more interesting events recorded in the minutes of the Lyddington Parish Council in the period 1894-1994.

### General.

The minutes cover the annual meeting of the residents of the village, (the Parish Meeting), as well as the meetings of the Parish Council.

Until 1946 the parish councillors were elected at the Parish Meeting but after that date the election was administered by the County Council. At the same meeting the parish meadows were let, until they were sold in 1993, and other matters of parish interest were considered.

At the annual meeting of the Parish Council the Chairman, Vice-chairman, and Clerk were elected in addition to other officials such as the overseers of the poor (until 1926), a representative on the Lyddington School board (1904-1967), a representative on the Uppingham School board (1920-1967), and trustees of the local charities.

### Summary.

From the start the Council was very concerned about the condition of paths, stiles, footbridges, the fencing of the meadows, the problem of surface water on the roads, and the dumping of rubbish on verges, and there are frequent references to action being taken on these matters.

Other questions were raised from time to time without being resolved immediately. The need for a playing field was brought up as long ago as 1895, was raised again in 1935, became closer in 1966 and was finally dealt with in 1983. It was agreed in 1938 that a parish burial ground was required but progress was held up because of wartime restrictions, and the new cemetery was not consecrated until 1959. The Rev Danby offered the Reading Room to the parish in 1911 but no action was taken. He offered it again in 1925 and this time the Council accepted it. It remained with the Council until it was sold in 1980.

From 1897 the Council paid a fee to the Uppingham District Council for the right to call out their fire brigade. The fee was £1 per annum from 1897-1908 and £1.50 from 1908-1941, the year when the National Fire Service was set up.

The supply of water to the village was discussed in 1934 and again in 1938. The early suggestion was that three or four public taps would be sufficient. The Parish Meeting voted against improvements in the supply and so no action was taken. The minutes do not indicate when a general supply was provided.

Electricity was brought to the village in 1934. Street lighting was requested in 1945 but due to difficulty in getting permission from the Ministry of Transport it was not installed until 1949. The telephone box was provided in 1946.

The bus shelter was erected as a 1951 Festival Year memorial. There was much concern over the years about the poor condition of the shelter and about

'improper use', leading to a vote in 1975 as to whether it should be retained. The vote went in favour of retention.

The village hall, originally the old school, was purchased by the Council in 1977. Undergrounding of cables in the centre of the village was completed in 1991.

### **Selected Events.**

4<sup>th</sup> December 1894: A meeting was held in the schoolroom to receive nominations for the first Parish Council. The Rev James Baynard was elected chairman of the meeting but when he himself was nominated he vacated the chair and this was taken by Mr Wilson Barnes. Twenty six parishioners were nominated for the seven members of the Council.

1st January 1895: The first meeting of the Council was held. The elected councillors were John Marvin, Joseph Muggleton, George Brown, John Middleton, Alfred Manton, Charles Frisby, and Thomas Wright. John Marvin was elected Chairman. Mr William Goodwin was elected Clerk to the Council. It was agreed that 'reporters to the Press be admitted to all meetings but not the Public'.

11<sup>th</sup> March 1895: The sum of one shilling to be paid for the fire and lighting in the schoolroom at each meeting.

29<sup>th</sup> July 1895: A number of applications for allotments had been received and it was agreed to ask Rev G Packer whether 10 acres of Parson's farm could be let to the Council for this purpose. It was also proposed that application should be made to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for the use of a field called Kilcraft as a recreation ground

28<sup>th</sup> October 1885: The reply from Rev Packer concerning the land for the allotments was not sufficiently definite and he would be approached for more information. The Ecclesiastical Commissioners had provided their conditions for letting Kilcraft and offered an area of Islip's Close at a lower rent. No action was taken by the Council.

25 November 1895: The conditions laid down by Rev Packer were not acceptable and it was agreed to write to Mr Monckton asking if he could let to the Council about 10 acres of land for allotments.

5<sup>th</sup> April 1897: A house to house collection to be made in aid of the Indian Famine Fund.

A petition was to be sent to the LNW Railway regarding a siding at the Lyddington level crossing.

17<sup>th</sup> April 1899: Two councillors were appointed to sit on a joint committee to be formed for the purpose of making arrangements with the Uppingham Parish Council for the use of their fire engine, firemen, and appliances in case of fire.

14<sup>th</sup> May 1906: A claim amounting to £13.15.6d was received from Uppingham Parish Council for the attendance of the Fire Brigade.

5<sup>th</sup> October 1908: The Head Postmaster at Uppingham had asked for agreement that the hours of the sub-office in Lyddington should be changed from 7am - 8pm to 7.20 am - 6.40 pm. In reply the Council asked that the hours should be 7am - 7pm, and 9am - 10am on Sunday mornings instead of 8am - 9am as present.

12<sup>th</sup> December 1910: At a Parish Meeting a proposal to light the village streets was rejected. Only 13 out of 44 electors present voted for the proposal. A poll was called for.

27<sup>th</sup> March 1911: The result of the poll concerning lighting of the village streets was 14 for and 70 against.

17<sup>th</sup> April 1911: Revd C E Danby had written saying he wished to give the reading room to the parish for secular purposes. The Clerk to look into the matter. [see 15<sup>th</sup> August 1925].

17<sup>th</sup> March 1913: Following a report in the papers about the impurity of water from the parish pump a committee was appointed to collect subscriptions for an independent analysis of the water.

24<sup>th</sup> March 1913: A Mr Dolphin reported that water from the parish well had been analysed by Dr C Rolleston and found to be unfit for drinking purposes.

9<sup>th</sup> June 1913: The Council had received a letter from the Local Government Board on the subject of scavenging. The Council replied that it was against the substitution of pail closets for what was then in use. The present system, [not described], was not considered to be injurious to the health of the parishioners.

16<sup>th</sup> January 1917: The Agricultural Organiser for Rutland had sent a circular regarding the distribution of seed potatoes. The council decided to order 13 cwts.

17<sup>th</sup> March 1919: The County Council had requested the Parish Council to appoint a person to warrant for the payment of a bounty for the killing of rats. Mr J E Marvin was appointed. He would receive rats at his yard, late in the occupation of Mr William Middleton.

28<sup>th</sup> April 1919: A public meeting was held to discuss a war memorial for the village. The suggestions included a brass tablet in the church, a wheel bier, an oak tablet, a recreation ground. The majority voted for tablet and a committee of four gentlemen and three ladies was appointed.

16<sup>th</sup> March 1925: The Council passed a resolution thanking N W Smith-Carington MP for his efforts in securing to the electors the charities of the parish.

2<sup>nd</sup> May 1925: It was proposed that vehicular traffic be required to keep to the metalled road when crossing the village green and that the Constable be requested to caution any offenders.

5<sup>th</sup> August 1925: The Revd C E Danby wished to give the Reading Room to the village. A councillor was asked to enquire about conditions. [see 17<sup>th</sup> April 1911].

12<sup>th</sup> November 1925: The council accepted the offer of Revd Danby to give the Reading Room to the village.

22<sup>nd</sup> March 1926: The council had asked the Lord of the Manor for permission to exercise control over the village green so as to deal with problems of damage to the green by vehicles. The Lord of the Manor gave his permission on the understanding that it could be withdrawn 'at his pleasure'.

9<sup>th</sup> August 1926: The transfer of the Reading Room to the council was formally completed.

21<sup>st</sup> October 1926: The council voted to enquire of the Chief Constable whether the telephone at the constable's house was available for use by the inhabitants of the village.

25<sup>th</sup> November 1926: The Chief Constable advised that the telephone in the constable's house was available for use by the inhabitants of the village.

23<sup>rd</sup> March 1927: The Council drew the attention of Uppingham District Council to the unhealthy state of the village street due to much dust in the summer and requested that the street should be tar sprayed as soon as possible.

14<sup>th</sup> April 1927: Mr Arthur W Clarke had complained to the Council that youths caused a nuisance to his residence by assembling at the Stoke Road turning during the evenings and using obscene language. The Police Constable was to be asked to stop this nuisance and if he failed to deal with the matter a complaint would be sent to the Chief Constable.

The Uppingham District Council could not undertake the tarring of Lyddington village street as only the main roads were so treated. The Council replied reiterating the problem of the effect of dust on the health of the inhabitants and referring also to the increasing motor traffic.

18<sup>th</sup> August 1927: The Police Constable was prepared to deal with any cases of obstruction and obscene language at the Stoke Road turning.

16<sup>th</sup> April 1928: An application had been received from a travelling showman for permission to erect coconut shies and swings on the village green. It was unanimously agreed that the Green should not be used for such purposes.

3<sup>rd</sup> July 1928: It was pointed out to the Uppingham Rural District Council that the excessive speed of motorists passing through Lyddington was a great danger to the public and caused much annoyance by reason of the dust created. The District Council were requested to have a speed limit imposed.

15<sup>th</sup> April 1929: A motion calling for a speed limit in the village was sent to the Automobile Association.

It was agreed that a resolution be sent to the Uppingham District Council protesting strongly against the continual granting of salary increases and allowances

to their officials, the added expenditure being unnecessary and a burden on the ratepayers.

21<sup>st</sup> May 1929: The Automobile Association had replied saying that they were not in favour of imposing a speed limit through the village.

The Uppingham RDC had responded to the protest about increases to the salaries of their officials by saying when they were in need of advice from Lyddington PC they would ask for it. The Council replied that when it was in the interest of the ratepayers they would criticise the actions of the RDC without their permission.

12<sup>th</sup> September 1929: Damage had been done to the oak tree planted on the Green in 1897 to commemorate the diamond jubilee of Queen Victoria and also to the protecting fence around the tree. A notice would be issued that anyone responsible for such damage would be prosecuted.

16<sup>th</sup> May 1930: Dr Astley Clarke asked the Council for permission to restore the old market cross to its former place on the Village Green, the Lord of the Manor having already given his consent. The cross was on the premises of Mr R Clarke who had offered to fix it at his own expense subject to the necessary base being provided by the Village. The Vicar had offered part of the proceeds of a proposed fete for this purpose. The Council were quite willing for the cross to be replaced, but accepted no financial liability in the matter.

As regards the protection of the commemorative tree on the Green, the Council decided to obtain and fix a circular iron guard around the tree.

12<sup>th</sup> February 1934: It was agreed that a strong letter of protest should be sent to the Mid Lincolnshire Electricity Company regarding the great delay in bringing an electricity supply to the village.

5<sup>th</sup> March 1934: The Uppingham Waterworks Co. to be asked if it were possible to provide the village with a supply of water to be available in case of fire or emergency.

28<sup>th</sup> March 1934: The Mid Lincolnshire Electricity Co. hoped the transmission line to Lyddington would be completed by the end of July.

29<sup>th</sup> October 1934: At a Parish Meeting to discuss the question of water supply to the village it was proposed that the Uppingham Rural District Council be requested to take steps to explore the possibility of improving the supply, bearing in mind that a supply to three or four public taps would be best suited to the village needs as thereby the difficulty of disposing of the used water would be reduced to a minimum. This proposal was rejected on a vote. An alternative vote that the village did not desire any water supply scheme and was satisfied with the supply then available was passed.

25<sup>th</sup> March 1935: The Royal Silver Jubilee celebrations were discussed. Various propositions were made and adopted. It was agreed that there should be a tea and social, everyone should be invited, money should be raised by voluntary subscription, and any shortfall should be made up by a charge per head on all except children and those over 65.

16<sup>th</sup> April 1935: It was proposed that the County Council be asked to impose a 30 mph speed limit for motorists in the village.

13<sup>th</sup> August 1935: The County Council did not consider a speed limit essential for Lyddington.

A letter from Dr Clarke was read in which he drew attention to games of cricket being played on the Green by adults, and the danger to children playing in the street due to traffic. He suggested the Council should consider the question of obtaining a playing field for the village. It was decided to ask the Ecclesiastical Commissioners if they could provide any suitable land.

The Clerk made an entry in the Minutes describing the manner in which the Silver Jubilee of King George V was celebrated:- There was a service in the church at 11am. In the afternoon, there were sports for the children and presentation of Jubilee mugs and prizes provided by the proceeds of a whist drive, then tea for the children. There was a meat tea in the Bede House hall for adults at a charge of 1/3d, which included admission to the Social. Tea for the over 65s was provided by Revd Dawson. The Social was held in the schoolroom in the evening and concluded with a dance at the Reading room.

31<sup>st</sup> August 1936: Dr A Clarke drew attention to a vacant plot of ground near the Green where two cottages had been demolished and he suggested placing swings there for the children. The Council had no control over the plot and therefore could not deal with this question.

11<sup>th</sup> March 1937: A public meeting was held to consider the Coronation festivities. It was agreed to follow the same procedure as for the Silver Jubilee celebrations.

21<sup>st</sup> April 1938: Uppingham Rural District Council were asked to provide not less than six new houses for the village.

The District Council were sent a resolution from the Council trusting that they would adhere to the original water scheme of a supply of standpipes only.

11<sup>th</sup> August 1938: The Women's Institute asked the Council to arrange for instructions to be given on air raid precautions. The Council had had no instructions on this and suggested it was a matter for the County Council.

Nuisances were being committed by youths on Stoke Road and the Village Constable was to be asked to take action.

21<sup>st</sup> September 1938: Mr T R Dalton wrote pointing out, regarding the water supply and comments by the Council on standpipes, that there had been several applications from residents asking for a supply of water to their houses and presumably they would be prepared to pay for this. He did not believe the RDC or the Parish Council had any jurisdiction over this supply, which the residents could demand by law. The meeting decided no reply was necessary.

The PCC, [the Parochial Church Council], had written to say the churchyard would soon be filled to capacity and the PCC intended to hand to the Parish Council the question of providing a suitable burial ground. A Parish Meeting would be held to discuss the matter.

20<sup>th</sup> October 1938: A Parish Meeting was held to discuss and vote on a resolution to provide a burial ground under the Burial Acts of 1852-1885. The feeling of the meeting was that an addition should be made to the churchyard, but that the matter should be dealt with by the Parochial Church Council. The original resolution was rejected by 16 votes to nil.

22<sup>nd</sup> June 1939: The Uppingham RDC had passed on to the Parish Council a communication from the Council for the Preservation of Rural England concerning the remains of the old village cross, suggesting the RDC should undertake the care of the cross. The Parish Council considered it was a matter for themselves, not the RDC. In the discussion by the Council it was pointed out that the cross did not stand on the Green but on an adjoining piece of ground belonging to Dr A V Clarke. It was decided that the care of the cross should rest with the owner of the land on which it stood.

The RDC were prepared to supply fire hose for use with the hydrants in the village, on condition the village provided a body of trained men to operate the hose. The Council agreed to provide a brigade of not less than ten men.

9<sup>th</sup> October 1939: There was a discussion on air raid precautions. There was a shortage of equipment. There was a lack of instructions to the new fire brigade concerning use of the hose; for the air raid wardens only three whistles and one pair of gum boots had been supplied; a telephone should be installed in the premises of the Chief Warden; the only equipment supplied for the use of the seven special constables was two steel helmets. A letter was to be sent to the County Council.

20<sup>th</sup> January 1941: It was reported that the village snow plough was dilapidated and useless.

There was a need for further sandbags for ARP requirements.

26<sup>th</sup> April 1941: It was agreed that there should be a fire equipment store in the coal place adjoining the Reading Room.

27<sup>th</sup> June 1941: At a Parish Meeting a resolution to provide a burial ground under the Burial Acts 1852-1885 was carried. Possible sites were to be inspected.

19<sup>th</sup> February 1943: The Ministry of Health had refused permission for the Council to acquire land for a burial ground for the duration of the war.

26<sup>th</sup> April 1945: It was agreed that application should be made for a telephone for the village.

25<sup>th</sup> October 1945: At a Parish Meeting it was agreed to provide street lighting for the village and adopt the Lighting and Watching Acts.

26<sup>th</sup> April 1946: A Parish meeting was held to discuss Victory celebrations. It was decided that any celebrations should be by voluntary effort and not under the Parish Council.

14<sup>th</sup> May 1946: Mrs Chapman of Lyddington informed the Council that she would like to give two seats to the parish, one on Stoke Road, the other on Bisbrooke or

Gretton Road. The County Council was to be asked for permission for the seats to be erected.

The question of the existence of funds for the provision of a playing field was discussed. It was thought that the late Dr Astley Clarke had inaugurated a scheme for this purpose. It was agreed that Mrs Astley Clarke would be asked to receive a councillor and the clerk to discuss the existence of any funds, the future of the part of the village green owned by the late Dr Astley Clarke, and the future of the blacksmith's shop on the Green

28<sup>th</sup> May 1946: A Council meeting discussed a report from the engineers to the Uppingham RDC concerning a proposed sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for the village. A sub-committee was set up to view the proposed site for the sewage disposal works to see if it was far enough from the village. The sub-committee subsequently reported in favour of the site.

11<sup>th</sup> October 1946: The Ministry of Health advised that it would now be prepared to receive an application for a burial ground for the village.

Mrs Astley Clarke had written setting forth the terms under which she would be prepared to give her part of the village green to the village. The Council decided to accept her offer, subject to agreement on restrictive covenants.

It was decided to write to Mid Lincs Electric Supply asking for street lighting to be installed.

10<sup>th</sup> January 1947: A Parish Meeting was held to consider the provision of a war memorial. A proposition that there should be a memorial in the form of a village hall was carried.

The RDC had written asking how many permanent houses in addition to the four already allocated were required. It was decided to ask for six more houses. Two possible sites existed, one adjacent to the present site for four houses and the other on the south side of the Thorpe Road/Gretton Road junction.

10<sup>th</sup> January 1947: The subcommittee considering the site for a burial ground reported back to Council that Tower Gardens was the most suitable site. The Council adopted the recommendation. The owners, Burghley Estates Office, would be contacted on the matter.

Mrs Astley Clarke's conditions for the transfer of her part of the Green were accepted. This included agreement that the Council would pay for the demolition of the smithy.

20<sup>th</sup> June 1947: The conveyance of the portion of the Green from Mrs Astley Clarke to the Council was formally accepted.

7<sup>th</sup> October 1947: The Marquess of Exeter had refused to sell land to the Council for a burial ground and it was decided to place the facts before the County Council and request compulsory purchase of a piece of land to the north east of the Bede House.

Mid Lincs [Electricity] had written to say that in view of restrictions on street lighting it would be of little use approaching the Ministry of Transport to ask for permission to install street lighting



9<sup>th</sup> January 1948: Following a report from the subcommittee on the burial ground it was resolved to write to the Ministry of Works asking if they would release a small piece of land. The owner of a piece of land in Scales Dyke would also be approached.

15<sup>th</sup> April 1948: The matter of the street lighting system was with the Ministry of Transport

The burial ground subcommittee had suggested three sites, Scales Dyke, the Greens, and Thorpe Road. It was decided to consider Scales Dyke.

12<sup>th</sup> August 1948: A representative of Smiths Gore, [for the Ecclesiastical Commissioners], had suggested that a piece of land adjoining the churchyard and forming part of the garden of Prebendal House would be a suitable site for the burial ground. The Council were in favour of the site and decided to leave the Bede House garden site in abeyance.

The Ministry of Transport had refused to grant a licence to proceed with the street lighting and the Council resolved to put the facts before the Member of Parliament.

28<sup>th</sup> October 1948: At a Parish Meeting it was decided unanimously to accept the offer of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners of a piece of land belonging to the Bede House garden for a burial ground.

28<sup>th</sup> October 1948: The RDC Salvage Officer advised the Parish Council that a hut would be placed on the Green for the purpose of collecting salvage paper.

4<sup>th</sup> March 1949: The chairs at Miss Cheatle's chapel might be for sale.

31<sup>st</sup> March 1949: At a Parish Meeting there was general satisfaction with the street lighting system which had been installed.. Additional lights were requested outside the Vicarage and at the Stoke Road corner.

16<sup>th</sup> September 1949: A protest would be lodged with the Uppingham RDC regarding the fact that the new sewerage system was not extended sufficiently at the north end of the village to permit the last two houses to be connected without additional expense by the owners of the properties.

13<sup>th</sup> February 1950: The Ministry of Health had given approval for the piece of land offered by the Church Commissioners to be used as a burial ground.

16<sup>th</sup> April 1951: It was decided to provide a bus shelter as a Festival Year memorial.

4<sup>th</sup> September 1951: The RDC were to be asked for a further six houses for the village. At least four could be built to the north of the existing Council house site.

It was decided that the best place for the bus shelter would be at the south west corner of the Green. Mrs Ellis at Home Close would be asked for her consent, this being a condition of the conveyance of that part of the Green to the Council.

28<sup>th</sup> February 1952: Miss Ellis had seen the plan for the bus shelter and approved the proposed site on the south west corner of the Green.

Miss Ellis was to be asked if she would give a lime tree to be planted on the Green opposite Mr Ingram's house.

10<sup>th</sup> November 1952: It was agreed that the village would hold Coronation celebrations and that the costs would be defrayed by weekly contributions from individual houses. School age children 1d per week, adults 3p per week.

20<sup>th</sup> February 1953: It was decided to accept the offer from Mrs Astley Clarke of two cherry trees to be planted near the new bus shelter.

6<sup>th</sup> May 1953: The Council inspected and approved a site on the Green for a seat to commemorate the Coronation.

22<sup>nd</sup> September 1955: Mr Colwell had agreed to give to the Council the small piece of land on the Green that had been claimed by him. The Council accepted this gift with thanks.

21<sup>st</sup> May 1958: The RDC had asked the Council to suggest names for the council housing estates. The following names were agreed:-

The Swedish Timber Houses: Pinfold.

The Old Council Houses: Brookfields.

The New Council Houses: Almond's Close.

Estimates were received for the erection of amusements for children on the Green.

It was decided that there should be a Youth Club in the Reading Room. The minimum age would be 14 years and the Reading Room would be open two nights per week.

30<sup>th</sup> March 1959: There was no further grave space available in the churchyard and the new burial ground would be brought into use as soon as possible. The ground had been consecrated, the fees had been agreed, and after the fees had been advertised application would be made to the Minister of Local Housing for his consent.

11<sup>th</sup> January 1960: A letter was to be sent to the Marquis of Exeter thanking him for his gift of his interest in the meadow known as 'The Deciners'.

9<sup>th</sup> March 1964: Flt. Lt. Nichol, the new owner of The Green House, was permitted to have a ten foot road access over the Green to the side gate of his premises.

10<sup>th</sup> August 1964: Councillors were asked to submit to the next meeting the names of any old people who might be asked to make use of the SOS cards provided by the RDC. The RDC were to be asked for two old peoples houses in the village.

It was resolved to erect two No Parking notices on the Green.

7<sup>th</sup> December 1964: The Church Commissioners had agreed to sell a piece of land in The Parks measuring approximately 50 yards by 60 yards at a price of £50, subject to certain conditions,[presumably to provide a play area]. The offer was accepted and the RDC were to be approached about a grant.

29<sup>th</sup> March 1965: Information had been received about a new Bill under the Town and Country Planning Act which provided that Parish Councils should be advised of applications for property development in the village. The Council supported this measure.

31<sup>st</sup> January 1966: Mr B Kennedy, the County Planning Officer, addressed a Parish meeting on the housing developments being proposed for the village. The points he made and the answers to questions are listed. The proposed development plans would be sent to the Parish Council for comment.

12<sup>th</sup> December 1966: It was resolved to apply for planning permission on two acres of land in Chapel Lane, used at that time for allotments, for use as a playing field.

Mrs Willoughby had written regarding the maintenance of Bede House Lane as she was intending to build a bungalow on a piece of land adjoining. The Council had no objection to her use of the lane for vehicular access but could bear no cost of repair or maintenance.

6<sup>th</sup> March 1967: It was resolved to complete the form for registration of the village green under the Commons Registration Act 1965 at the next meeting.

30<sup>th</sup> September 1968: It was decided to rename Bedehouse Lane as Bluecoat Lane.

In response to a letter from the County Architect it was decided to record as 'Treasures' the old fishponds, the village cross, and the watch tower or gazebo.

9<sup>th</sup> December 1968: It was decided to consider the possible purchase of part of the allotments as a playing field.

23<sup>rd</sup> March 1970: The village was now covered by a Conservation Order.

The Education authority had given formal notice of the closure of the village school.

15<sup>th</sup> November 1971: It was decided that the new housing estate built by Wolds Building Co. would be named Colley Rise.

24<sup>th</sup> July 1972: A Parish meeting was held to discuss a report from the consulting engineers to the RDC concerning the need for an extension to the sewage works. The meeting unanimously passed a resolution that the RDC should extend and modernise the sewage works to serve an anticipated village population of 600.

11<sup>th</sup> June 1973: The County Planning Officer attended a Council meeting to discuss the scheme for the visual improvement of the village, a major issue being the 'festoon of wires' along the whole length of the village street. He was to produce a report on the matter and submit it to the Council before sending it to the Department of the Environment.

A Pony Gymkhana was to be held on the Green on 16<sup>th</sup> June.

10<sup>th</sup> June 1975: The bus shelter had suffered damage due to vandalism over a long period. A referendum was carried out asking whether the shelter should be demolished or retained with modifications. The vote was in favour of retention. The Council decided to remove the windows and seats, and put up a new ceiling.

20<sup>th</sup> September 1977: The new footpath along the northern side of Lockards Hill was under construction.

The possibility of purchasing part of the allotment field for a playing field had been discussed with the agent for the Church Commissioners, who indicated that a sale might be possible. An official valuation would be required.

20<sup>th</sup> February 1978: A Parish meeting was held to consider the offer by the Diocesan Board of Finance to sell the Old School House and grounds to the Parish Council for £7000. A resolution to set up a Village Hall Committee to proceed with the acquisition of the property was carried by a majority of 60 to 2. By the same majority it was also agreed that the said committee should endeavour to raise the finance by way of a 50% grant from the Dept of Education and Science, 25 % from the RDC and the Parish Council, and 25% by private loan or subscription.

9<sup>th</sup> April 1979: The order vesting the Reading Room in the Official Custodian of Charity Lands had been issued.

It was resolved that a Parish Meeting should be held to consider the disposal of the Reading Room and the use of the proceeds of sale for the provision of a playing field.

The fluoridation of the water supply was discussed and it was agreed by 8 votes to 7, with 4 abstentions, that support should be given to fluoridation.

25<sup>th</sup> June 1979: At a Parish Meeting it was proposed and agreed that the Reading Room should be sold and the proceeds of the sale should be used to purchase a playing field.

29<sup>th</sup> June 1979: Following the Parish Meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> June, the Council decided to advise the Charity Commissioners of their wish to sell the Reading Room. They also decided unanimously that the most suitable piece of land for the playing field was that in Hopkiln Lane belonging to the Church Commissioners, which had already been the subject of correspondence with Smiths Gore, agents to the Commissioners. [This field is referred to elsewhere as the 'allotment field'].

6<sup>th</sup> March 1980: An offer from Mr P K Hems for the purchase of the Reading Room was accepted.

31<sup>st</sup> March 1980: The Council had been in touch with the County Council about repairs to a footbridge on a footpath running over land to the north of the village [probably running NW to the A6003]. In reply, the County Council stated that although the footpath was marked as such on the Ordnance Survey map it was not included in the Definitive Map as a right-of-way. It would be necessary for ten people who used the footpath regularly to complete a form before the County Council could take responsibility for the bridge upkeep.

12<sup>th</sup> May 1980: The contract for the sale of the Reading Room was signed.

27<sup>th</sup> October 1980: Due to the poor condition of a bridge on the footpath to Seaton, the County Council had decided to divert the footpath as this was more economical

than repairing the bridge. It was reported that satisfactory progress was being made with the diversion.

8<sup>th</sup> November 1982: Following a report by the subcommittee set up to consider the provision of a playing field, it was proposed and agreed that the Council were intent on providing a field and they would proceed further with negotiations with Smiths Gore, on behalf of the Church Commissioners, over the purchase of field OS6527, subject to grants being available from the Playing Fields Association and the Sports Council.

28<sup>th</sup> February 1983: It was resolved to proceed with the purchase of field OS6527, [referred to later as 'the field behind Mrs Harnett's house'], although the question of grants was not completely settled.

11<sup>th</sup> July 1983: It was agreed that the purchase of the playing field should proceed although no grants were forthcoming from the Sports Council or the Playing Fields Association. [However, there was a grant from the Leicestershire County Council].

12<sup>th</sup> September 1983: It was reported that completion of the purchase of the playing field took place on 5<sup>th</sup> August 1983.

11<sup>th</sup> November 1985: Expenditure on a bank of swings and a car park for the playing field was approved.

12<sup>th</sup> January 1987: The planting of trees on the playing field had been completed.

7<sup>th</sup> March 1988: The old swings on the Green were replaced and the Mary Parnham charity agreed to make a grant to cover the full cost.

The Leicester Record Office had sent a receipt for the Parish Award deposited with them.

11<sup>th</sup> April 1988: A Community Watch scheme for the village had been introduced.

9<sup>th</sup> January 1989: The question of the burial of overhead cables was discussed and it was agreed to contact British Telecom, and also ask the County and District Councils if they would contribute to the costs.

8<sup>th</sup> May 1989: A Civil Emergency Committee had been formed and was due to meet that month.

2<sup>nd</sup> April 1990: Correspondence was taking place with various authorities regarding the further removal of overhead cables in connection with works to be carried out by British Gas.

The Playing Field Committee were looking into the possibility of building tennis courts.

14<sup>th</sup> May 1990: Quotations were to be obtained from British Telecom and EMEB for the cost of undergrounding their cables in association with work being proposed by British Gas.

It was agreed that the Charity Commission should be asked to dispose of the assets of Jeyes Charity so that the charity could be closed.

5<sup>th</sup> November 1990: Following the receipt of estimates for the costs of the work on undergrounding of cables, and the offer of grants from the County and District Councils it was decided to proceed with the work between the Green and Church Lane, and the length of Church Lane.

7<sup>th</sup> January 1991: A cricket match on the playing field had been arranged for 2<sup>nd</sup> July. [The match between the Diocese of Peterborough and the Diocese of Lincoln as part of the celebrations of the 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the Diocese of Peterborough].

4<sup>th</sup> March 1991: The agreed work on the undergrounding of cables was said to be virtually complete, but the question of further undergrounding from Church Lane to the end of the village was in doubt.

2<sup>nd</sup> September 1991: Steps had been taken to wind up Jeyes Charity as the value of the endowment was very small. A sale of the assets would realise about £13.

It was proposed that the Parish Meadow should be sold. There had been problems with letting the meadow and there would be advantages in alternative forms of investment. It was agreed to request a report from a chartered surveyor as a first step.

13<sup>th</sup> January 1992: There had been complaints about the lack of maintenance of the allotment at the Bede House and as a result the maintenance had been taken over by English Heritage.

Having received a report from the chartered surveyor, the Council decided to proceed with an application to the Charity Commissioners to sell the Parish Meadow.

6<sup>th</sup> April 1992: At a Parish Meeting it was reported that the undergrounding scheme had been completed. This consisted of burying the electricity and telephone cables in Church Lane and the electricity cables only in Main Street from Church Lane to Thorpe Road.

11<sup>th</sup> May 1992: Jeyes Charity had been formally wound up and the assets amounting to £16.23 were allocated to the Village Hall Trust, who had applied for a grant to hold an event for elderly residents.

7<sup>th</sup> September 1992: A house on the Green had been tested for Radon and found to have a low level, not requiring any action. However the RDC advised that as the geology changed from one end of the village to the other a test should also be carried out at the southern end.

A new Charity Commission Scheme for the management of the playing field was required as it was still under the Scheme for the Reading Room, the sale of which had provided the funds for the purchase of the field. It was agreed that the Council should become Trustees and that there should be a Playing Field Committee reporting to the Council. A Scheme would be drafted for submission to the Charity Commission.

1<sup>st</sup> March 1993: The Charity Commissioners had concluded that a new Scheme for the administration of the Reading Room Charity was not required, but a Declaration of Trust referring to the playing field was necessary.

The sale of the Parish Meadow was proceeding and would shortly be advertised.

The Radon check on a house at the end of the village had shown a low figure, as had the test carried out on a house on the Green.

29<sup>th</sup> March 1993: Bids for the purchase of the Parish Meadow had been received and it was agreed to accept the bid from the Leicestershire Barn Owl Project.

5<sup>th</sup> April 1993: At a Parish Meeting it was reported that the cost of burying telephone cables between Church Lane and Thorpe Road had been estimated by BT as £15000. The Council had decided that the cost was not justified.

10<sup>th</sup> May 1993: A Radon test had been carried out on a house at the top end of the village and as with the tests on houses in the centre and at the southern end low values were obtained.

The sale of the meadow had been completed.

5<sup>th</sup> July 1993: Regarding the position of the Reading Room Charity following the sale of the Reading Room and the purchase of a playing field, the necessary Declaration of Trust had been sent to the Charity Commissioners. This completed the formalities associated with the purchase of the playing field in place of the Reading Room.

6<sup>th</sup> September 1993: The Charity Commission had decided to change the title of the charity administering the playing field from the Lyddington Reading Room to The Lyddington Playing Field.

1<sup>st</sup> November 1993: A committee had been formed to consider the construction of a tennis court on the playing field.

9<sup>th</sup> May 1994: It was agreed to provide a plot for the interment of cremated ashes in the parish cemetery.

21<sup>st</sup> September 1994: The Council confirmed that it wished to proceed with the construction of a tennis court on the playing field. It was agreed the tennis court would be managed by a sub-committee of the Parish Council.

### **Sources.**

Lyddington Parish Council Minute Book. 1894-1932. ROLLR Ref: DE 7746.  
Lyddington Parish Council Minute Book. 1932-1990. ROLLR Ref: DE 7746. Box 6.  
Lyddington Parish Council Minute Book. 1991-2006. With Clerk to the Council.