

LODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Report to the Annual Meeting – May 2025

Introducing current Parish Council: Myself (Chair), Jane Mann (Clerk), Mark Reneerkens, Kate Reneerkens, Alice Ablett, Joby Simson, Lorraine Wensor.

I appreciate the support of the current councillors and the Village officers.

Two new members have joined during the year, Paul Lamb, and Kate Reneerkens to help with the running of the Parish council and any Village needs. There is a need to share the responsibilities and workload currently carried out by current councillors. Unfortunately, Paul was unable to continue for personal reasons.

The full council should be for seven councillors. I am not sure why we need seven councillors as we appear to manage with six. Anyhow, we have one vacancy. Currently we are going through the election process, which we must pay for if there are more candidates than seats.

So, what rights does a parish council have? Although we have extremely limited powers to influence important outcomes affecting the Village, we do have the following:

Power to acquire land for or to provide recreation grounds, public walks, pleasure grounds, and open spaces and to manage and control them. Local Government Act 1972. s175. Power to utilise well, spring or stream and to provide facilities for obtaining water therefrom.

So, what are the functions of a parish council?

These include delivering services (such as allotments, car parks, celebrations and festivals, community buses, community and leisure centres, litter bins, parks and open spaces, public toilets, and streetlights), improving the quality of life (such as community hubs, neighbourhood plans, funding community projects).

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the Councillors, Village officers and all those who have volunteered their time to support the village.

This includes:

Jane Mann – Clerk of the Parish Council. Apart from running a tight ship which I do fall foul of sometimes, covers Finance, policies, communications, and other functions.

Mark Reneerkens: Neighbourhood Watch, Litter Warden, and Police Liaison Officer. Mark has ensured that the council and the village is kept aware of all known threats that the village may need to protect against.

Alice Ablett: Chairing the Planning Committee, reviewing planning applications related to the Village. Planning Committee consist of: - Alice Ablett, Mark Reneerkens, Joby Simson, Alan Durn

Kate Reneerkens: Highways. This is not an easy task. Pressure on Highways has produced some results. Safeguarding – this is a new role and promotes the welfare of children, young people and adults at risk from abuse and neglect.

Lorraine Wensor: Internal Controls. These are the policies that apply to a small rural Village.

1. Asset Register
2. Risk Assessment
3. Equality and Diversity Policy
4. Grant Awarding Policy
5. Grievance and Disciplinary Procedure
6. Training and Development Policy
7. Scheme of Delegation (new)
8. Publication scheme
9. Complaints Policy
10. Data Breach Policy
11. Data Protection Policy
12. Privacy notice-staff/Councillors
13. Privacy notice-general public
14. Records retention policy
15. Subject Access Request Procedure
16. Safeguarding
17. Standing Orders

There may be more.

Robert Durn: Footpath Officer.

Phil Sutcliffe: Tree Warden. Parts of Loddington are in a Conservation area and other areas have substantial number of trees which have ‘Tree Protection Orders’ Work to be conducted on trees must obtain planning permission from North Northants Council.

The Parish Council has worked with Loddington School on various projects.

The council holds meetings in public six times a year covering several key areas.

All councillors are volunteers and give their time freely.

The Parish Council organise the traditional Village Annual Fireworks display and is process of firming up what should be in place for VE day event.

We are careful in letting out the Pavilion and its ground, so it does not take away funding from other village organisations which in turn limits funding for the facility.

The Recreation Ground was acquired in 1948 by Loddington Parish Council, firstly for Village functions, and then recreational activity which includes Football and Cricket who continue to invest in both the ground and the building.

If anyone suggests that other activities should be included, the Parish Council will consider it.

We have continued improving the grounds and upgrading the Pavilion. I would like to thank the members of the Cricket and Football Clubs who have kept the grounds in tiptop condition.

Unauthorised Traveller Site, Cransley Road, Loddington

Firstly, we apologise that it has been six months since our last update. Unfortunately, there has been little to report, however, moving forward we are satisfied that NNC is making progress to ensure compliance with the Enforcement Notice. It is a complex, costly and time-consuming process, details of which we are unable to share as it remains confidential and subject to legal privilege.

Thank you for your forbearance and understanding. We shall of course continue to keep you informed of any further developments.

It is so frustrating that the Local Authority must face such challenges despite having successfully defended the Planning Appeal. We understand that the lack of information may be mistaken for lack of action, however we would like to reassure you that we continue to liaise regularly with NNC.

Alan Durn

Chairperson and Playing Field Manager

April 2025