

LOWDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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28/11/19/23

Minutes of the monthly meeting of Lowdham Parish Council held in Lowdham Community Room, Southwell Road, Lowdham, NG14 7DQ on THURSDAY 28 November 2019 at 6.45pm

Councillors:

Andrew Coles (A); Jacqueline Finn; Alison Glazebrook; Paul Harrison; Nigel Hunt (A);
Simon Mawby (A); Stephen Platt; Mike Poyzer; Rich Sullivan (A); Chris Thompson (A); Emma Wilson

Also present: Clerk Bill Banner and four members of the public

1. Apologies for Absence: Andy Coles, Nigel Hunt, Simon Mawby, Rich Sullivan and Chris Thompson – County Cllr Roger Jackson and District Cllr Tim Wendels also apologised

2. Declarations of Interest: None

3. Chairman's Announcements: No announcements

4. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 07 November 2019 were accepted unanimously and duly signed

5. Open Session for Members of the Public to Raise Matters of Council Business:

Standing orders were suspended at 6.47pm

Members of the public referred to the lack of weed clearing of the Car Dyke behind their premises, the dyke being blocked with vegetation brought along by the recent heavy rain. Two residents, Mr John White and Mr Toby Dunn, volunteered to become Flood Wardens. It was recommended that the Internal Drainage Board be asked to clear the dyke every year – say in October. Resident Peter Cross has already volunteered to be the overall organiser and Mr Toby Dunn offered to produce a database of equipment, etc. In allocating jobs, Cllr Emma Wilson volunteered to be the anchor person to co-ordinate the Lowdham response. It was suggested that tape is obtained for use between cones.

Cllr Wilson recommended that the Environment Agency take back cleaning responsibility from IDB for that part of Cocker Beck under discussion and she agreed to prepare a draft letter for the clerk to send.

Standing orders were reinstated at 7.20pm

6. County Council matters –

Cllr Roger Jackson did not attend but submitted the following report that was read out by the clerk:

- * A Section 19 report has been issued for Lowdham as, following the heavy rains, there were about 10 houses with water inside
 - * There is an opportunity for flood wardens to have some training – especially on how and when to close roads – the contact is Rob Fisher at Notts County Council
 - * There are no further developments to report the roundabout plans
 - * He has been in touch with the EA about the new scheme, but little progress has been made because of the recent flooding
 - * There is nothing further to report about the VIA/NCC plans for a new car park (20/30 cars) for Lowdham Station on Caythorpe Road
- Cllr Paul Harrison raised the matter of “No Parking” cones being moved away from the double yellow lines outside the front of the Co-op in Main Street. The cones had been placed there by the police, not the Parish Council. Cllr Andy Coles is dealing with this.

7. District Council matters

Cllr Tim Wendels did not attend but sent a note to say that there were no further matters to report

8. Amenities and Village:

- i) Roundabout: There was nothing further to report
 - ii) Flood Relief Plans: Emily Mayle of EA has written to say that she was unable to attend this evening's meeting and has sent a summary report of recent activities. She has undertaken to attend a future meeting
- Cllr Hunt has prepared an inventory of flood defence equipment
- After this item, at 7.30pm, the four members of public left the meeting

- iii) Village Gateways: The suppliers have confirmed that the appropriate VIA permissions have been obtained and aim to do the installation after the Christmas break – 2nd week in January, subject to the weather
- iv) MUGA – resurfacing. Nothing further to report.
- v) CCTV – This has been ordered but will not be actioned until the Wi-Fi is operational
Wi-Fi – Cllr Mike Poyzer said that a survey fee of £400 had to be paid before Open Reach can progress our order – this has been done and the survey is arranged for early December
- vi) Cemetery Inspection: The clerk reviewed the desirability of arranging an inspection of the headstones and memorials with Independent Memorial Inspection (IMI) and members agreed unanimously to instruct them to undertake a survey
- vii) Defibrillator provision. Provision of a defibrillator was approved with a recommended siting on the former public toilets wall, where trickle electricity was available. The estimated cost is £1000 – the clerk will seek funding contributions
- viii) Flyposting: Members agreed that this is an unpermitted activity and the steps necessary to stop it were discussed. It was decided that a PC policy statement should be prepared for discussion at a later meeting
- ix) NSDC Free Tree Scheme – 50 trees are available – application deadline: 5 Feb 2020, Cllr Stephen Platt agreed to liaise with Geoff Burton to arrange a walk around the village to select possible sites for new trees

9. a) Planning Applications: None notified – but an application has arrived today for subsequent consideration:
19/2104FUL – Old Orchard House – addition of detached double garage – Do Not Object

b) Recent District Council decisions: None

10. Finance & Assets: a) Payments arising in November were approved

b) The Budget for 2020/21 was considered and Cllr Paul Harrison outlined the areas for detailed consideration to enable firm decisions to be made at the January meeting. A request to include the cost of signage at the Community Building and a Noticeboard at the Cemetery was approved

The clerk has asked VIA to contribute to the annual mowing costs of verges and grass not owned by the Parish Council but cut and paid for by the Parish Council. The clerk will meet VIA officials on site.

11. General matters:

i) Environmental Policy – This was signed off as planned at the last meeting.

ii) By e-mail, Cllr Chris Thompson proposed that council policies be prepared for Freedom of Information Requests, Document Retention Policy and Publication Scheme. It was agreed to consider at the next meeting

iii) NALC Guide to tackling Loneliness was discussed and the issues were supported by members. Cllrs Stephen Platt and Mike Poyzer agreed to form a working group

12. Correspondence: a) Members noted the correspondence had by the clerk with Mr R Fell about the request for additional information b) Members considered a request for use, without charge, of the Community Room for a few meetings by a group led by Cllr Emma Wilson in order to write an ethically approved application to the university for a study investigating the impact of flood risk on physical and mental health with the hope that the results will be published in a peer reviewed academic journal that will form part of a response to D o H and Government around prioritising flood risk funding.

As the study is pertinent to Lowdham residents, approval was agreed by special resolution

13. Councillor's Reports: VHPFC: Cllr Alison Glazebrook informed members that the cricket pavilion had been flooded following the recent rains – there is insurance subject to a £500 excess. The VHPFC is awaiting a quote from a separate company for flood protection. Mowing has not been done since 04 October as the ground have become saturated and the clerk confirmed he had spoken to the contractor that morning who confirmed he will catch up once the area has dried out. He will also box off cuttings and attend to the hedge row. Cllr Glazebrook reported that one of the fairground rides and stalls due to attend the Christmas Market had been cancelled due to the owner suffering a stroke

She asked when the NSDC Conservation Officer will attend a Council meeting – the clerk confirmed it will be in February

Cllr Finn highlighted the concerns raised by the VHPFC and a parishioner following the publication of a second notice on social media saying that mulled wine would be sold at the Christmas Lights switch-on, thus impacting on the VHPFC's fundraising efforts. Cllr Coles had subsequently clarified by e-mail that Lowdham Colts FC would be selling non-alcoholic wine at the switch-on. Cllrs agreed that this was acceptable and should not have a detrimental effect on sales of alcoholic mulled wine at the VHPFC Christmas market.

It was agreed to review the format of the event in the new year

14. Reports from Outside Organisations: None

15. Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 09 January 2020

The meeting closed at 9.13pm

Signed: Chairman Date