Minutes of the monthly meeting of Lowdham Parish Council
held in Lowdham Community Room, Southwell Road, Lowdham, NG14 7DQ
on THURSDAY 05 March 2020 at 6.54pm

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

Also present: Clerk Bill Banner, County Cllr Roger Jackson, District Councillor Tim Wendels and twelve members of the public

Before the meeting started, Chairman Jacqueline Finn said that there was a large number of public attending the meeting and wished to make it clear that if that was because of possible plans for 9 new flats to be built at Station Road, where there is a lack of space for extra vehicles, then the topic was not on the Agenda and therefore would not be discussed

1. Apologies for Absence: None

2. Declarations of Interest: None

3. Chairman’s Announcements: No announcements

4. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 06 February 2020 were accepted unanimously and duly signed

Standing orders were suspended at 7.00pm

5. Open Session for Members of the Public to Raise Matters of Council Business: Mr Nick Baseley of iba Planning (Town Planners) spoke on behalf of J Harrison Ltd and explained the details of the planning application to be considered by Council later in the evening. A resident asked for assurance that the plans for flood relief will be effective. Cllr Finn responded and said she could provide no assurance and outlined the problem that over many years the Environment Agency has not produced an effective solution. She summarised the work being done currently and the extensive involvement by Councillors to continue to press for urgent action but said that the matter is a national problem. A resident thanked the Councillors for work over the last 13 years, sadly not achieving long-term solutions, and thanked members for the help recently. Two residents volunteered to be part of the flood action group

Standing orders reinstated 7.36pm
Seven residents left the meeting

6. County Council matters
Cllr Roger Jackson continued the theme of flood relief and said he is due to meet the Environment Agency with Sue Jacques of NCC shortly. He is also meeting up with Network Rail next to discuss the creation of a car park at the station

Pothole problems in Lambley Road was raised again, together with in lots of other places and Cllr Jackson said he will follow up

The problem with the efficiency of water pumps operated by Severn Trent Water was raised and Cllr Thompson agreed to help the Clerk to take this up with Severn Trent

7. District Council matters
Cllr Tim Wendels informed members that at the time of the recent floods lots of staff were out in the village providing what help they could. Completed Flood Grant applications are being received. He reminded member of the Greener Theme application date was imminent (20 March). He also mentioned VE Day outline plans

8. Amenities and Village:
   i) Roundabout: No further news
   ii) Flood Relief Plans: Cllr Chris Thompson urged the Council to proceed with the formation of the village flood warden group and provide reasonable financial support.
      The use of the former public toilet building as a flood equipment and materials store was approved. Insurers will be advised of the change of use.
      In the recent flood relief activities, the resource of Parish Council aquasacks has been diminished and Cllr Tim Wendels will explore having these numbers topped up by the District Council.
A Wollaton resident has donated a water pump, dehumidifier and air circulation pump (£25) to help with the floods. It was agreed that she be reimbursed with thanks.

Pest control: The rats that appeared in and around Cocker Beck between the Magna Charta and Railway Inn after the first flood seem to have been moved on by the second flood. A quotation of £699 from a pest controller was approved if the problem persists. The clerk confirmed receipt of two payments for £200 as a contribution to costs from NCC and the Environment Agency.

Refreshments were provided by Mrs Jacky Hoare (£27) during the floods. It was agreed that she be reimbursed with thanks.

Village Gateways: The awaited 4 signs are to be installed shortly as the waterlogged ground is drying out.

iii) MUGA – Resurfacing. All funding applications have been completed. Awards for All (£10K) has responded to say that for our application to be successful we need to show that there has been wide consultation and demonstrate need. It was decided to make this a topic at the forthcoming Annual Parishioners Meeting to help fulfil these requirements. The preferred contractors have been asked to revisit so a firm specification can be agreed with Cllr Andy Coles.

v) Wi-Fi and CCTV – Wi-Fi work has been been done by Open Reach. Caretaker Trevor has excavated for the pipework helped by Cllr Mike Poyzer. Members expressed their gratitude. The CCTV can now be ordered for installation.

vi) Cemetery Inspection: Inspection of the headstones and memorials by Independent Memorial Inspection (IMI) has been done. Of the 233 headstones, one had to be laid down as unsafe. 51 failed and have been appropriately signed and a further 28 are safe but require attention in the due course. Work to find and contact next of kin will take times to complete.

vii) Annual Parishioners Meeting – Weds 08 April 2020. The Agenda was approved. Members undertook to do a house by house delivery of the notice. Cllr Paul Harrison agreed to review the Statement of Activities prepared by the clerk

viii) Defibrillator provision: Cllr Andy Coles said that Lowdham Colts have agreed to take the project forward.

ix) NSDC: free trees scheme – 50 have been applied for and are ready for collection and are expected for planting shortly.

x) NSDC Greener Theme Initiative Fund: provision of a cycle rack was proposed for the car park planned for the railway station. The clerk will complete the application form for £2,500 grant

xi) Perimeter trees at the Community Building Sports Ground – the pruning quotations are still awaited. A resident has requested removal of brambles behind his back fence. Cllr Harrison undertook to visit the site to help determine responsibility.

xii) V E Day Celebrations: Members were reminded of the forthcoming event organised by The Village Hall Committee who have requested a donation from the council. The clerk will ask for a completed Grant Application form

10. a) Planning Applications:

   20/00298/FUL – J Harrison Ltd - Proposed change of use of existing car showroom, office and workshop to provide an extension to the existing retail sales (A1) serving the petrol filling station and ancillary coffee shop/café

   Support unanimously – there were concerns expressed about the increase in traffic turning in and out of the forecourt.

   b) Recent District Council Decisions:

   19/02049/FUL – Birkin – Sherrards Farm – replace side extension - Grant Full Permission
   19/02124/FUL – Pinkney – 13 Hill Syke – Erect single storey rear extension – Refuse Permission
   19/02176/FUL (revised 19/01217) – Cookson – The Shed – Demolish and replace dwelling – Grant Full Permission
   19/02177/FUL – Williamson – 18 Main Street – remove wall and create car park - Refuse Permission

11. Finance & Assets: a) Payments arising in February were approved. b) The Community Building Risk Assessment form completed by the clerk was presented to members for approval. Cllr Paul Harrison will review.

Clrs Jackson and Wendels left the meeting.

12. General matters: NSDC Housing Needs Study had been circulated by e-mail, requesting members to encourage those Lowdham residents, randomly selected of the 13,500 households across the District, to complete the survey by 23 March.

13. Correspondence: a) NSDC has appointed consultants Knight Kavanagh & Page Ltd to study the Open Spaces in the District and we have been asked to speak to Carmel Daniel to provide information about Lowdham. Cllr Paul Harrison offered to make contact and provide the information required.

b) The Annual Lowdham Spring Clean is organised for Sunday 29 March 2020 and Mr Peter Cross, flood liaison group leader, plans to attend to assist and to direct the village flood clean up.

14. Councillor’s Reports: Cllr Mike Poyzer reported on the cut-up condition of the field after football and the dirty state of the Community Room and Changing facilities after inappropriate use by Lowdham Colts last weekend. It was agreed that the Colts management group be told and an invoice for £80 be sent for payment. It was agreed to pay Trevor an appropriate bonus for doing extra cleaning work. Trevor is on leave 15 March to 30 March

He also reported on the physical work done by Trevor, with his support, to dig the trench and lay the pipework for the Wi-Fi cable. The clerk was asked to pay for the extra hours worked by Trevor

15. Reports from Outside Organisations: None

16. Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 02 April 2020 (NB: Annual Parishioners Meeting: Weds 8 April 2020)

Signed: Chairman ............................ Date .............................. The meeting closed at 9.25 pm