

LOWDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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07/05/20/33

Minutes of the monthly meeting of Lowdham Parish Council held by Internet Conferencing (Zoom) on THURSDAY 07 May 2020 at 6.45pm

Councillors:

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

Also present: Clerk Bill Banner, County Cllr Roger Jackson (L), District Cllr Tim Wendels and two members of FLAG

1. **Appointment of Chairman and vice Chairman 2020/2021** - It was unanimously agreed that Cllr Finn continue as Chairman and Cllr Coles as vice-Chairman
2. **Apologies for Absence:** None
3. **Declarations of Interest:** None
4. **Chairman's Announcements:** No announcements

5. **Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 02 April 2020** were accepted unanimously and will be signed in due course
Cllr Richard Sullivan joined the meeting at 7.07 pm and Cllr Nigel Hunt at 7.20 pm

6. **Open Session for Members of the Public to Raise Matters of Council Business:** Mr Peter Cross and Mr Russ Blenkinsop, leading members of Flooding in Lowdham Action Group (FLAG), reviewed the flood problems of Lowdham and recent incidents and talked about remedies in hand and planned for the future. Cllr Emma Wilson, an active member of the group, has been a great support. She has interviewed 50 families as part of her University of Nottingham research project on the impact on mental health and quality of life of those living in a flood risk area. In total, 170 volunteers have been recruited. Cllr Nigel Hunt is an active member of the group. FLAG is asking for Parish Council support to get the main preventative scheme approved and to hold appropriate organisations accountable. Support with planning an early warning system is requested in order to inform an up-to-date Flood Action Plan

Messrs Peter Cross and Russ Blenkinsop left the meeting at 7.30 pm. Cllr Jackson joined the meeting at 7.45pm

7. County Council matters

Cllr Roger Jackson informed members that Covid-19 funding had been made available to support the Village Hall closure. Potholes were being attended to whilst the roads have less traffic. Public tips are reopening in the next few weeks, but not for garden waste. Conversations with Network Rail about provision of land near the station to accommodate a car park continues. He explained his reservations about the flood relief remedial work being considered by the Environment Agency and undertook to do all he can to get meaningful action. In response to a question from Cllr Alison Glazebrook, Roger confirmed that NSDC were still undertaking removal of fly-tipping. Rubbish reported last month in the church car park is still there. Roger said he would remind for its removal.

8. District Council matters

Cllr Tim Wendels informed members that funds are available to replenish aqua-sacs and the District Council will be asking Parish Councils for their requirements. To assist with the problems arising from the Covid-19 lockdown, 27 grants totalling £330K has been made to businesses in Lowdham. The HART scheme is being supported. £5K grant for flood victims has been made. The collection of recycling waste is being reinstated. No large waste items can be collected at this time.

9. Amenities and Village:

- i) Roundabout: No further news

ii) Flood Relief Plans:

Cllr Finn reviewed the e-mail that she prepared following her and Emma Wilson's conversation with Nick Le Mare from the Environment Agency. She said that EA is looking at the upstream areas identified for water storage.

Cllr Jackson was not encouraged by the plans and felt there were multiple landowners involved and that the scheme will be difficult to achieve. The EA has promised 3 or 4 weekly updates about upstream storage.

Ground surveying and scoping work is to be done. The recent e-mail received from Adam Boucher (Severn Trent Water), about the recent problems in dealing with the recent flooding, had been circulated to members. In the email he explained that there had been a hydraulic deficiency, now remedied, heavy silting in a link pipe (now replaced) and provision of extra capacity in Victoria Avenue. A faulty non-return valve had been replaced. A new storage and a pumping station upgrade should alleviate the flood risk to properties in Gunthorpe Road. The £2.1m reinforcement of the sewage network should protect the village from all but the most severe future storm events.

iii) Covid-19:

The role and responsibilities of the FLAG group was discussed. It was explained that their flood relief role has been widened to include provision of care to vulnerable residents because of Covid-19. Support funding has been achieved (£8,200 received, £775.33 paid out to-date). The parish clerk has agreed to hold and administer the funds in the council's bank account and to make payments at the request of the group as and when they occur. After discussion, it was concluded that Parish Council representatives Cllrs Finn, Wilson and Hunt should meet up (virtually) within a week with Messrs Cross and Blenkinsop to discuss the working relationship between the council and FLAG and to review the agenda and objectives of FLAG and how the Parish Council can support and provide guidance.

- iv) MUGA – Resurfacing: We await the results of our funding applications to Awards for All (£10K) and WREN (£20K). Subject to the funding, the project target start date remains at 04 August 2020
- v) Insurances: Insurers have confirmed the reinstatement of building insurance cover for the former public toilet (£20K) once the usage changes to flood relief materials store

10. a) Planning Application subsequently received:

20/00662/ADV - Gonalston Farm Shop, Southwell Road, Lowdham, NG14 7DR - Display of Totem sign - Do not object, subject to no vision loss for vehicles leaving the site

b) Planning Decisions:

- 20/00298/FUL – John Harrison (Lowdham) Ltd – Changes to Car Showroom – Grant Full Permission
- 20/00378/TPO – Mee – 26 Blenheim – Refuse works - TPO

11. Finance & Assets:

- a) Payments arising in April were approved.
- b) Audited accounts for 2019/20 were approved and will be signed by the chairman
- c) Community Infrastructure Levy: The allocations from previous years have been fully used by the cost of the village gateway signs. NSDC tell us that there is no CIL allocation for Lowdham for 2019/20

12. General matters: None

13. Correspondence: None

14. Councillor's Reports: Cllr Alison Glazebrook reported that a resident had raised concerns about the planting of a laurel hedge on the grass verge between Gunthorpe Road and the A6097. The clerk had also been advised of this by a parishioner and has arranged for VIA to inspect and take appropriate action

15. Reports from Outside Organisations: Cllr Alison Glazebrook informed the members that the village hall remains closed because of Covid-19 but has received £10K compensation from the fund administered by the District Council. Also, flood defences have now been installed at the pavilion following receipt of insurance compensation for the flood damage.

16. Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 04 June 2020 by Internet Conferencing (Zoom)

Signed: Chairman

Date

The meeting closed at 8.27 pm