

LOWDHAM PARISH COUNCIL



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**Minutes of the monthly meeting of Lowdham Parish Council
held by Internet Conferencing (Zoom)
on THURSDAY 2nd July 2020 at 7.12pm (delayed start)**

02/07/2037

Councillors:

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

Also present: Clerk Bill Banner, Minute taker Wendy Fenn, County Cllr Roger Jackson and District Cllr Tim Wendels

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Rich Sullivan
- 2. Declarations of Interest:** Cllr Emma Wilson declared interest because of her flood works project with the Environment Agency
- 3. Chairman's Announcements:** No announcements
- 4. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 4th June 2020** were accepted unanimously and duly signed
- 5. Open Session for Members of the Public to Raise Matters of Council Business:** None
- 6. County Council matters**

Cllr Roger Jackson joined the meeting at 19.23pm

Cllr Roger Jackson reported he was making enquiries about the Water Tanker regularly seen filling with water at the same hydrant as it may be a Severn Trent matter. Regarding traffic lights at the roundabout, he felt the latest plans without taking land from the cricket ground would work but was concerned about safety issues if there was a failure. Consultations with the Parish Council and the Community are planned for the Autumn. The Railway Car Park plan is on hold due to Covid-19. He informed members that the County is gradually getting back to normal but there is a black hole in funding. The hedgerow planted by a resident on Gunthorpe Road is to be removed and the uncut grass verge at 15 Nottingham Road is to be looked at. He said he had met up with Mat Everitt from the Internal Drainage Board about a maintenance schedule to remove silt from the Dover beck. Cllr Chris Thompson said that there are 22 gully drainage issues in the village and asked that VIA spend some time in the village to deal with these – he agreed to let Roger have a spreadsheet to identify their whereabouts. He confirmed that Peter Cross of FLAG was involved with this matter

7. District Council matters

Cllr Tim Wendels reported positive news for the Council in that the District has agreed to a full annual Business Rates rebate for 2020/21 because of the lack of letting revenue from the Community Room, closed because of Covid 19. He hoped that a minimum of 500 aqua sacks will be delivered within the next 2 weeks. Regarding grants, those flooded this year are eligible for £500. This has been paid out to 99 properties but 11 have not applied. There is a letter to be issued shortly about a flood resilient grant of £5k for those at risk of being flooded, the appropriate work to be done by a NSDC preferred contractor. A request was made for the addresses of the 11 properties where the £500 has not been paid should be provided to FLAG. There may be GDPR matters to prevent this, but the 11 people eligible may not know of their entitlement and could be contacted. Cllr Chris Thompson reminded about provision of CCTV at the Co-op where parking issues continue

8. Amenities and Village:

- Roundabout: Discussed previously.
- Cocker Beck and Flood Relief Update (FLAG): Cllr Chris Thompson reported about the two e-mails just received about flooding. One is from resident Mr Dave Harper who has now been seen - he is helpful, resourceful and on board with the FLAG group. The other email is from a lady about her aged father whose property was affected extensively by the floods. Cllr Nigel Hunt confirmed that he is to meet up with her to agree remedial action. FLAG will provide monthly updates. Cllr Roger Jackson said that S19 Flood Report is due shortly and will be a public document. The Environment Agency plans to do work to defend one

side of the Cocker beck bank was discussed and approved – the work is timed to begin in the Autumn. 02/07/20/38

- iii. Covid-19 relief actions – Cllr Chris Thompson advised members that satisfactory financial controls are in place and administered by the clerk.
- iv. MUGA resurfacing - The clerk advised the meeting that the grant request of £20,000 sought from FCC communities foundation had been unsuccessful and therefore for the scheme to continue the Parish Council would need to provide about £30k funding with the £10k balance coming from the NCC - LIS secured grant. Cllr Coles reminded councillors that the original agreement in principle by the Parish Council had been to fund in full the replacement of the MUGA surface to maintain and enhance a community asset, and that the pursuit of supporting grants had been progressed subsequently to see if the Parish spend could be minimised. Councillors considered whether a delay in the project could secure further grant funding. It was concluded that in the current economic climate this was highly unlikely, and that further delay could result in the existing offered grant funding not materialising. Councillors have previously recognised that the proposed project will support the ongoing provision of tennis facilities and an enhanced provision for football. It is anticipated that this will lead to an increase in income to the Parish, particularly from football usage, helping to offset the cost of the project and that the MUGA will have an expected life of not less than 10 years
It was agreed that a provisional potential start date for the work to proceed should be agreed with the contractors and that finalised costing and income projections should be provided to the September Parish Council meeting, where a vote will be taken to confirm or reject the start of the project

9. a) **Planning Application:** 20/01024/FUL - 10 The Green – single storey rear extension - Do not object
b) **Planning Decisions noted:** 20/00466/FUL - Cockerbeck Cottage, 78 Main Street – Refuse permission
20/00662/ADV - Totem Sign application Gonalston Farm Shop - Refuse advertisement consent

10. Finance & Assets:

- a) **June Payments:** Payments arising in June were approved
- b) **First quarter review:** Cllr Harrison explained that both anticipated income and expenditure were less than planned, mainly because of Covid 19 preventing the letting of the Community Room
- c) **Green Energy – Community Building:** The clerk confirmed that in accordance with the decision taken in February 2020, Electricity supply is being moved to Octopus energy. Gas supply is under contract until next year.
- d) **CCTV access:** Members thanked Cllrs Mike Poyzer and Simon Mawby for resolving the problem.

11. **General matters:** i) Domain Management@digital.cabinet-office.gov.uk has highlighted a problem with the website domain – Cllr Mike Poyzer is consulting Storm Ink the administrators. Cllr Chris Thompson agreed to support Cllr Mike Poyzer to look at making improvements to the website ii) The police have advised us of damage by youths to a Village Gateway sign – this was witnessed and members asked that the police complete their enquiries iii) Uncut verge at 15 Nottingham Road – NCC are inspecting to determine responsibility for maintenance iv) Access Code to the MUGA padlock needs regular changing to deny unauthorised use v) the clerk explained that Notts CC has apologised for delays in registering land behind the toilet block as a village green. They expect that the registration will be made shortly

12. Correspondence: None

13. **Councillor's Reports:** * It was reported that Nick Le Mare (Environment Agency) was seeking permission to fly a drone over Cocker Beck to assist with the planned project. The clerk will confirm Council permission and advise Richard Bowler. * The quality of village maintenance was questioned, including benches, and the need to determine responsibilities for mowing areas/tasks. It was agreed that Cllr Coles would review tasks and current contract with maintenance contractor Richard Covill. * Cllr Stephen Platt raised the question of acquiring more defibrillators in addition to the one currently at the Village Hall. It was agreed Cllr Coles would enquire about the valid operation of the one at the World's End and Cllr. Wilson would enquire about having one fixed at Alphabet House.

14. **Reports from Outside Organisations:** Cllr Alison Glazebrook advised members that the telescopic security bollard has been installed by the toilet block. Lowdham Pre-School are the only users of the Village Hall. Although playgrounds can re-open on 4th July, Lowdham playground will remain closed as it is not practical for the VHPFC to carry out the safety regime as detailed in the Government guidelines. Geoff Burton has agreed to meet with Jamie Richardson from the EA to agree improvements to the hardcore surface laid near the toilet block.

15. **Date of Next Meeting:** Thursday 10th September 2020 (NB: Second Thursday) by Internet Conferencing (Zoom)

Signed: Chairman Date The meeting closed at 9.18 pm