

LOWDHAM PARISH COUNCIL



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Minutes of the monthly meeting of Lowdham Parish Council held by Internet Conferencing (Zoom) on THURSDAY 10th September 2020 at 6.45pm

10/09/20/41

Councillors:

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

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

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr. Nigel Hunt and Cllr. Andrew Coles

2. **Declarations of Interest:** None

3. **Chairman's Announcements:** No announcements

4. **Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 6th August 2020** were accepted unanimously and will be signed in due course

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

Standing Orders suspended 7.05 pm

6. Mr. Peter Cross of the Flood Action Group (FLAG) attended to update the Council on the work that has been carried out by VIA in clearing ditches, drains, gullies and badly blocked culverts. He said that the surface water that had been experienced during the months of November and February was because culverts had not been maintained. He reported that culvert silt on the Burton Joyce side of the A6097 needs to be removed and taken away as this is likely to be contaminated with oil and diesel washed off main road. He praised the hard work being carried out by VIA. He said he has emailed a report regarding the work for the Clerk to circulate. The Council offered its support should any specific matters arise. Responding to a question, Cllr. Wendels said that N&SDC has no specific flood plan for Lowdham, but the County Council produces a general plan for flooding in the District

Standing Orders reinstated 7.22 pm

7. **County Council matters**

The Clerk drew attention to VIA's request to know the grit salt requirements for the village this winter. In addition to the 5 x 20kg bags delivered free of charge, a further 10 x 20kg bags were agreed at a cost of £50. Cllr. Mawby offered to transport the bags to required locations as and when needed. After discussion it was agreed that a bin be ordered for the junction of Main Street and The Priors. The Clerk will seek agreement for this site from NCC Highways. The clerk will ask for the existing six blue bins be topped up. Cllr. Roger Jackson reported that ongoing work at The Priors is to resolve the inadequate capacity of the gullies before the planned resurfacing in October. As the laurels in Gunthorpe Road have not yet been removed, he agreed to chase up.

8. **District Council matters**

Cllr. Tim Wendels said that the requested aqua-sacs are at NSDC, but because of Covid-19 priorities, the sacks have not been delivered. It is hoped they can be within the next 2 weeks. He also said that the substantial increase in new cases of Covid-19 in the Newark area had meant Newark was put on the Government's Watchlist. However, following a lot of hard work in the area, cases have reduced, and Newark has been taken off the Watchlist and thus avoided going into lockdown. The omission of Lowdham from the NSDC list of villages on the website was raised. The Clerk said he had written to NSDC and Cllr Wendels agreed to chase up.

9. **Amenities and Village:**

- i) Roundabout: Cllr. Jackson had no updates to report. He enquired if members were all happy with the proposed signs for cyclists at the roundabout which hopefully make drivers more aware of cyclists. Members approved unanimously
- ii) Flood alleviation: EA update: Chairman Jacqueline reported on two matters:
 - a) Work will begin over the winter to improve the east bank of the beck to reinstate its purpose of protecting the houses.
 - b) Extensive ground investigations have been done to put a single reservoir near to Lowdham Grange The scheme is considered to be very practical and engineers are optimistic of its success. The plan is to start work by the end of 2021. Cllr Emma Wilson commented that there is to be a dedicated EA team
- iii) Covid-19 relief actions: There are no new developments – there has been no requirement for food parcels recently

- iv) MUGA resurfacing: All members had been sent the 4 quotations received and in principal favoured the local company, A S Sports Systems. There are two alternative kinds of surfaces available and members felt that the surface needed to be a compromise for all sports and an expert's advice was needed. Cllr. Finn agreed to organise a meeting with Cllr. Coles, Cllr. Poyzer and Cllr. Mawby in order to take advice on the most appropriate surface.
- v) Defibrillators: Members were reminded that Alphabet House has agreed to have a defibrillator and the one at the World's End has been refurbished. The one at the Village Hall is operational. Members discussed having more defibrillators in the village – they cost just over £1000 to be fitted. It was agreed to await the expected report from Cllr Andy Coles
- vi) Christmas: It was agreed that this year's lights switch-on would not be a special event because of numbers involved. The Clerk will order an Armistice Day wreath.
8.26 pm Cllr. Jackson left the meeting
- vii) Grass cutting/security at Southwell Road: Cllr. Poyzer reported a problem in cutting the grass by the normal mower at one end of the football pitch where the grass becomes too long to play upon and the security blocks made it difficult for RS Garden Services to bring in a larger mower. It was agreed unanimously to install a drop-down barrier. The Clerk will action

9. a) Planning Applications: 20/00889/FUL – 17 Gunthorpe Road – Demolition and erection of dwelling - Object - similar reasons as before - too large and out of keeping with the area

Subsequently received:

- 20/01654/HOUSE - 10 Epperstone Road – First floor rear extension and internal alterations - Do not object
- 20/01698/HOUSE - 20 Station Road – Erection of side garage - Do not object

b) Recent District Council Decisions:

- 20/01024/FUL- 10 The Green - Single storey rear extension- Grant Permission
- 20/01642/TWCA – 19 Lambley Road – Fell storm damaged tree – Grant Permission
- 20/01099/FUL – 2 Stoney Bank – new roof and garage – Grant Permission

10. Finance & Assets:

- a) **July and August Payments:** Payments arising in July and August were approved.
- b) **Re-opening of Community building:** The chairman commented on the extremely useful document circulated by Cllr. Glazebrook and the Councillors discussed the types of hirers who wished to use the building e.g. Slimming World/exercise groups. After considering what is needed to re-open and not having the resources, it was agreed to maintain the current situation and remain closed. The Scouts group have been given permission to use the grounds
- c) **Insurance:** Renewal is 30th September - it was noted that the Long-Term Agreement applies to 2021
- d) **New sign for the Community Building installed:** Noted
- e) **New noticeboard for Cemetery installed:** Noted
- f) **Gas supply from renewable source at a competitive price identified:** Octopus. **Current contract expires July 2021:**
- g) **LIS application for two extra gateway entrances:** LIS has advised the Clerk that it is now considering this
- h) **Unqualified audit approval for AGAR 2019/20 from External Auditor:** Noted
- i) **Resolution to adopt latest (July 2019) NALC Model Financial Regs:** All were in favour.

11. General matters: Cllr. Mawby raised the matter of verges and hedges not being cut on parts of the Old Epperstone Road and by-pass as well as grass around Lowdham Church. The Clerk requested he sends him a plan of the area concerned. Cllr Glazebrook said that the work at the churchyard will be done once the PCC has approved the draft Covid-19 risk assessment

12. Correspondence: Cllr. Platt referred to the letter from Sasha of NHS CGG on How Should Mental Health Services Be Operated and wondered if any parishioners wanted to respond. Cllr. Poyzer agreed to put details on the website. Cllr. Platt also reminded members that NALC have asked for a response by 17 Sept. to the paper about changes to the planning system. Cllr. Finn asked him to draft a response for the Council consider. The Clerk was asked to seek an extension to the response deadline. Cllr Platt also reminded council that there was a commitment to seek building insulation improvements

13. Councillor's Reports: None

14. Reports from Outside Organisations: Cllr Alison Glazebrook reported:

- i) The picnic tables at the Village Hall have been secured down as they were regularly being thrown into the Brook
- ii) With thanks to Jamie Richardson from the EA, improvements have been made to the surface of the footpath to the toilet block

15. Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 1st October 2020 by Internet Conferencing (Zoom)

Signed: Chairman

Date

The meeting closed at 9.12 pm