

LOWDHAM PARISH COUNCIL



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Minutes of a meeting of Parish Councillors held by Zoom on THURSDAY 03 February 2022 at 7.00pm

03/02/22/72

Councillors attending:

Andrew Coles, Jacqueline Finn (Chairman); Alison Glazebrook; Paul Harrison; Caroline Kew;
Stephen Platt; Mike Poyzer

Members attended remotely because of a Covid concern.

This was not a Council Meeting as full access by the general public was not possible.

Also attending: Clerk Bill Banner; Minute taker Wendy Fenn; County Cllr. Roger Jackson; District Cllr Tim Wendels and two residents in order to contribute to discussion

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs Serena Simmons and Emma Wilson
- 2. Declarations of Interest:** None
- 3. Chairman's announcements:** None
- 4. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 13 January 2022:** The minutes were noted as accurate and will be approved and signed at a future meeting

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

Item 9ii) Flood Alleviation – was brought forward to enable resident Russ Blenkinsop to brief members on the current situation. Members were informed that the EA planned progress was being achieved – both the left bank work and the main scheme work is on time. Cllr Glazebrook added that the VHPFC had been informed that the football pitch would not be playable until Sept. 2023. Resident Peter Cross reviewed a recent meeting held with the EA and made a plea to members to keep the issue of a Neighbourhood Plan open, if only restricted to the matter of flooding. A Flood Risk Assessment Record needs to be created as he considers the current Register to be not fit for purpose.

6. KINS - PC Dave Keightley: - Visit to be rearranged.

7. County Council matters: Cllr Jackson reported:

- The laurels planted in Gunthorpe Road have now been removed
- The laurels opposite Gonalston Mill have been inspected by VIA and are not deemed to be intrusive.
- The survey has been carried out on the land for the proposed Car Park at the Railway Station.
- The possibility of having an elected mayor to represent the whole of the County/ East Midlands has been proposed

8. District Council matters: Cllr. Wendels had two matters to bring to the attention of members

- From October 2021, NSDC have been undertaking a one-year trial with a company called WISE who are engaged to initiate fines for environmental offenders, such as litter and dog fouling. 593 fixed penalty notices have been issued, but none of these have been in Lowdham. Cllr Glazebrook informed Cllr Wendels that there is an issue with dog fouling in the Cemetery, resulting in Notices being placed in the Cemetery and Parish Magazine. A request for NSDC wardens to visit the area has been made
- Grants are available to the Leisure and Hospitality Sector for financial losses related to Omicron virus – up to £6000 per business. Applications close 28 February 2022. Successful applicant payments will be made before 31 March 2022.

Cllr Paul Harrison raised the continuous problem of illegal parking in Main Street and made a plea to NSDC to have this looked into – Cllr Jackson undertook to do this and to enquire about use of CCTV cameras.

9. Amenities and Village:

- Roundabout proposals update: The surveyors acting for Notts County Council have replied to the Parish Council to say that the design of the roundabout has been re-assessed and that the requested sliver of Parish Council land was now no longer needed. They have not replied to the Parish Council suggestion to make changes to access and egress on the side roads.
- Flood Alleviation: This was discussed earlier
- Green Champions Scheme: A meeting is planned to be held next week.

It was reported that unfortunately the bid made to the Lottery Fund's Awards for All had been unsuccessful **03/02/22/73**

iv) Trees for the Parish: Cllr. Kew reported that she had collected the trees ordered. If more are required, these can be obtained from the Woodland Trust in April.

v) Jubilee Arrangements: Cllr. Glazebrook confirmed that the Jubilee event at the Village Hall will be held on Sunday 5 June. The meeting discussed what could be done to mark this historic event. Members were asked to consider ideas to commemorate the date. Suggestions included an ecological project or the planting of a mature trees part of the Queen's Green Canopy Scheme. Decorations of bunting and flags were also discussed

10. Planning Applications:

22/00147/HOUSE – Scotwell House, 33 Plough Lane - Detached Garage – No member objected

11. Recent District Council Decisions:

21/02501/FUL - Alterations to dwelling at 47 Main Street; erection of rear storeroom extension to chemist shop at 49 Main Street, and addition of second bedroom; alterations to 51 Main Street to form ground floor shop - Grant Planning Permission noted

12. Finance & Assets:

a) January payments were noted.

b) Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) contribution: The Clerk reported that £3.5K is available to the Parish Council for infrastructure development. The clerk suggested that this be allocated towards the incurred costs of the Notice Trail Board; Village Signs; Repair to benches and Tennis Nets.

c) Section 137 – Ultra Vires: Resident Peter Cross of FLAG was invited to contribute, and he informed the meeting of the need for a grate/grill to go over a culvert to protect it from leaves. The culvert runs under farmland and a property on (A612) Nottingham Road where repair works need to be carried out to the drive. Peter Cross wished to make a case to the Parish Council to contribute to the costs. Discussions followed as to who owned the land under which the culvert runs. The meeting was informed that the County Council are prepared to do the work. Peter Cross enquired if the Parish Council would be prepared to underwrite between £800-£1000K and consider it as a Section 137 ultra vires contribution. He reported that VIA are proceeding to build the headwall and grate to protect debris access to the pipe. The property owner has undertaken to cover the cost of future repairs and maintenance of his drive.

Members were reluctant to set such a precedent and Peter Cross will revert to VIA

d) Upgrade fingerpost sign in Main Street: Cllr. Harrison reported that a response from part suppliers is still awaited.

Cllr. Wendels re-joined the meeting to respond to Cllr. Harrison's query regarding the parking issue on Main Street. He agreed to follow this matter up.

13. General matters:

i) Height of Headstones: The Clerk reported that he had received a query regarding the height limit for a headstone. This is currently 2 feet 6 inches and the enquiry raised was whether this included or excluded the plinth. After some discussion it was agreed to review this matter when the annual review of Cemetery Rules and Regulations is done effective 01 April 2022. Members were asked to consider a change to an overall height of one metre – the item to be discussed at the next meeting.

ii) New Caretaker: It was confirmed that a new interim Caretaker has been appointed pending any further applications. Today is the current caretaker's last working day and the Clerk had arranged a leaving gift and card for him.

14. Councillor's Reports:

i) VHPFC: Cllr. Glazebrook reported that the swing for the disabled has been installed. It was agreed at last week's meeting to formally write to the Clerk of the Parish Council to request it pursues the Village Hall's land boundary issue.

ii) Cllr. Platt raised his concerns regarding the lack of a traffic light control crossing for the south side exit road at the roundabout. He expressed his wish that a request from the Parish Council be made, in writing, to the County Council and VIA for a crossing to be situated there. Following some discussion, members decided not to write from the Parish Council, but that Cllr. Platt could write as a concerned member of the public.

15. Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 03 March 2022

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm

Signed: Chairman

Date