

LOWDHAM PARISH COUNCIL



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**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of
Lowdham Parish Council held at The Community Building, off Southwell Road, NG14 7PS
on THURSDAY 3rd March 2022 at 6.45 pm 03/03/22/74**

Councillors:

Jacqueline Finn (Chairman); Alison Glazebrook (R); Paul Harrison; Caroline Kew;
Stephen Platt; Mike Poyzer; Serena Simmons (A); Emma Wilson (A)

Cllr Glazebrook attended remotely (by zoom) to take an active part and represent residents but was not permitted to vote.

Also present: Clerk Bill Banner; Minute taker Wendy Fenn; County Cllr. Roger Jackson; District Cllr Tim Wendels and 3 residents

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr. Simmons and Cllr. Wilson
2. **Casual Vacancy:** An application had been received from Mr David Brickell. He was invited to present details of his interests and, following approval by the members and completion of forms, Mr. Brickell was duly co-opted to be a Councillor. Following the resignation of Cllr. Andrew Coles, Cllr. Finn proposed Cllr. Harrison to be Vice-Chairman. This was seconded by Cllr. Kew and approved by the members.
3. **Declarations of Interest:** None
4. **Chairman's announcements:** None
5. **Minutes of the Zoom Meeting of Councillors Meeting held on 3rd February 2022 for approval.** It was clarified that last month's Council meeting had to be cancelled at the last minute because a Councillor had been in close contact with someone with Covid. A zoom meeting of Councillors was therefore held to deal with any urgent issues. The minutes of the zoom meeting were approved. The minutes of the previous Council meeting held on 6th January 2022 were also approved.
6. **Open Session for Members of the Public to Raise Matters of Council Business:** A resident addressed the meeting regarding the Laurels that she maintains on her own property. A complaint had been made about the hedgerow obstructing the view. She was told that it was not a Parish Council matter as NCC Highways (VIA) was the responsible Authority.
7. **KINS - PC Dave Keightley:** Was unable to attend - visit to be rearranged.
8. **County Council Matters:** Cllr. Jackson reported on:
 - i) Lowering of the kerb on Station Road is confirmed as part of next year's budget.
 - ii) Work towards the Car Park at the Railway Station is slowly progressing.
 - iii) A problem experienced the day before with the train barrier being down had also happened down the line at Bleasby and Staythorpe.
 - iv) Roundabout planning is progressing.
 - v) As from May, the County Council will be moving away from the Committee run system to a Cabinet system.
 - vi) It is hoped that trains that have been withdrawn will be reinstated in Springtime. New timetables will be needed.
 - vii) Plans to minimise flooding are all going ahead.
 - viii) Household Support Fund - details can be found on the County Council website / Notts App.
 - ix) Resurfacing needed of the A6097 opposite the Paper Mill. This had been reported, but Cllr Jackson agreed to report again.
9. **District Council Matters:** Cllr. Wendels reported on:
 - i) The parking issue near the Co-op. Law enforcement visits are to be requested, but installation of CCTV was unlikely.
 - ii) Faulty streetlight on the footpath at Old Tannery Drive: This has been reported and repairs are in hand.
 - iii) Community Grant Scheme. A report is to go forward to the Council and, if approved, £100k will be available to non-profit organisations including Parish Councils with up to £5K per grant. This can be a 100% grant to be matched and used for a current project. A decision will be made by Cabinet shortly.
10. **Amenities and Village**
 - i) Roundabout proposals update: Lowdham is the second largest roundabout. Progress is being made, working down from Ollerton.
 - ii) Flood Alleviation: Cllr Finn outlined the meeting she attended on 24 Feb. with EA, NSDC Planning and Lowdham FLAG in which a Register of Assets and a Neighbourhood Plan were discussed. It was decided that designating Lowdham as a Critical Drainage Area would not adequately protect the village against future planning proposals. The importance of VIA having a timetable to clear culverts (particularly under the dual carriageway) of the build-up of debris was stressed. To further the Neighbourhood Plan (NP), the clerk was asked to write to NSDC Planners to request designation of the whole parish as a Neighbourhood. Following this, parishioners should be asked if they could support (say, at the Annual Parish Meeting) the implementation of a NP.

- iii) Village Entrance Signs: The Clerk reported that two more signs have been installed. Unfortunately, the sign previously installed on the A612 near Bulcote is leaning, and the installers have been asked to rectify it.
- iv) Green Champions Scheme: Cllr. Poyzer informed the meeting that 4 students from Trent University, as part of their work, would be helping to carry out a survey in the village. A questionnaire has been prepared. Opinions will be obtained by door to door calling, by ballot boxes placed at some venues; at groups such as scouts; and by leaflets handed out. There is also thought about making a name change, possibly to "Sustainability Lowdham".
- v) Jubilee Arrangements: Cllr. Glazebrook confirmed that final arrangements are being made by the VHPFC. Cllrs discussed the possibility of the Parish Council planting a mature tree with accompanying plaque as part of The Queen's Green Canopy scheme.
- vi) Old School Clock: Cllr. Glazebrook asked when the north face of the clock would be repaired as it is badly faded. The Clerk agreed to contact Time Assured again.

11. Planning Applications

- 22-00223-LBC - 4 Southwell Road - Proposed works to roof - Do not object
- 22/00225/CPRIOR - 24 Station Road – Change of Use from commercial to dwelling - Do not object
- 22/00226/HOUSE – 9 Southwell Road – Proposed alterations to property - Do not object
- 22/00285-HOUSE - 28 Epperstone Road - erection of garage and alterations to house - Do not object
- 22/00324/FUL – Land off Church Lane – erection of single dwelling - In the absence of a report from EA, members did not feel that they are able to approve.
- 22/00347/HOUSE – 16 Main St – single storey rear extension - Do not object 8.19pm Cllr. Jackson left the meeting

12. Recent District Council Decisions

- 21-02627-HOUSE - 36 Nottingham Road - single storey rear and side extension - Grant Application 8.21pm Cllr. Wendels left the meeting

13. Finance & Assets

- a) **January and February payments to be authorised:** Both January and February 2022 payments were approved.
- b) **To confirm budget details 2022/23:** Apart from the Green Champions Scheme, Cllr Harrison confirmed that no significant proposals had been received for any projects to be included in the next budget. The details of the budget were reviewed and agreed unanimously. The precept will remain unchanged.
- c) **Cemetery Rules & Regulations Review:** It was agreed the charges stay unchanged. The overall headstone height is to remain at 2ft 6" (base and headstone), with any foundation stone to be at ground level. Moles have caused problems within the cemetery and have been attended to.
- d) **Community Room – Pricing Review:** The Clerk reported that since Covid, some groups had been lost to other venues. It was decided to keep the pricing as it is. Cllr. Poyzer demonstrated equipment available to use to hold Film Clubs as a means of creating more usage. A Licence would be required.
- e) **Allotments – Review Annual Rent –** To remain as now.
- f) **Upgrade Finger Post in Main Street:** A cost of about £1K has been quoted by the supplier. VIA to be contacted for permission to make the changes. All were supportive of the work to go ahead.
- g) **Council Tax Rebate possibility:** An offer has been received from a Chartered Surveyor who says that they believe they can recover some £16K in overpaid council tax since 2017. They offered to do the work on a no win no fee basis, but if successful wanted 33% commission. After some discussion it was agreed not to go ahead. NSDC will be asked to explore the situation.
- h) **Recommendation to have extra paving flags laid at rear of building and to lay tarmac to replace the small stones:** This suggestion was from the new caretaker, to avoid stones etc. being brought inside. The Clerk has asked him to obtain quotes.

14. General Matters

- i) Mr Martin Holford has been appointed as the new Caretaker.
- ii) Cllr. Finn reported that there appears to be rats in the Beck again.

15. Councillors Reports

- i) Cllr. Platt referred to "Breakthrough Communications" for building two-way conversations which may be useful for the Green Champions Scheme and the Neighbourhood Plan.
- ii) Cllr. Platt mentioned the Household Support Fund. Details are to be sent to Cllr. Poyzer for the Parish Council's website.

16. Reports from Outside Organisations

There was nothing to report.

17. **Date of Next Meeting** Thursday 7th April 2022 – at the Community Building.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm

Signed: Chairman

Date