

# 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 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023 at 6.45 pm**

02/02/23/93

**Councillors:**

Derek Brickell (A); Jacqueline Finn (Chairman); Alison Glazebrook; Paul Harrison (Vice Chairman); Caroline Kew;  
Stephen Platt (A); Mike Poyzer (A); Serena Simmons (A)

**Also present:** Clerk Bill Banner; Minute taker Wendy Fenn; Cllr. Roger Jackson (L)

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr. Derek Brickell; Cllr. Stephen Platt; Cllr. Mike Poyzer; Cllr. Serena Simmons
2. **Declarations of Interest:** None
3. **Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023:** Cllr. Harrison requested an amendment under item v) Village Civil Parking Enforcement, on page 2. The following wording to be added to the second sentence: "Council agreed to continue drawing attention of VIA to the issue as they are the Highways Authority to which N&SDC had delegated responsibility as the enforcement authority". The amendment was approved, and the minutes signed subject to the amendment.
4. **Open Session for Members of the Public to Raise Matters of Council Business:** No members present.
5. **County Council Matters:** These were discussed later in the meeting.
6. **District Council Matters:** Cllr. Wendels was not available on this occasion.
7. **Amenities and Village:**
  - i) Lowdham Roundabout: No further updates.
  - ii) Flood Alleviation: With regard to the Lambley Road Reservoir, the EA are satisfied that the clearance of vegetation has started before bird nesting begins.  
With regard to the path along the Beck to the Village Hall, the meeting discussed the undulations in the path which result in large puddles and possible flooding. It was agreed something should be done and plans submitted, but these would need the consent of the EA.
  - iii) Green Champions Scheme: Cllr. Kew updated the meeting that Lowdham Environment Group had i) put in a submission for funds; ii) Cllr. Platt is getting the Scouts involved with activities e.g. making compost bins, iii) another event planning meeting is to be arranged; iv) working with the local people. Cllr. Roger Jackson has confirmed he is happy to give a talk. Cllr. Kew hoped to bring more information of events to the next meeting.
  - iv) Communities Engagement Support to improve:
    - a) Path along the beck – The Clerk confirmed that figures have been sent for labour and materials. A bid has also been submitted for Cllr. Simmons suggestion for the bridges over the Beck to be repainted.
    - b) Village appearance – Cllr. Simmons had suggested upgrading the village centre. The Clerk put forward the idea of a colour theme for the village to encourage frontage appearance and green was suggested. This could include window boxes. The Clerk is to write to the Horticultural Society to enquire if they would plant up boxes/pots that are provided.
    - c) Posts alongside The Leys footpath – The meeting discussed the post and rail fence along the footpath between the church and A6097 being in need of repair.
  - v) Dog Bin – Cllr. Glazebrook said she had been advised by a resident that the dog bin on The Leys footpath next to the school was not being emptied. The Clerk will follow this up with NSDC.
8. **Planning Applications**

23/00126/HOUSE - Apple Croft House Plough Lane - two storey and single storey extensions - No comment. This is Green Belt and a technical planning matter.

**9. Recent District Council Decisions**

1. 22/02173/LBC - 4 Southwell Road - Insertion of 2 no. rooflights, glazing of existing garage door opening and internal alterations including partial demolition of internal wall - Grant Listed Building Consent noted.
2. 22/02010/HOUSE - 8 Gunthorpe Road - new roof over garage and erection of a single storey front and side extension - Grant Application noted.

**10. Finance & Assets**

**a) January 2023 payments to be authorised:** January payments were approved unanimously. Attention was drawn to i) the high cost of the repairs to the clock, which also included the annual service and ii) rise in cost for electric in the toilets – the increase has been anticipated in the budget for next year.

**b) Completion of limited assurance review for the year ending 31 March 2022:** The Clerk informed the meeting that due to the incorrect signing-off date being put on the accounts, the auditors had provided a qualified audit. This will have to be mentioned in next year's commentary.

Cllr. Harrison raised the matter of the extra admin help that is required to support the Clerk and the need to appoint an appropriate person. The meeting discussed the hours, pay and possibility of developing the person for the role when the Clerk should decide to retire. The Clerk requested he research his own contacts initially. It was agreed by all that the Clerk should go ahead and look for potential support. Hand in hand with this, it was thought options should be investigated for office premises, particularly looking at what could be done at the Community Building itself. The clerk will bring suggestions to council.

*7.30pm Cllr. Roger Jackson arrived.*

**5. County Council Matters**

- i) New interactive sign, facing the village, in Southwell Road is now operational and is thought to be having an effect. Thanks were expressed to Cllr. Jackson for his role in achieving this.
- ii) Barker Hill, Church Lane and Lime Tree Gardens will be closed for road repairs. Cllr. Jackson confirmed that the condition of the Ton Lane crossroads had also been reported to VIA many times.
- iii) Cllr. Jackson confirmed, as previously mentioned, that clearance of vegetation has started before bird nesting begins as preparatory work for the reservoir creation begins.
- iv) There have been 2 consultations. One for glass collection for which 91% are in favour and the other related to having combined authorities.
- v) Railway Station Car Park: This had been delayed due to i) the need to take down 4 trees and ii) a finance issue. Cllr. Jackson was also informed of the concerns around DDA accessibility to trains from the station platforms. In addition, the proposed location of the sole ticket payment machine being on the Newark platform would mean lots of travellers having to cross over the track to get their ticket. Cllr. Jackson agreed to enquire into these matters.
- vi) Cllr. Glazebrook raised concerns about the footpath on Lambley Road being caked in mud and slurry. Cllr Jackson advised that this was already being looked into.

**11. General Matters:**

To raise funds for the Charity for Ukraine Refugees, Cllr. Jackson invited all to take a table for 10 people at a three-course dinner event with Cossack dancers. The cost is £30 and takes place on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at the Cedric Ford Centre, Newark Showground.

**12. Councillors' Reports:**

Cllr. Glazebrook reported that the Village Hall & Playing Fields Committee (VHPFC) had reached an agreement with the Environment Agency for financial compensation for loss of income from the Playing Fields because of the flood alleviation work. She also mentioned that FLAG is to be asked to remove the pile of sandbags from behind the toilet block.

Cllr. Glazebrook also advised that a meeting has been arranged between Cllrs Poyzer, Brickell and 3 representatives from the VHPFC to discuss arrangements in the village for Christmas 2023.

**13. Reports from Outside Organisations:** No reports.**14. Date of Next Meeting:** Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023 – at the Community Building

The meeting closed at 7.57pm

Signed: Chairman .....

Date .....