

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 12th January 2023 at 6.45 pm 12/01/23/91**

Councillors:

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

Also present: Clerk Bill Banner; Minute taker Wendy Fenn

1. Apologies for Absence: Cllrs. Caroline Kew and Serena Simmons.
Cllrs. Roger Jackson and Tim Wendels also sent their apologies.

2. Declarations of Interest: None

3. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 1st December 2022:
The minutes were approved unanimously.

4. Open Session for Members of the Public to Raise Matters of Council Business: No members present.

5. County Council Matters

Cllr. Jackson, although unable to attend, asked that the provision of tactile tiles for the train station platforms be discussed. Members thought that Lowdham already had these. Other matters discussed related to the difficulty for the disabled in that access onto the trains is normally at the furthest end of the train...the nearer carriages doors are not disabled friendly. In addition, the ticket machine, being installed, is on the outbound platform. Most passengers go to Nottingham so need to visit both platforms to get a ticket. The Clerk agreed to raise these issues with Cllr Jackson.

Cllr. Harrison highlighted matters to report to VIA. These included:

- i) Huge potholes on the southbound side of the A6097 between the two turnings for Old Epperstone Road
- ii) A ground fissure going over the traffic lights at the Ton Lane crossing.

6. District Council Matters

Cllr. Wendels had written to remind members about the Community Chest Fund. Bids can be made for a maximum of £5K per project, but need to be done by the end of January 2023.

After discussion it was decided to apply for funding for work to be done to apply shale/stones over the muddy path alongside the beck between Brookside and the Village Hall. Also, to write to the Old Hall, as landowners, regarding repairs to the concrete posts and rails along The Leys footpath between the A6097 and Church Lane.

Cllr. Simmons had written to suggest applying for funds to improve the appearance of the village bridges and also to tidy up Main Street and attempt to get a uniform colour for the property frontages in the centre of Main Street.

The Clerk was asked to apply to the Community Chest Fund for these projects.

7. Amenities and Village:

- i) Lowdham Roundabout: No further updates.
- ii) Flood Alleviation: EA progress: No main issues. Work is due to start this Spring - preparations have been made.
- iii) Green Champions Scheme Update: Cllrs. Poyzer and Brickell reported that the Social Quiz night had gone very well. Many ideas for this next year were presented to the meeting involving setting up a constitution; promoting with posters and leaflets; activities and workshops for children. It was noted that Cllr. Platt had been working with the Scouts towards their environmental badges, with 4 out of 5 of them having written to him with their own ideas.

- iv) Christmas 2023: Following the arrangements for Christmas 2022 not going as well as previous years, much discussion was had as to how to improve arrangements for this year. It was thought a different approach was required and a possible theme could be an environmentally friendly Christmas with input from Lowdham Environmental Group. It was agreed that the event will take place on Friday 1st December 2023; a joint meeting be held between representatives from the Village Hall & Playing Fields Committee and Cllrs. Brickell and Poyzer; the Clerk to send contact information he has to Cllrs. Brickell and Poyzer. Cllr. Glazebrook agreed to ask the Village Hall & Playing Fields Committee to contact Cllrs. Brickell and Poyzer. The question also arose regarding a License for the electricity supply used for the Christmas lights. This will be checked.
- v) Village Civil Parking Enforcement: Members discussed that enforcement has been very ineffective and highlighted that at particularly busy parking times, people are parking inconsiderately. Council agreed to continue drawing attention of VIA to the issue.

8. Planning Applications

- 22/02010/HOUSE - 8 Gunthorpe Road - conversion of garage - single storey front and side extension - Do Not Object
- 23/00035/HOUSE - 16 Willow Holt - single storey extension over garage and single storey rear extension - Do Not Object

9. Recent District Council Decisions

- 1. 22/01813/HOUSE - Proposed internal and external alterations - Cliff Mill, Southwell Road - Grant Application
- 2. 22/02068/HOUSE - 7 Skithorne Rise - single-storey side extension - Refuse Householder Application

10. Finance & Assets

- a) **November payments to be authorised:** December payments were approved unanimously.
- b) **Budget 2023/24 confirmation:** The Clerk had circulated details prior to the meeting. With the current funds available, the meeting discussed what projects to consider and whether there should be an increase in the precept. It was agreed a priority would be to work towards providing office premises and administration help for the Clerk. After discussion, it was proposed and agreed that there would be no increase to the precept. Cllrs. Finn and Harrison to meet with the Clerk towards recruiting administration support.

The Clerk informed the meeting that the Auditors have been reappointed for another 5 years, but as yet they have still not approved the accounts. The Clerk will write to express disappointment.

11. General Matters:

- i) Cllr. Platt advised that the following correspondence had been received:
 - From Screveton Parish Council regarding availability of trees. Members agreed that Cllr. Platt should respond.
 - From N&SDC regarding a musical evening
 - An Invitation from NALC for Finance training
 - From Russ Blenkinsop regarding the Nottingham Roosevelt Scholarship
 - From N&SDC relating to the UK Shared Property Fund
 - About the Local Community Fund to help those struggling to buy food, energy bills etc.
 It was agreed that information from the correspondence could go on to the website.
- ii) Cllr. Glazebrook confirmed that the new clock face had been installed on the Old School clock earlier today.
- iii) Cllr. Platt confirmed that the Village Hall play area has been inspected.
- iv) Cllr. Brickell highlighted that the Red Arrows are moving to RAF Syerston for 4 months training which will mean that they will be flying low over Lowdham.

12. Councillors' Reports: No reports

13. Reports from Outside Organisations: No reports.

14. Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 2nd February 2023 - at the Community Building

The meeting closed at 8.15pm

Signed: Chairman

Date