

LOWDHAM PARISH COUNCIL



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Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting and the May Monthly Meeting of Lowdham Parish Council held at The Community Building, off Southwell Road, NG14 7PS on THURSDAY 11th May 2023 at 6.45 pm

11/05/23/99

Councillors:

Derek Brickell (A); Alison Glazebrook; Paul Harrison; Caroline Kew (A);
Stephen Platt; Mike Poyzer (L); Serena Simmons

Also present: Clerk Bill Banner; Minute Taker Wendy Fenn

1. **Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman** and the signing of formal acceptance of office. The Clerk opened the meeting and asked for nominations for the position of Chairman. Cllr. Platt proposed Cllr. Harrison be nominated. This was seconded by Cllr. Glazebrook and there was unanimous agreement. No nominations were received for the Vice Chairman position. Cllr. Harrison will make enquiries as to who may wish to fill the position. Signing of formal acceptance of office was completed by the Councillors. There are 4 vacancies on the Council to be filled.
2. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs. Brickell and Kew.
3. **Declarations of Interest:** None declared.
4. **Chairman's Announcements:** None.
5. **Membership of Standing Working Groups:** It was decided to review at the next meeting the current Standing Working Groups and to add Lowdham Environment Group
6. **Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 6th April 2023** were approved and duly signed.
7. **Open Session for Members of the Public to Raise Matters of Council Business:** No members of the public were present.
8. **County Council Matters:** No report – Cllr Jackson did not attend.
9. **District Council Matters:** No report - Cllr Wendels did not attend.
10. **Amenities and Village:**
 - i) Lowdham Roundabout: No further updates.
 - ii) Flood Alleviation: EA progress – the decision of the April NSDC Planning Committee was unknown, and the clerk undertook to ask for a report from Cllr Tim Wendels who attended the meeting.
 - iii) Lowdham Environment Group (LEG) update:
 - a) Cllr. Platt drew attention to an online event run by NALC taking place on the 24 May: "Fighting climate change with local council action". Council agreed that members of LEG wishing to attend should do so. The clerk agreed to arrange payment.
 - b) Greenwood Community Forest: Cllr. Platt spoke of ways to encourage people to plant trees. The Clerk agreed to forward contact details of the Young Farmers to Cllr. Platt to get in touch and encourage the plantings.
 - c) Cllr. Platt reported that a LEG newsletter is to be put through all letterboxes informing them about the Group and what they do.
 - iv) Coronation benches – the three benches have been delivered – one will be put in the Cemetery. Village locations for the other two benches were discussed - outside the Post Office, by the Nottingham bound bus stop and outside the Pharmacy. For the locations, approval will need to be sought from Highways. The Local Post Office and Pharmacy will be asked for their views of having a bench outside their premises.

A condition review of existing benches was also discussed and the likelihood of people sponsoring a bench. Cllr. Jackson had previously expressed an interest in helping with the refurbishing of the bench at Station Road/Southwell Road junction. The Clerk will arrange for the condition of village benches to be checked.
 - v) Christmas 2023 planning: It was confirmed that it had been agreed to hire two Reindeer to be at the Christmas Lights switch on event. Other aspects were discussed including who would be representing Santa; provision of a tractor; having a fair; stalls at the Village Hall, Christmas Trees and Lights. The Clerk confirmed that the large Christmas tree had already been requested. It was agreed that the Christmas Committee needed to have further discussions to determine what they wish to happen. The Parish Council would be supporting the event. The Clerk agreed to pass on contact details for the trees and lights if any changes needed to be made. Cllr. Harrison wished all arrangements to be in place by the end of August. In the meantime, the item will remain on the agenda each month.
 - vi) Cemetery Dogs Sign cost: £20 for a metal sign. The Clerk had sourced and ordered the signs.
 - vii) Bench upgrade request – from Cllr. Roger Jackson: This was discussed under iv) above.

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- viii) Trees Survey – reduced cost £1700 approved. The Clerk recommended that from a safety point of view the survey should be carried out on all trees for which the Parish Council are responsible. All were in favour to proceed.
- ix) Speeding Traffic – Lowdham–Lambley: Following concerns raised by a parishioner, the meeting discussed the speed limits and condition of the road. The Clerk was asked to let the parishioner know that the issue has been discussed at this meeting and that he was raising the matter with the Highways Department, highlighting the issues of white lines, potholes and speed.

11. Planning Applications:

- 23/00451/LBC - 4 Southwell Road Lowdham NG14 7DT - removal of existing UPVC windows and replacement with timber - Do Not Object
- 23/00685/HOUSE - 1 The Orchards - proposed two storey side extension (resubmission) - No Comment
- 23/00361/HOUSE - 34 Ton Lane - proposed side & rear ground floor extension and first floor side extension - No Comment

12. Recent District Council Decisions

- 23/00371/HOUSE - 11 Lime Tree Gardens - single storey rear extension - Grant Application
- 23/00126/HOUSE - Apple Croft House, Plough Lane - two storey and single rear extensions, two storey front extensions, dormer windows and brick leaf to outer face - resubmission of 22/00252/HOUSE - Grant Application

13. Finance & Assets

- a) **April payments to be authorised:** Duly approved.
- b) **Lowdham pre-school appeal:** The meeting discussed the appeal received, but felt more up to date and relevant information was required. The Clerk was asked to write to the pre-school and signpost them to the District and County Councils as more appropriate to guide them towards more relevant help.
- c) **Consider LED lighting in the Community Building:** A quote of £1700 had been received to replace the current lights with LED, so saving electricity and helping with climate issues. All were in favour of going ahead.
- 8.10pm Cllr. Poyzer arrived.*
- d) **Consider Solar Panels at the Community Building:** The meeting discussed 3 possible options for having Solar Panels at the Community Building. Although members agreed that from a climate point of view it should go ahead, it was considered to be expensive with a long pay-back period. It was agreed to look again at this proposition in 12 months' time to see what figures were available then.

14. **General Matters:** Cllr. Poyzer apologised for his late arrival. He proposed that Cllr. Brickell (in his absence) be appointed Vice Chairman of the Parish Council. This was seconded by Cllr. Glazebrook. All were in favour – Cllr Poyzer reported that, prior to the meeting, Cllr. Brickell had indicated a willingness to be proposed. The Acceptance Form will be completed on his return.

15. Councillors' Reports:

- a) Cllr. Platt informed the meeting that LEG wish to put up 3 banners in the village to promote the Group. The locations are at the Village Hall, the bank adjacent to the roundabout / Playing Fields and near to the Community Building. He was advised that consent will need to be formally requested from the Village Hall & Playing Fields Committee and PC respectively and, if it is to be permanent, planning permission might be needed.
- b) Cllr. Platt suggested a gift be presented to Jacqueline Finn to thank her for her time as Chair. This was agreed. Cllr. Platt will arrange and send details to the Clerk.

16. **Reports from Outside Organisations:** No reports.

17. **Date of Next Meeting:** Thursday 01 June 2023 – at the Community Building

The meeting closed at 8.36pm

Signed: Chairman

Date