

LOWDHAM PARISH COUNCIL



Clerk's address: 25 The Green, Radcliffe-on-Trent,
Nottingham, NG12 2LA

Telephone: 0115 933 5921

e-mail: clerk@lowdham-pc.gov.uk

E-mail: billbanner1@virginmedia.com

www.lowdham-pc.gov.uk

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Lowdham Parish Council held at The Community Building, off Southwell Road, NG14 7PS on THURSDAY 6th July 2023 at 6.45 pm

06/07/23/103

Councillors:

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

Also present: Clerk Bill Banner; Minute taker Wendy Fenn; Cllr. Tim Wendels; Cllr. Roger Jackson, Alison Thomas and seven members of the public.

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** Apologies received from Cllr. Simmons.
- 2. Declarations of Interest:** Cllr Harrison declared a non-pecuniary interest in Planning Application 23-00907-HOUSE - 5 The Sidings and the Vice Chairman agreed to take the chair for this item. Cllr Glazebrook also declared an interest in this Planning Application plus a pecuniary interest in the Planning Application 23-00921-HOUSE - 31 Ridge Hill.
- 3. Chairman's announcements:** None
- 4. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 1st June 2023** were accepted and duly signed. *6.49pm Standing Orders were suspended*
- 5. Open Session for Members of the Public to Raise Matters of Council Business.** Limited to 15 minutes.
Two members of the public spoke, on behalf of themselves and other residents of Ridge Hill, to give reasons to object to Planning Application 23-00921-HOUSE - 31 Ridge Hill.
A third resident raised: i) Possible donations of bulbs by Lowdham Horticultural Society for planting around the village. The resident was encouraged to apply for a Parish Council grant. ii) To seek an undertaking that N&SDC will replace any trees damaged by grass strimming. iii) To complain that an oak tree on the Playing Fields was damaged when contractors were engaged by N&SDC to fell a horse chestnut tree. The clerk commented that the contractors had been asked about the damage and they said it was a pre-existing condition. iv) There are bare patches of grass following the seeding of the football pitch where the seeds have not fully taken. v) Fixing of the pedestrian gate adjacent the A6097 still needs to be done.
Another member of the public reminded members of the major problem of illicit parking in Main Street outside the Co-op when no traffic wardens are in attendance. Recent heavy rainfall had flooded the sewerage system particularly at Ton Lane and The Priors. He requested help in getting Severn Trent Water to improve the maintenance of the drains, noting that roads, with weeds and leaf debris in the gutters, needed more regular sweeping. *7.09pm Standing Orders were reinstated*
- 6. N&SDC Community Development Officer – Alison Thomas – Regeneration and Housing Strategy**
Alison Thomas introduced herself, having been in this role for 2 months, covering areas including Lowdham, Southwell, Newark and Oxtun. She offered her support relating to achieving an Efficiency East Midlands Grant (£500 maximum). She could also arrange to loan equipment (e.g., for litter picking) and help with community events. *7.20pm Alison Thomas left the meeting*
- 7. County Council Matters:** Cllr Jackson reported on:
 - The good news that the EA have confirmed that they are fully funded to proceed with the flood defence work planned. Work will start on the reservoir in Autumn 2023 and will take 2 years to complete.
 - Roundabout work is to start Summer 2024. Traffic control will be well signed - all 7 junctions under the A614/A6097 Major Road Network scheme are to be done at the same time.
 - Flooding alleviation: As raised earlier, excessive surface water is getting into the foul water system, following the heavy storms. He confirmed that Severn Trent Water are aware of the issue.
 - Regarding the unsatisfactory seeding of the football pitch, contact has been made with the EA. He also suggested that new trees should be planted with protective guards to protect from grass strimmers.
 - Railway Station car park: Negotiations are ongoing.
 - Noise levels are to be tested at The Old Volunteer, Caythorpe.
 - Cllr Glazebrook reminded Cllr. Jackson that the white lining on Lambley Road still needs attention. Cllr. Jackson agreed to press for this to be done.
- 8. District Council Matters:** Cllr. Wendels commented on the weeds and debris in the gutters: He confirmed that this has been reported and that he will enquire about more regular street cleaning. He has also reported the car parking problem in Main Street discussed earlier. Regarding glass Recycling: Kerbside bins are to be delivered later this year. – residents who do not want a bin should complete an online opt out form on the N&SDC website by 16 July.
He is reminded members that there is a coalition of parties in control at N&SDC and the portfolios have increased from 5 to 8.

Cllr. Kew enquired about having provision for recycling of Tetrapaks. Cllr. Wendels and Jackson believed that Tetrapak provided this themselves as a specialised recyclable system. The clerk was asked to make enquiries. *(The next two items were brought forward)*

10. Planning Applications:

Both Cllrs. Glazebrook and Harrison stepped out of the meeting following their earlier declarations of interest whilst planning application 23-00907-HOUSE was discussed.

23-00907-HOUSE - 5 The Sidings - new extension and conversion of existing garage to provide accessible living space - DO NOT OBJECT.

Cllr Glazebrook remained outside the meeting whilst planning application 23-00921-HOUSE was discussed.

23-00921-HOUSE - 31 Ridge Hill - Single storey front and rear extension. Two storey rear extension with cladding, render and associated internal reconfiguration. OBJECT - High intensity plans that will have a detrimental effect on the area - the plans are for a further extension to an extension already done - significant impact on neighbours - loss of privacy - overbearing and too large for the site. Out of character with neighbours (rendering v red brick).

6 Members of the Public left the meeting after this item.

23-01049-HOUSE - 3 Grove Farm, Lambley Road - conversion of existing garages to office and storage space - NO COMMENT.

23-01077-HOUSE - 9 Lambourne Crescent - Proposed 2 storey side extension. NO COMMENT.

11. Recent District Council Decisions:

23/00586/LPDC - 3 Grove Farm, Lambley Road - Convert part garage to office - Refused.

23/00685/HOUSE - 1 The Orchards - Proposed two-storey side extension (resubmission) - Grant Application.

23/00361/HOUSE - 34 Ton Lane - proposed two storey side and single storey side and rear extension - Grant Application.

9. Amenities and Village:

7.56pm Cllr Jackson left the meeting.

(i) Roundabout – Signage: No further updates. ii) Flood alleviation: Cllr Jackson had reported progress with EA earlier.

iii) Lowdham Environment Group Update: A meeting with the Scout Group is to be reorganised. Speakers are to be engaged.

The Group would like to consider the appointment of social media support staff. It was agreed that there is a need for social media support for the Council in general and to seek advice relating to strategy, job description, salary, hours and person specification for discussion at the September meeting.

8.07pm Cllr. Wendels left the meeting.

iv) Coronation Benches – One bench is to be fixed in the Cemetery and a second is planned to go outside the Post Office (if permission obtained). Cllr. Harrison will speak to the landowner. The third will be fixed in the play area in Old Tannery Drive.

v) Christmas: Planning is in progress. More information to be brought to the September meeting.

vi) Former Public Toilet Building: It was agreed to continue its use as storage for FLAG until village flood alleviation is complete.

vii) Watering: It was agreed that N&SDC be asked do the watering of newly planted trees.

12. Finance & Assets

a) **June Payments to be authorised:** June payments were approved.

b) **Review and Approve Financial Regulations and Standing Orders:** Approved.

c) **Insurance Questionnaire:** An insurance questionnaire had been received for completion and signing by the Clerk. This can be adjusted after the Community Building's extension is complete for any additional cover required.

d) **Octopus Energy:** The Clerk informed the meeting that the current 3-year fixed contract ends this month and that the new rates are at twice the amount for a new 12 month's fixed contract. Research on a comparison website confirmed that the new pricing is competitive. It was agreed for the Clerk to accept the new fixed offer. The clerk is negotiating with Lowdham Colts for an increase in the MUGA electricity contribution.

e) **Community Building Extension Project:** Revised plans to provide extra space were considered. Members approved unanimously and the clerk was asked to proceed to submit a planning application to NSDC Planners.

13. General Matters:

a) **Terrorism Draft Bill:** The Chair explained that this was the Government's response to the Manchester Arena bombing and listed the issues contained therein that would have to be considered. The Bill applies to venues with more than 100 capacity – this could affect lettings at the Village Hall and possibly at the Community Room.

b) **Missing Bench:** Believed to have been stolen from the Playing Fields. Members discussed ownership as the bench was a donation from a resident. It was agreed to ask the insurers about cover for theft of street furniture.

c) **EA:** The Clerk confirmed that the EA have agreed to reseed the grass where necessary and complete repairs to the gate. The path along the beck is to be improved by EA contractors - he reminded members of the successful application to the District Council for funding to enable the parish to contribute to costs if necessary.

d) **Damage to the low fence at the grassed area in front of the Community Building:** the clerk will arrange for repairs.

e) **Football games** are reported by residents as being played at the MUGA and in the car park where balls are being kicked against the Community Building. It was agreed that MUGA tennis users would be warned not to abuse the use of the fob.

14. Councillors' Reports:

Cllr. Glazebrook reported for information that i) VIA are to carry out an ecology inspection of the Playing Fields in relation to badgers and ii) the new 'dog on leads' sign on a post at the Cemetery entrance is not secure – to be tightened up.

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

16. **Date of Next Meeting:** Thursday 7th September 2023 – at the Community Building The meeting closed at 8.52pm

Signed: Chairman

Date