

# LOWDHAM PARISH COUNCIL



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## Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Lowdham Parish Council held at The Community Building, off Southwell Road, LOWDHAM, NG14 7PS on THURSDAY 02 November 2023 at 6.45 pm

02/11/23/107

### Councillors:

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

**Also present:** Clerk Bill Banner; County Cllr. Roger Jackson, District Cllr Tim Wendels and eight residents.

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** Apologies received from Cllrs Kew and Simmons and from Minute taker Wendy Fenn
- 2. Declarations of Interest:** Cllr Alison Glazebrook declared a non-pecuniary interest in Planning Application 23/01650/HOUSE – 31 Ridge Hill
- 3. Chairman's announcements:** The Chairman informed members that Cllr Serena Simmons has resigned from Council with immediate effect and urged members to consider proactive recruitment to fill casual vacancies. Cllr Derek Brickell will post on Facebook and other social media sites.
- 4. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 07 September 2023** were accepted and signed as a true record. The meeting planned for 05 October had to be cancelled.

*6.58pm Standing orders were suspended*

- 5. Open Session for Members of the Public to Raise Matters of Council Business.** Members of the public connected to Lowdham Cricket Club described the extent of flood damage that has occurred to the cricket pavilion over the years and asked for the Parish Council's help in dealing with the problem. More details will be submitted to Council so the matter can be discussed at the December meeting.

A group of neighbours raised their objections to Planning Application 23/01650/HOUSE – 31 Ridge Hill, to be discussed later in the evening.

*7.13pm Standing orders were reinstated*

- 9. Planning Applications:** (brought forward in the agenda). *Having declared an interest, Cllr Alison Glazebrook left the meeting for this item.*  
Subsequently received: 23-01650-HOUSE – 31 Ridge Hill, Lowdham, NG14 7EL - proposed front and rear extensions with internal reconfiguration – Resubmission.

The members comments are similar to those made in July 2023 for 23/00921/HOUSE - 31 Ridge Hill - Single storey front and rear extensions, two storey rear extension, together with cladding and rendering (Plans withdrawn).

Overbearing; Adverse effect on Neighbours (overlooking/loss of privacy/light); Extension too big for plot - proposed increase in rear ridge height; Not in keeping with the neighbourhood; Excessive amount of white render out of character with street scene.

2 storeys not acceptable; No soakaway proposed - sewers will need to accept increased water flow.

It was noted that work has started already without permission – OBJECT.

*Five residents left the meeting.*

- 7. District Council Matters:** Cllr. Wendels reviewed the flood/water ingress compensation hardship grant availability from Notts County Council (£120 per property) plus the Community Recovery Grant of £500 available from the District Council (Levelling up fund). There is also a small business grant of £2,500 available plus council tax discount. He reported that the Community Engagement Team had been very active and assisted on the flood sites. Street cleaning and a Flood Waste collection service has been set up. He thanked FLAG for their help, Mr Peter Cross in particular.

*07.35 pm Cllr Jackson joined the meeting.*

- 6. County Council Matters:** Cllr. Jackson referred to the NCC compensation grant and explained that some 700 properties had been flood effected in Nottinghamshire. Cllr Alison Glazebrook noted that the white lining in Ton Lane had been done and thanked Cllr Jackson for his assistance in bringing this about.

**8. Amenities and Village:**

- i) Flood alleviation: Last month, Cllrs Harrison and Brickell attended the sod cutting ceremony to note the start of the reservoir construction at the site off Lambley Road. Recent heavy rains affected the village as reported in District Council Matters.
- ii) Lowdham Environment Group Update: Cllr. Poyzer reported that Cllr Kew is to attend a UK Green Tech event in the new year. The job advert for the Social Media vacancy was approved and the clerk undertook to recruit candidates by circulating the advert as widely as possible.
- iii) Lamp-post poppies – a supply has been obtained. With the thanks of Council, Mr Peter Cross has undertaken to have these fixed.
- iv) Christmas 2023 Planning: Cllr. Poyzer reviewed progress to date and said all arrangements were in hand. The reindeers are to be restricted to the village hall area for the 2-hour duration. Cllrs Poyzer and Kew are to investigate the demand for small Christmas trees in Main Street before making the order. Cllr Roger Jackson confirmed he was agreeable to switch on the Christmas lights.
- v) Football pitch – A site meeting with the EA to resolve the problems with the football pitch, A6097 gate closure and hedge repairs was held. Some ground remedial work has been done and further work agreed.
- vi) Speeding in Main Street – to be discussed at the next meeting.

*08.11pm Cllrs Jackson and Wendels left the meeting*

**10. Recent District Council Decisions:**

- 23/01230/LDCE - Hywinds Farm Lambley Road - Certificate of lawful use issued.
- 23/01099/HOUSE - 17 Blenheim Avenue - demolish Conservatory and replace with single storey extension – approved.
- 23/01220/FUL - Lowdham Community Building - New single storey entrance to existing – approved.

**11. Finance & Assets**

- a) September and October payments were approved.
- b) Budget 2024/25: members were asked to consider the need for an increase in the precept (last increased in 2019) to assist with the cost of the proposed office extension. To be discussed further at the December meeting.
- c) Community Building Extension Project: Following receipt of the NSDC Planning approval, the clerk will contact Building Control and seek competitive construction quotations.
- d) As the bench at the corner of Station Road and Southwell Road needs extensive repair, it is suggested that a new one be obtained. Members agreed to replace with a Coronation bench – like the ones bought earlier in the year. Cllr Jackson offered to contribute £300 from his member's fund (bench cost £600).
- e) Signage at the village hall needs to be improved and members agreed to review the wordings before ordering replacement signs.
- f) The village mowing contract is due for review for the 3-year period 2024/27. The clerk will obtain competitive quotations.
- g) A newly received Grant Application from Lowdham Horticultural Society will be considered at a later meeting.

**12. General Matters:**

As agreed at the last meeting, enquiries are being made to determine whether the village hall might contain RAAC concrete.

**13. Councillors' Reports:**

- i) Cllr Stephen Platt requested that the advert to recruit social media staff be sent to Newark & Sherwood CVS
- ii) Cllr. Platt confirmed that, as agreed, he had sent off a response to the Waste Local Plan, circulated by NCC.

**14. Reports from Outside Organisations: VHPFC:** Cllr Ali Glazebrook informed members that Hags are to assess the playground equipment on 3 November following NSDC's inspection report.

**15. Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 14 December 2023**

The meeting closed at 09.00pm

Signed: Chairman .....

Date .....