

# 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 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 6.45 pm (Start delayed until 7.15pm)

14/12/23/109

### Councillors:

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

**Also present:** Clerk Bill Banner; Minute taker Wendy Fenn, and ten residents.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** None. County Cllr. Roger Jackson and District Cllr. Tim Wendels were unable to attend.
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 announced that there are still vacancies for Parish Councillors. An interested resident is to attend to observe the January meeting.
4. **Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2023** were accepted and signed as a true record.  
*Standing orders were suspended.*
5. **Open Session for Members of the Public to Raise Matters of Council Business.** A group of neighbours raised their objections to the revised Planning Application 23/01650/HOUSE - 31 Ridge Hill, saying that there appeared to be very little difference from the original plans. Members of the FLAG group described the areas in the village that had suffered in the recent floods and asked for the Parish Council's support with proposed costs.  
*Standing orders were reinstated.*
9. **Planning Application: (brought forward in the agenda).** *Cllr. Glazebrook left the meeting for this discussion.*  
23/01650/HOUSE - 31 Ridge Hill, Lowdham (amended plans received subsequently) - proposed front and rear extensions with internal reconfiguration - Members' view remains unchanged in that the proposed second storey is overbearing and will have a domineering effect, overshadowing the neighbour's patio and resulting in loss of amenities, sunlight and privacy. The neighbour's back bedroom and lounge would be affected by the loss of light.  
The information presented conflicts as the gable end is drawn as bricks but is labelled "off white render". The proposed render on the front of the house is out of character with the street scene - OBJECT.  
*Five residents left the meeting.*
6. **County Council Matters:** Cllr. Jackson had sent his apologies. The poor road surface of Plough Lane was raised by a resident, expressing concern about potholes and blocked drains. Cllr. Jackson is to carry out a site visit with inspectors and will respond to the resident.  
*Two residents left the meeting.*
7. **District Council Matters:** Cllr. Wendels had sent his apologies. He had submitted no matters for reporting.
8. **Amenities and Village:**
  - i) Flood alleviation report update: It was stated that there have been 4 alerts in 3 days, one being a warning. A relative of a resident of Longmoor Avenue has written to inform members that they wished to deal with their regular flood problems by rebuilding the property on stilts and asked members to support the planning application with the District Council in due course.
  - ii) FLAG requests a) Support for Cocker Beck costs – IDB action b) To purchase extra flood protection equipment – extra aquasacs and more portable barriers. Members confirmed they would be happy to authorise a contribution to the costs and to give support once it is known what the IDB and the EA plan to do. The Clerk confirmed that he has requested more aquasacs from N&SDC and is awaiting a response. FLAG was asked to quantify its requirements.  
*Three residents left the meeting.*
  - iii) Christmas 2023 review arrangements: It was agreed that the arrangements had worked well. Members discussed where changes could be made for Christmas 2024. Cllr. Platt proposed a vote of thanks to Cllrs. Poyzer and Kew for their hard work. An item: Christmas 2024 will be put on the monthly agenda from May 2024.
  - iv) Cricket Pavilion – review discussion with Cricket Club: A meeting on site has been held with members of Lowdham Cricket Club and the Village Hall and Playing Fields Committee where it was agreed to explore the proposal to deal with regular flooding by having the pavilion rebuilt on stilts. The Cricket Club has undertaken to explore suitable building plans, get costings and set up a fundraising committee.
  - v) Football Pitch – Update: The unsatisfactory condition of the pitch following the EA work was agreed and remedied without cost to the Parish Council.  
Cllr. Glazebrook highlighted that the EA have yet to remove signs about the work they were doing. The Clerk agreed to follow up with the EA to ensure they remove them now that the left-bank scheme work has been completed.

- vi) Village Signage – Public Space Protection Order – Dogs – consider amendment to “dogs on lead”: The “No Dogs” notices currently displayed are said to be widely disregarded, and members recommend that the regulations are changed to “Dogs on a Lead”. The responsible dog officer at NSDC will be asked to consider the recommendation and alter the signage accordingly. Other signs around the village hall and playing fields are out of date. Cllrs agreed with the revised wording and locations for new signs proposed by the VHPFC. Cllr Alison Glazebrook to work with the Clerk to ensure new signs are ordered.
- vii) Public Toilets – FLAG request to move light switch to nearer the entrance door: Members agreed for the clerk to instruct an electrician to improve the light switch position. FLAG agreed to make further enquiries about the need for outdoor water access.
- viii) Speeding on Main Street: Members discussed the possibility of the speed limit being restricted to 20 MPH and agreed not to pursue this further.
- ix) Replacement bench – existing memorial plaque: When replacing the old bench on Station Road, it was noted that recently a tribute plaque has been fixed on it. It was agreed to proceed to replace the bench without re-fixing the plaque.
- x) Bridge over Cocker Beck – Consider proposal from resident to paint bridge in rainbow colours: It was agreed that the bridge near the Village Hall does need painting, after maintenance inspection and repairs, but to be in one colour, to be in keeping with the natural environment of the area. It was agreed that ownership of the bridge first needed to be clarified to ensure who was responsible for its upkeep. Cllr. Glazebrook undertook to research the history of the ownership of the bridge.
- xi) Lowdham Environment Group Update – Social media support staff recruitment: This matter is to be discussed following the meeting.
- xii) Cllr. Glazebrook informed the Clerk that she had received a report from a resident that the gateway sign on Nottingham Road is now completely flattened. The Clerk confirmed he had written to the original installer requesting it be reinstated.

### 9. Planning Applications:

23/01662/HOUSE - 71 Main Street - Removal of existing lean-to and boundary hedge. Two-storey rear extension and landscaping including new boundary wall - DO NOT OBJECT

### 10. Recent District Council Decisions:

23/1332/HOUSE - 19 Willow Holt - Two storey side extension, single storey rear extension, new porch - Grant Application

23/01543/HOUSE - Joyland, 19A Lambley Road - demolish single storey extension and erect new single storey extension - Grant Application

23/01458/ LDCE - Land at South Side of Epperstone Road - to continue to use land and building as a builder's storage yard - Certificate of Lawful Use (Existing)

23/01358/FUL - 49A-51A Main Street - Conversion of existing flats into 6 person HMO including extension and cycle shed - Grant Permission

23/01746/LDCP - Lazonby House, Old Epperstone Road - Proposed games/garden room at rear of existing detached garage - Refuse Lawful Development Certificate

23/01994/TWCA - Tithe Barn, 35 Lambley Road - T1 Magnolia - reduce crown - No objection.

### 11. Finance & Assets

a) November Payments to be authorised: November payments were approved.

b) Budget 2024/25 Preparation: Members were asked to consider further the spending plans for 2024/25 in order to set the precept at the January meeting.

c) Community Building Extension Project – Progress report: The Clerk reported that the plans had been issued to appropriate interested builders and so far he had received one bid, with another on the way. He hoped to bring the bids to the January meeting.

d) Lowdham Horticultural Society – Grant application – disinterested quorum of Councillors is needed: to approve the grant request. This has been explained to LHS.

e) The VHPFC has received a quotation to repair the surface of the village play area with wet pour plus replacement of worn items on the equipment. The clerk has asked the Village Hall Committee to obtain alternative quotations.

### 12. General Matters:

i) Cllr. Platt expressed concerns about the inclusion of spraying in the Mowing Contract work specification being sought for 2024/27. He was assured that a minimal spraying policy was followed. Cllr. Platt said he wished to investigate the matter and agreed to bring his findings to the next meeting in January.

ii) Cllr. Glazebrook requested that advertising of the 2024 Annual Parish Meeting be added as an item on the agenda for the January meeting.

**13. Councillors' Reports:** No reports.

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

**15. Date of Next Meeting:** Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024

The meeting closed at 09.27pm

Signed: Chairman .....

Date .....