

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 02 May 2024 at 6.45 pm.

02/05/24/119

Councillors:

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

Also present: Clerk Bill Banner; Minute taker Wendy Fenn and 7 members of the public

1. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman 2024/25: The Chairman opened the meeting and asked for nominations for the positions of Chairman and Vice Chairman. Cllr. Brickell proposed Cllr. Harrison be nominated as Chairman. This was seconded by Cllr. Poyzer and there was unanimous agreement. Nomination of Cllr Brickell for the Vice Chairman position was made by Cllr Paul Harrison and seconded by Cllr Mike Poyzer and there was unanimous agreement. 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:** None. County Cllr. Roger Jackson and Cllr Tim Wendels had sent their apologies.
3. **Declarations of Interest:** Cllr Alison Glazebrook declared an interest in the Planning Application 24-00471-HOUSE – 31 Ridge Hill.
4. The Chairman reminded members that there are still 4 vacancies on Council.
5. **Membership of Standing Working Groups 2024-2025:** These were confirmed as:
 - i) Finance and Assets: Cllr Caroline Kew
 - ii) Planning: Cllrs Alison Glazebrook and Stephen Platt
 - iii) Community and Village Amenities, including Safer Neighbourhood: Cllrs Alison Glazebrook, Stephen Platt and Derek Brickell
 - iv) Communications/website: Cllr Mike Poyzer and Cllr Denise Whitt
 - v) HR: Cllrs Caroline Kew and Derek Brickell
 - vi) Flood Action Group: Cllr Mike Poyzer
 - vii) VHPFC Rep: Cllr Alison Glazebrook
 - viii) Lowdham Environment Group (LEG) – to include Christmas: Cllrs Mike Poyzer, Caroline Kew, Denise Whitt and Stephen Platt
 - ix) Building project: Cllrs Alison Glazebrook and Derek Brickell
 - x) Volunteer Path Wardens: Residents John Day and Dave Johnson - to be thanked and asked to continue to serve a further yearThe Chairman, Cllr Paul Harrison and vice-Chairman, Derek Brickell, are permanent ex-officio members of these groups.
6. **Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 4 April 2024** were accepted and signed as a true record. *Standing orders were suspended at 6.50pm*
7. **Open Session for Members of the Public to Raise Matters of Council Business:**

The owners of Lambley Paddocks explained the reason for their retrospective planning applications. *Standing orders were reinstated at 7.01pm*
- 12(A) **Planning Applications** – The following Agenda items were brought forward.
 - 24-00471-HOUSE - 31 Ridge Hill – Single storey front and rear extension - Defer to Planners. *Cllr. Glazebrook left the room during discussion of this item.*
 - 24-00556-FUL - Lambley Paddocks - 53 Lambley Road - Extension to existing stables, tack and feed stores and ancillary groom's accommodation - Do not object
 - 24-00569-FUL – Lambley Paddocks - Retention of horse walker - Do not object *Four members of the public left the meeting*
8. **County Council Matters:** Cllr. Jackson had apologised.
9. **District Council Matters:** Cllr. Wendels had apologised.
10. **Amenities and Village:**
 - i) **Roundabouts – CPOs:** Concern was expressed to ensure proper traffic management once work starts.
 - ii) **Flood Alleviation**-progress report. Mr. Peter Cross expressed FLAG's gratitude for the grant to purchase 160 flood defence blocks and said that, if successful, more will be purchased. He raised the need for strategically placed storage facilities around the village and that risk assessments will be done before deciding where the storage boxes should be. He requested the removal of the hump at the entrance gate to the Community Building to relieve the flood water flow problem in Old Tannery Drive. He referred to repair work carried out by VIA and Severn Trent Water and highlighted that that EA flood warnings need to be improved. He also raised the problem of the pooling of the area near to Cocker Beck spill weir.
 - iii) **Cricket Pavilion** – No further developments. A possible agreement with the EA relating to the original creation of the flood storage area is being sought.
 - iii) **Footbridges over the Cocker Beck** – A survey has disclosed that the footbridges themselves are in a sound condition. However, the railings at the wings need replacing with galvanised steel. The Clerk will obtain quotes for the work which will involve closing each bridge for a few days.
 - iv) **Village Signage** – Cllr Glazebrook confirmed that the new signs had been installed at the Village Hall and Playing Fields.
 - v) **Lowdham Environment Group Update** – Dermot Daly updated the Parish Council on
 - (a) **Social Media:** He has completed a social media session with RCAN. Feeds are growing in Facebook and he reported trying different layouts. He would like to add more councilor biographies to the website.
 - (b) **Website Regulations:** All registered interests are now updated. It was agreed he refers to an IT expert to help improve the website.

(c) Environment: Biodiversity – He said that each authority has a duty to provide a statement, plan or policy and publish initial considerations.

3 members of the public left the meeting.

vi) Best Kept Village competition – Planters may be available from Nottingham City Council, for fixing to village railings. The Clerk will enquire about permission to put planters by the school and at The Ship Inn. It was agreed to promote the competition on Facebook.

vii) Tree replacements at Cenotaph. A parishioner advised that the proposed walnut trees are not native to this country. After discussion, it was agreed to stay with the original decision of walnut trees.

11. Biodiversity training – Cllrs Stephen Platt and Mike Poyzer.

Cllr. Platt reported on this training outlining the major problem in improving biodiversity in the UK and the duty to maintain and improve it. He suggested that at a meeting of LEG a policy be drawn up and brought to the Parish Council followed by the creation of an Action Plan. NALC has a biodiversity policy and draft model action plan - it was agreed that this be examined with a view to adapt for the Parish Council. Cllr. Platt reminded the Parish Council that at the Annual Parishioners meeting he had referred to the purchase of six swift boxes. It was agreed that Cllr. Platt would research into the cost.

12. Planning Applications:

23-02209-FUL - 8 Longmoor Avenue - Proposed replacement building - Defer to Planners

24-00576-S73 - Cliff Mill, Southwell Road - To approve variation of condition 02 to substitute plans with revised drawings to planning permission 22-01813-HOUSE - Defer to Planners

24-00599-S19LBC - Cliff Mill, Southwell Road – To approve variation of condition 02 to substitute plans with revised drawings to listed building consent 22-01814-LBC - Defer to Planners

13. Recent District Council Decisions:

24-00066-HOUSE - 10 Lime Tree Gardens - Grant permission

24-00115/HOUSE - Cliff Mill House - New carport with attached shed and garden equipment shed – Decline permission

24-00248-FUL - St Mary's Church - Replace wooden shed – Approved

24-00336-LDCP - Lazonby House, Old Epperstone Road - Proposed games room - Lawful development approved

24-00386-HOUSE - 8 Ton Lane - Remove garage door and replace with bay window - Grant permission

14. Finance & Assets

a) April payments were authorised. Two signatures will be required in future.

b) Community Building extension project progress. A start has been made and it is thought it will take 8 to 10 weeks to complete. The Clerk said that the Scouts have enquired about DDA wheelchair access at the rear of the meeting room, and he had asked the builders to quote.

c) Quotations to sweep clean the MUGA courts. 3 quotes had been circulated by the Clerk. It was agreed to go with sweeping the court 4 times a year at a cost of £410 per time. The Clerk also confirmed that the replacement goals and back boards had arrived.

d) Solar Panels at the Community Building – Last considered May 2023. The Clerk presented proposals and as the financial expectations have improved, it was agreed to proceed subject to getting assurances about the robustness of the panels.

15. Annual Parishioners Meeting – Wednesday 17 April 2024 – Considered to be a successful, well-attended, evening.

Capital support for local clubs: A parishioner has responded to the Chairman's invitation to comment about Parish Council support for local clubs. The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council will listen to any needs for financial support.

16. General Matters:

i) Civility & Respect – Consider taking NALC Pledge: A vote was taken – For: 1 - Against: 6.

ii) Consider NCC Waste Local Plan – Cllr. Stephen Platt reported that he has written a personal response to the plan having found that there was nothing about recycling certain materials. He requested that the Parish Council endorse his views. This was agreed by majority decision (6 For; 1 Against).

iii) New Cemetery bench – this has been delivered and will be fixed on the road at the top of the cemetery.

17. Councillors' Reports:

Cllr. Glazebrook informed the meeting that:

i) NSDC have advised that the current contractors will be removing their bottle banks from the Village Hall car park. These will be replaced by NSDC containers. The Village Hall & Playing Fields Committee will still receive an income based on the tonnage of glass collected. For April 2023 – March 2024 the income was £1,036.16.

ii) 2 grant applications will shortly be made to the Parish Council by the VHPFC for guttering for the Barn and cleaning of the stage curtains.

iii) the 2 dogs on lead signs installed at the cemetery last year have been removed by unknown persons. The Clerk will order 2 new signs.

Cllr. Platt reported that he would find out when there is to be a testing event relating to electric blankets as it had been found recently by Trading Standards Officers that 68% had failed a safety test.

18. Reports from Outside Organisations: None.

19. Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 6 June 2024

The meeting closed at 09.30pm

Signed: Chairman

Date