

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 4th July 2024 at 6.45 pm**

04/07/24/123

Councillors

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

Also present: Clerk Bill Banner; County Cllr. Roger Jackson; Communications Officer Dermot Daly; Minute taker Wendy Fenn
and 2 members of the public

1. **Apologies for Absence:** None. District Cllr. Tim Wendels had sent apologies.

2. **Declarations of Interest:** None.

3. **Chairman's announcements:** Casual Councillor vacancies.

4. **Minutes of the Council meeting held on 06 June 2024** were approved and signed.

6.47pm Standing orders were suspended

5. **Open Session for Members of the Public to Raise Matters of Council Business:** 2 members of FLAG were present and wished to highlight i) Nottinghamshire County Council and the EA are still to sign the agreement to close Lambley Road for when they rectify the drainage system. This has postponed the estimated end date for the reservoir. ii) The need for further flood blocks to complete the flood resilience plan.

6.50pm Standing Orders were reinstated

6. **County Council Matters:** To follow when Cllr. Jackson attends.

7. **District Council Matters:** Cllr. Wendels sent apologies.

8. Amenities and Village:

i) Roundabout update: Nothing to report.

ii) Flood alleviation progress report: A request from FLAG is to be considered for funding towards acquiring more flood blocks.

iii) Cricket Pavilion: There have been no new developments. Some minutes circa 2000 have been found regarding discussions between the Parish Council and the IDB and the clerk will keep the cricket club informed.

6.53pm Cllr. Jackson joined the meeting

6. County Council Matters:

Cllr. Jackson confirmed that talks are being held with the EA as Lambley Road cannot be closed at the same time as Spring Lane in August. The end date for the reservoir is to be put back.

Regarding the planning application for 50A Main Street, Cllr. Jackson explained that as it is for a small number of new houses, it has not been recognised as a large application, but it is hoped that advisory notes made by Ross Marshall, NCC Principal Flood Risk Management Officer, will be taken into consideration as well as the comprehensive objections that have been made.

8. Amenities and Village continued:

iv) Footbridges over Cocker Beck: The rotten timber is to be removed shortly. Following a Risk Assessment, The Rights of Way Team at NCC advise that there is no need for the bridges to be closed. New entrance rails are to be made off-site and brought to the bridges when they will need to be closed due to welding taking place. Rights of Way Team will supply appropriate notices. The bridges will then be repainted dark green.

v) Lowdham Environment Group (LEG): Cllr. Poyzer updated the meeting that he and Cllr. Platt had attended a NALC Conference via Zoom and, as a result, had some suggestions to bring to another meeting. LEG had also attended the Book Festival and made some contacts there. Dermot Daly highlighted that he has been focusing on the website and has also been looking at refreshing the sustainability hub.

- vi) MUGA – Unauthorised Usage: The meeting discussed the continued football misuse of the facility and ways youths are gaining unauthorised entry to the MUGA. The arrangement is for tennis to be played in the summer months and football in the winter months. Research to prevent future unauthorised access continues.
- vii) Francklin Road Car Park – Parking Issue: The meeting discussed the problem of cars, including a low-loader trailer, that have been parked in the car park for some considerable time, as the main use of the car park is for patients attending the Doctor's Surgery. It was agreed to await the response to an email sent to the District Council by the Clerk.
- viii) Cemetery – extra bench offer: The Clerk has received a request for an extra bench, from a non-resident with Lowdham connections, to be placed in the cemetery. After thanking her for her offer, members decided that it would not be possible to accommodate an extra bench in the cemetery, but if the enquirer wished to propose another area in the village, the Parish Council would consider the request.

9. Planning Applications:

23/02209/FUL - 8 Longmoor Avenue - amended plan - replacement dwelling - No comment - defer to planners
 24/00849/S73 - Apple Croft, Plough Lane - revised drawings to planning permission 23/00126/HOUSE - No objection, subject to no removal of trees, shrubs or foliage

10. Planning Decisions:

24/00450/HOUSE - 37 Plough Lane - Single storey rear extension - Grant Permission
 24/00484/FUL - Adjacent Cockerbeck House, Lambley Road - change of use to B8 storage – Grant Permission
 24/00501/HOUSE - 19 The Green - Alterations to roof and new dormer to rear to facilitate loft conversion - Grant Application
 24/00531/HOUSE - Walnut House, 22A Ton Lane - detached double garage - Grant Permission
 24/01100/TELNOT - Longmoor Avenue - install fixed line broadband – Noted

7.34pm Cllr. Jackson left the meeting

11. Finance and Assets:

- June payments were approved.
- Community Building Extension project review (completion expected mid-July) – consider office furniture needs: Initially, furniture will include locked cabinets, shelves, chairs and a table. It is envisaged that the room can be let for small meetings.
- Signage for the Community Building: It was agreed for the Clerk to look into the options (type of font, font size etc)..
- FLAG Grant Request – The two members of FLAG had presented their reasons for requesting a grant to purchase more flood blocks. Issues discussed included value for money, usage, storage requirements and means and ease of deployment when the blocks are needed. Provision of public liability insurance was raised – FLAG confirmed that a full Risk Assessment had been done. Members agreed unanimously to approve a grant for £18,500. 08.19pm The FLAG members left the meeting
- Solar Panels at the Community Building – Cllr. Poyzer explained two quotes he had explored. One involved being connected to the mains network and the other being a standalone option, but he was unsure if enough power would be generated in the winter for the MUGA lights. He therefore wished to investigate the options further.
- Buy a table storage trolley and 4 new tables for the Community Room: All were in favour of this purchase.
- Insurance: The pre-renewal questionnaire was reviewed and approved. Because of the new office building extension, members agreed to increase the Building SI to £750,000, with Office Contents SI £2,500 and General Contents £2,500.

12. General Matters: Bio-diversity – Cllr. Platt gave his apologies as he had not yet formulated a Bio-diversity action plan. He has been exploring the likelihood of carrying out a bio-diversity audit of the Parish Council responsibilities and also for the whole of the village. He said that he and Cllr. Poyzer had attended a NALC conference via Zoom and informed the meeting of details of the presentation. He suggested that all members consider attending future courses.

13. Councillors' Reports: Cllr. Platt highlighted some information on current topics he had received and which he thought could be featured on the website. After discussion, it was agreed that items which related to the village only should be featured.

14. Reports from Outside Organisations: On behalf of the VHFPC Cllr. Glazebrook wished to thank the Parish Council for the grant received to meet the costs of cleaning the village hall curtains and for providing new gutters and downspouts for the barn. She confirmed that the guttering is to be fixed in August. The statement by the PC and VHPFC relating to the Car Park at the Village Hall not being a public car park is being finalised and is to appear in the next Parish Magazine.

15. Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 05 September 2024

The Chairman to move that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of item 16 on the grounds that it involves the likely discussion of exempt information as defined in Section 1 of the public (Admission to meetings) Act 1960

The meeting closed at 08.50pm

16. Councillors Meeting – in camera

Signed: Chairman Date