

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 06 February 2025 at 6.45pm

06/02/25/135

Councillors: Derek Brickell (Vice Chairman), Gary Clarke, Alison Glazebrook, Paul Harrison (Chairman), Caroline Kew; Stephen Platt; Mike Poyzer, Alan Reed (L), Denise Whitt, Liam Wiltshire (L).

Also present: Clerk Bill Banner; Communications Officer Dermot Daly; District Cllr Roger Jackson and four members of the public.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** None.
2. **Declarations of Interest:** Cllr Alison Glazebrook – TPO on Ridge Hill.
3. **Chairman's announcements:** Casual Parish Councillor vacancy – interested party was not in attendance.
4. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of the Council Meeting of 02 January 2025.
5. **Open Session for Members of the Public to Raise Matters of Council Business:**
 - a. It was reported that local residents prevented contractors from felling a 40ft Lime tree at Ridge Hill
 - b. FLAG requested for the spillway alongside the Beck to be constructed of concrete.
FLAG also asked to retain the cricket field area as a flood storage area as the Environment Agency intend to decommission it when the reservoir is completed in 2027. *6.58 pm - Cllrs Reed and Wiltshire arrived*
6. **County Council matters:**
 - Proposed roundabout improvements to be progressed after a period of delay.
 - Intention to spend £4.5m on road repairs through unspent Council budget.
 - Network Rail will be carrying out the remarking of the railway crossing – there was a request for Highways to carry out their road remarking in the same area at the same time.
 - NCC Council tax increase to be 4.8%.
 - Thanks were acknowledged for the prompt response from those that had protected the Lime tree.
7. **District Council matters:** Apologies were received from District Cllr Tim Wendels
The Unitary Elections date was confirmed as 27 May 2027
8. **Amenities and Village**
 - i) Flood alleviation – No additional comment – relevant matters were discussed at item 5b
 - ii) Lowdham Environment Group update – Cllr Poyzer reported that Redavons are working well within the village, having contact directly with the community.
 - iii) Village Hall Car Park – see Councillor Reports – 13ii)
 - iv) Allotment hedge – There has been a request from tenants for a hedge to be replaced. The Clerk met with NSDC contractor on site and agreed that a reduction in height of the current hedge was all that was required. NSDC will undertake this work as soon as possible.
 - v) Blue grit bins – Mid-season refill is a self-help task. Some spare grit is stored at the Community Centre. A small group of Councillors agreed to organise the annual refilling regime - Cllrs Brickell, Clarke, Kew, Poyzer and Wiltshire volunteered. Cllr Brickell undertook to do a full condition survey.
 - vi) Community Building Car Park containers – work to improvement the ground in front of the containers has been requested by FLAG and a solution is to be sought.
 - vii) Christmas tree provision 2025 (Norwegian Spruce)– Members agreed to reserve the annual large tree now from a local supplier and to arrange for a 25'-30' tree to be supplied each year in the future.
In addition, a rooted tree (5/6ft) will be sought for immediate planting.

9. Planning Applications: None**10. Planning Decisions:**

- 24/01988/HOUSE – 21 The Priors - proposed extension and alterations – No objection.
 24/01791/LDCE – Cockerbeck House – Change of use of garage to annexe – Certificate of lawful use granted.
 24/01801/HOUSE – 71 Main Street – Two storey extension – Grant Permission.
 24/02186/TWCA – 13 Ton Lane – Fell three confers – No Objection.
 24/02191/TWCA – 2 Plough Lane – Prune trees – No Objection.
 24/02213/TPO – 7 Blenheim – Grant work to trees.
 24/01834/HOUSE – 30 Ridge Hill – Two storey side and single storey front extensions – Grant Permission

11. Finance and Assets:

- i) It was RESOLVED to authorise the January payments. A hidden water leak in the showers that had previously affected excessive utility bills has been solved.
- ii) 2025/26 Budget – NSDC advise that there is a reduced tax base – This will produce a reduction in the precept requirement by £2,000
- iii) Cemetery – It was RESOLVED to review the detail of the Rules and Regulations over the coming months. It was RESOLVED to keep the Cemetery pricing wef 1 April 2025 the same as present.
- iv) Solar panels – 40 panels would be required on the Village Hall at a cost of £9,000 and would potentially cut the electricity bill by 50%. A full proposal is to be produced for discussion at the next meeting. A Grant application is expected from the Village Hall and Playing Fields Committee.
- v) Aqua-sacks – The VAT element has created a financial anomaly for FLAG.

12. General Matters

- i) Neighbourhood Plan – It was RESOLVED that a paper is prepared for the Annual Parish meeting in April. At the March Council meeting a document will be produced by Cllrs Whitt and Wiltshire - to be based on the draft paper circulated by Cllr Harrison.
- ii) Village Car parking – It was RESOLVED to present the paper drafted by Cllr Harrison to the Annual Parish meeting.
- iii) Ridge Hill tree – A temporary 6-month Tree Preservation Order (TPO) has been placed on the tree. The clerk to write to NSDC to confirm the PC wish to support the TPO and to make it permanent and also to request that the other trees on site are also protected by Tree Preservation Orders.

13. Councillors' Reports:

- i) New Councillors training has been arranged.
- ii) A further approach has been made to the pharmacy about unauthorised car recharging access and a commitment has been given to reinstate the Village Hall Car Park fence by the end of February 2025.
- iii) Training on sustainability and biodiversity – Cllrs Platt and Poyzer are to attend.

14. Reports from Outside Organisations: None.**15. Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 06 March 2025**

Meeting closed at 8.55pm

The Chairman moved 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

16. Councillors Meeting – in camera

Signed: Chairman

Date