

LOWDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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Draft Minutes of the Monthly Meeting and Annual Council Meeting of Lowdham Parish Council
held at Lowdham Community Building, Off Southwell Road, NG14 7PS
on 07 May 2026 at 6.45pm.

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Members: Cllrs. Derek Brickell (Vice Chair), Gary Clarke, Alison Glazebrook, Paul Harrison (Chair), Caroline Kew; Stephen Platt, Mike Poyzer, Alan Reed, Robert Turnell, Denise Whitt, Liam Wiltshire
Also present: Clerk Bill Banner; Comms Officer Dermot Daly; County Councillor Roger Jackson; District Councillor Tim Wendels; MP Michelle Welsh and colleague. There was one member of the public

1. Election of Chairman and vice-Chairman 2026/27

It was resolved that Paul Harrison be Chairman and Derek Brickell be vice-Chairman

2. Apologies for Absence: None

3. Declaration of Interest: None

4. Chairman's announcements: Welcomed local MP Michelle Welsh to the meeting.

5. Membership of Standing Working Groups 2026/27: Cllr Liam Wiltshire replaces Cllr Alison Glazebrook as the Council's Representative on the Village Hall Committee. A new Christmas Working Group was formed comprising Liam Wiltshire and Robert Turnell. Other Working Group members stay unchanged.

6. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 02 April 2026 were approved, subject to a change stating that since the Cocker Beck has been diverted through the Flood Alleviation Scheme (FAS) structure, there has been a positive impact - reducing the height of the Beck by about 40% of that reached in winter.

On completion of the works, the FAS will provide the much greater protection for a 100 year event.

7. Open Session for Members of the Public to Raise Matters of Council Business

- Flood reservoir scheme is still on track.
- Problem of effecting Public Liability cover in respect of the use of the flood barriers continues.
- There is to be a meeting with the Minister for Floods in the next couple of months with a FLAG representative and our local MP.
- MP reviewed her recent activities – the recent coffee morning was successful with 50 attendees, 25 more are on the waiting list; Environment Agency gave presentation to the MP and stated that they had insufficient funds to finish the FAS - this was referred to Government and further funds secured – pressure is now being applied for the project to be finished on time and within budget; people like to live in Lowdham; parking and potholes are other frequently mentioned issues; subsequent door-knocking raised planning concerns regarding a view of significant potential developments. There will be a meeting with the Leader of NSDC regarding planning and having the correct requirements in place to reduce the risk of large, unplanned, development taking place.

It was pointed out to the MP that there appear to be residents doing work on their property in anticipation of making an application for development - avoiding planning implications

It was also pointed out to the MP that there is a growing issue regarding the dumping of waste, not helped by some areas charging for certain waste streams. It was requested that use of plastics be reduced.

8. County Council matters:

A6097 improvements have been brought forward to June/July but the work is to start at the Lowdham Roundabout. Local Community Fund Grants are open to accept submissions.

9. District Council matters:

The Conservation team has visited the Big Field and decided that there is insufficient justification to include in the Conservation Area. A robust case needs to be made regarding its heritage/history value if the Parish wishes for this decision to be reconsidered.

NSDC planners confirm that Willow Farm planning application 25/01721/FULM

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has been reviewed and appears to be in order. Members continued to express concerns and the clerk will notify the planners of members reservations.

10. Amenities and Village

a) Flood Alleviation: covered earlier.

b) Lowdham Environment Group: still trying to find further repairers for the Repair Café – the MP offered social media circulation.

c) Village Car Parking – Enforcement: school, pharmacy, co-op, and station areas are the hot-spots.

Issuing of Penalty Charge Notices is mainly at Main Street at known peak times.

MP offered assistance through the Police & Crime Commissioner.

11. Planning Applications

26-00393-FUL - World End Inn - New single-storey extension creating additional restaurant space: No Objection.

26-00502-FUL – Copperbeech Farm - Change of Use of outbuilding to Class B8: No Objection.

26-00575-TWCA – Plough lane - This application was not referred to the Parish Council for comment. It concerns the removal of mature trees that form a hedgerow. Object - would encourage access to the land from the road

12. Planning Decisions:

25-01137-FUL – Land at Old Epperstone Road – Retrospective permission for concrete apron to woodshed – Grant permission

25-01298-FUL – Land at 50A Main Street – Erection of two dwellings – Grant permission

25-01729-LBC – Lowdham Mill – Install window shutters – Grant permission

25-02065-FUL – Land at Epperstone Road – Erection of a dwelling – Grant permission

25-02148-FUL – Co-op late shop – install two EV charging stations – Grant permission

26-00518-TWCA – 15 Red Lane – Remove silver birch - No objection

13. Finance and Assets:

a) April payments were authorised

b) Annual Audit Form 2025/26: Internal audit results were approved, and the external audit forms were signed.

i) Section 1 - The Annual Governance Statement

ii) Section 2 – The Accounting Statements

c.) Website – Auditor request: Add to Governance: Investment Strategy and Councillor’s business email - Agreed

d) MUGA Bi-monthly Maintenance contract renewal was approved.

e) Signage at the Community Building for the Scouts was approved by majority (7 for; 2 against and 2 abstentions) but will be restricted by size to be separately approved.

f) Play equipment – VHPC through the Parish Council would like to apply for a District Matching Grant to enable play items to be improved. This was approved depending on finding a working partnership and ability to get a grant from the District Council.

g) A replacement boiler is required before winter – the clerk was asked to ensure that the capacity of the boiler replacement is adequate in view of having 10 showers in the changing rooms.

14. General Matters:

Review of Annual Parishioners Meeting - Weds 15 April 2026: It was agreed that the meeting was very constructive but better timing is required in future for production of literature.

The village noticeboard for FLAG is to be moved to a more suitable position.

The clerk was asked to investigate having Solar Panels at the community building.

15. Councillors’ Reports

There was no take-up for the swift boxes on offer.

Request for new Christmas tree LED lights - approved.

16. Reports from Outside Organisations

Church Lane – the verge needs cutting back - Cllr Gary Clarke agreed to look at look at it

17. Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 4 June 2026

Meeting closed at 8.53pm

Signed: Chairman.....

Date.....