

LOWER PENN PARISH COUNCIL

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ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held on THURSDAY 7 APRIL 2022 At THE VICTORY HALL, LOWER PENN

PRESENT:

Cllr N Cox – Chairman
Cllr Mrs V Barnes
Cllr Ms H Fuller
Cllr Mrs K Preece
Cllr Mrs C Taylor

District Cllr D Kinsey
10 Members of the Public

		Action
1/22	APOLOGIES Received from Cllr Bradley, Cllr Mrs Brazenell, Cllr Mrs Southall, Cllr Williams, District Cllr Reade, County Cllr Mrs Wilson and Staffordshire Police.	
2/22	CHAIRMAN'S REPORT Welcome to the Annual Parish Meeting of Lower Penn Parish Council. For reasons that we are all only too aware of, this is a meeting that has not taken place for nearly three years. In that time a lot of things have changed and progress has been made in some areas. In 2019 a group of people stood for election to the Parish Council on a platform that promised to increase the participation and representation of the members of the parish in the operation of the council. Those, predominantly, independent candidates were duly elected. Since then, there have been a few resignations and a group of Green councillors have joined the council. These are the members at this meeting. Each member of the council now has an individual responsibility so that what the council does is the result of a collective initiative. As such we now have a strong Green Group that are committed to maintaining the rural character of our community. They have been the driving force behind the Forest of Mercia funded tree planting on Castlecroft Playing Field to increase both carbon capture and civic amenity in that area. They have also been instrumental in the recent litter picks that have been held and I am sure everyone is very appreciative of the work those volunteers have done. To increase participation and communication we have established a Parish Facebook page and started the LPPC website. These aren't our only means of communication as we also have regular newsletters distributed by volunteers to the village. These three initiatives have radically improved our capacity to try and bring the parish together.	

During the Covid lockdowns we pulled together a group of people across the village who would look out for their neighbours should they need help. In the end there was little call on these volunteers but the response to help was heartening.

Our Community Speedwatch group has also been very active and I would like to thank Keith and the volunteers for what they do to discourage speeding in the parish.

Another other major effort over this period has been the council's efforts to inform and facilitate the parish's response to the Local Plan. Thank you to those who contributed to and distributed materials and guidance to the members of the parish who wished to participate in the consultation. We ran a full parish briefing and drop-in sessions to ensure that the parish was well informed about the plan and its processes.

We have enhanced our co-operation with our local police officers through our own ex-policeman. His knowledge and contacts are invaluable in trying to reduce vehicle theft and burglary locally.

To finish, thank you all for your attendance at our meeting, to the councillors for giving their time, and to Jan for her work recording our proceedings, handling our accounts and pointing me in the right direction both physically and procedurally.

Signed: **Chairman**

Date:

