

# LOWER PENN PARISH COUNCIL

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## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held on THURSDAY 6 APRIL 2023 At THE VICTORY HALL, LOWER PENN

### PRESENT:

Cllr Mrs B Southall – Chair  
Cllr Mrs K Brazenell  
Cllr Mrs V Barnes  
Cllr Ms H Fuller  
Cllr Mrs C Taylor

District Cllr D Kinsey  
County Cllr Mrs V Wilson  
PCSO Paula Wilkes  
12 members of the public

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1/23	<b>APOLOGIES</b> Received from Cllrs N Cox, Mrs K Preece, D. Williams and D. Cllr Reade	
2/23	<b>CHAIRMAN'S REPORT</b> I may be a little biased considering the constraints and restrictions of the Covid years before us, but I truly believe that the past year has been the Parish Councils best to date. It has most certainly been the most challenging, insightful, and progressive year I've had on the Parish Council out of the past 4. Our volunteer Community Speed watch team continues to monitor and report those who speed through our hamlet. Under the watchful eye of our long suffering co-ordinator Keith Dunton, the group has recruited and trained several newbies in the past year. Speed limit Wheelie bin stickers have been sought and distributed to residents in Langley Road, Penstone Lane and Radford Lane. The Climate Action Group has been out in force this past year. In conjunction with volunteers from the Forest of Mercia, they have planted and continue to monitor the saplings on Castlecroft playing fields. They have also handed out free seeds and bulbs to local residents and have planted wildflowers on various open spaces throughout the Parish. The group has also organised several successful and I hate to say, bountiful litter picking mornings, covering Langley Road, the Roughts and Furnace Grange Road. The group has been an invaluable contact with Ryan from the District Council Street Scene team, sourcing litter picking materials and communicating fly tipping updates. Not to forget the sourcing and placement of No-fly tipping boards throughout the area. The Parish's only community building, the Victory Hall is thriving since all Covid restrictions have been removed. The on-going support of the weekly and monthly groups, combined with one off birthday, christening, anniversary, wedding, gender reveal, and retirement parties has allowed the hall to turn a healthy profit for the first time in years. Talks are currently in progress for several grants, that if won, will allow the committee members to either rebuild the hall or pay for extensive renovations. Either way, this hall is invaluable to the Lower Penn community and it is imperative that the hall remains open and useable. The Local Plan has dominated not only our Parish Council meetings, but also a large proportion of our time over the past 12 months. I am immensely proud of the effort the Parish	

Council has made in engaging with the residents on local plan updates and helping navigate the overly complicated and confusing consultation documents and response forms. Our ongoing communication with the local community has allowed us to not only highlight and question residents' concerns with the District Council, but to also respond and react in line with our residents wishes. As Councillors, voted for and elected by the residents of Lower Penn, it has been our responsibility to speak on behalf our residents and as requested, protect our Parish.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank:

- Keith Dunton for his continued guardianship of the CSW team.
- Mr and Mrs Lewis for their on-going and unwavering commitment to litter picking in the Dimmingsdale area.
- Cllr Kinsey for his engagement with the Parish, not only at these meetings but also in the surgeries.

I thank each and every Councillor sitting around these tables for your commitment to the Parish Council over the past years. Your individual passions and expertise have allowed this Parish Council to move forward, highlight and cover issues that have previously been unidentified or unspoken. To those that sit around these tables for the next 4 years. The work is far from over. The never-ending threat of Industrial and residential development within our Parish is real. Regardless of whether the Local Plan is voted through or not, the developers are circling. There is money to be made on the Greenbelt of Lower Penn. I strongly urge you to keep the lines of communication with the community open. Engage, listen and learn. The residents of Lower Penn are not to be underestimated and our green belt needs protecting.

**Signed:** ..... **Chairman**

**Date:** .....
