

LOWER PENN PARISH COUNCIL

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PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held remotely via Zoom on THURSDAY 1 APRIL 2021

PRESENT:

Cllr N Cox - Chairman
Cllr Mrs B Southall – Vice-Chair
Cllr Mrs C Taylor
Cllr D Williams

District Cllr D Kinsey
County & District Cllr Mrs V Wilson
PCSO Paula Wilkes

10 Members of the public

		Action
1/21	APOLOGIES Received from Cllr Mrs Brazenell and District Cllr Reade	
2/21	MINUTES Proposed by Cllr Mrs Taylor and seconded by Cllr Williams and carried that the minutes of the remote Council Meeting held on 4 March 2021 be approved as a true and correct record.	
3/21	DECLARATION OF INTERESTS None recorded	
4/21	PARISH COUNCIL VACANCIES There are 3 vacancies on the Council at present.	
5/21	POLICE REPORT Received and circulated to the Council. PCSO Paula Wilkes attended the meeting and gave further information on incidents within Lower Penn. There have been a number of thefts of catalytic converters in South Staffs recently and these are being followed up. Local officers are working alongside the Road Crime Team targeting cross border criminals and numerous successful vehicle stops have been conducted. Cllr Williams reported a suspicious incident outside the Victory Hall and said he would forward the video footage to police for further action. PCSO Wilkes said that most of the footage that is passed to police comes from the Smart door bells and urged residents to fit these units as they are extremely useful.	DW
6/21	LOCAL PLAN Cllr Mrs Southall advised she had spoken to the Local Plan Team last week and gave details of the current position which included a further 4 pieces of County Farms land, in addition to the 3 pieces of land already included in the Local Plan Review. She has been advised that the public consultation will take place between July and September 2021. County Cllr Mrs Wilson said that she had spoken to County Farms officers and said that all County Farms land has been put forward to every District and Borough Council in the County	

and stressed that these additional sites would not be included in this Local Plan Review, and that none of these assets have been sold to any developer whatsoever. She also stressed that housing numbers are set by central Government and that residents could lobby their MP to reconsider these numbers if they wished.

The Chairman then opened the meeting for Public Participation.

7/21

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chairman welcomed members of the public to the meeting and the following issues were discussed:

Local Plan

A long discussion took place and residents' questions were answered by the officers who were present. District Cllr Kinsey confirmed again that County Farms lands are not included in this Local Plan Review and there are only 3 sites up for consideration. The Chairman said that should any sites in Lower Penn be selected, the Parish Council will hold a public meeting at the Victory Hall to support and assist residents and to ensure that all information available is factual and correct.

The Chairman confirmed that the Local Plan is a standard item on the Agenda and thanked District Cllr Kinsey and County Cllr Mrs Wilson for their constant attendance at Parish Council Meetings. He invited residents to attend these meetings to enable them to discuss matters directly with these officers. The Chairman said he would also speak to District Cllr Barry Bond to invite him to attend a Parish Council Meeting.

District Cllr Kinsey confirmed his contact details are available to the public and said he would be happy to speak to any residents, either by phone or face to face. He also confirmed that all 49 officers from the District Council are involved in the selection process of the Review and explained the situation with regard to declarations of interest.

Land adjacent 58 Springhill Lane – Access Road

District Cllr Kinsey said that he had no further information on the visibility splay or S111 Agreements at present and that he and County Cllr Mrs Wilson are still following this up with the relevant departments. He stressed that Enforcement will be taking action against the developer for the unauthorised section of the access road and Cllr Williams confirmed that work is currently continuing to extend the road further back into the plot. District Cllr Kinsey said that any work carried out over the Bank Holiday weekend should be logged and details sent to enforcement for their information.

DK/
VW

8/21

COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

Given in previous minutes

9/21

PLANNING

Current Applications: none received

Plans Considered mid-Meeting: none received

Planning Applications Approved:

21/00092/FUL Extensions 27 Springhill Park

20/01092/TTREE Tree work – Walnut Tree Cottage

APPLICATIONS PENDING

App No: 20/00937/FUL – Extensions Springhill Farm, 70 Springhill Lane

App No: 21/00053/FUL Erection of single storey rear extension – 60 Springhill Lane

Appeal Sandhills Nursery: APP/C3430/W/20/3253111 – 19/00048/FUL

Written representation sent to Inspectorate

MATTERS ARISING

10/21	Community Speedwatch/Speeding Issues Provisional start date for 1 May 2021 depending on restrictions	
11/21	Fly Tipping/Litter The meeting discussed the recent episodes of fly tipping and the Chairman reiterated the details of the Street Scene Team and the work they do. He also expressed the Council's thanks to the many volunteers who regularly carry out litter picks in the Parish. Cllr Mrs Taylor confirmed she would liaise with residents to arrange organised litter picks when restrictions are lifted.	CT
12/21	Market Lane – Radio Masts It was reported that a further mast had been erected and Cllr Williams urged residents who are experiencing radio interference to report this to RFI – Ofcom. Cllr Mrs Taylor confirmed she would be obtaining photos as soon as possible.	CT
13/21	Drug Issues – Lower Penn To be kept under observation	
14/21	Government Rural Broadband Scheme Cllr Williams confirmed this was still on-going and asked for volunteers to visit areas in Langley Road and Dimmingsdale to ascertain residents' interests.	All
15/21	Defibrillator Cllr Williams advised that he had a 'dummy' unit which is available for practice purposes and training can also be arranged if required.	
16/21	Chairman's Chain/Plaque for Ex-Cllr Harry Brown Chairman and Cllr Mrs Southall to arrange when restrictions are lifted.	NC/ BS
17/21	Market Lane Pot hole repairs schedule for 12 April 2021. The following issues will be temporarily suspended due to Covid-19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Log Reports ▪ Horse Rider Warning Signs ▪ BT Red Telephone Box ▪ Notice Board – Radford Lane ▪ Crash Barrier – Dimmingsdale Bridge 	
18/21	Grounds Maintenance Contract Andrew Aston from Street Scene has confirmed he will contact Cllr Williams regarding a quotation for grounds maintenance work.	
19/21	Climate Change Workshop (Teams) Cllr Mrs Taylor confirmed she had attended this very interesting meeting and would report back at the next Parish Council Meeting.	CT
	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
20/21	Councillor Resignation The Chairman reported that Ms Nicola Davies had resigned and he asked that a letter of thanks be sent to her for all her involvement and work on the Parish Council. He confirmed that there are now 2 vacancies for co-option onto the Parish Council and a 3 rd vacancy has been advertised. To date, there are 5 people interested in applying for the positions and a selection process would be carried out over the coming weeks.	Clerk
21/21	Dangerous Willow Trees – Greyhound Lane It was agreed that these would be reported to the Ranger including the resident's video.	Clerk

22/21	<p>Data Protection – DPI Forms Parish Councillors expressed concern over data protection issues relating to their addresses and signatures being published on the District Council’s website. It was agreed for those councillors wishing to have their personal information removed, that Ms Lorraine Fowkes be contacted to ask her to arrange for this to be done, and also for ex-councillors’ information to be removed.</p>	Clerk			
23/21	<p>Dog Fouling Public Space Protection Order is being considered by District Council and specific problem areas are to be identified.</p>	Clerk			
24/21	<p>Dispensations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Clerk reported that dispensation for non-attendance at Parish Council Meetings (6 month rule) due to Covid-19 now no longer applies and that any councillor not attending for 6 months will be automatically removed from office. ▪ Councillors received dispensation as Trustees of the Victory Hall to speak on all matters relating to the Hall at Parish Council Meetings and this dispensation to run until the end of the municipal year in 2022. 				
25/21	<p>Locality 5 Forum The Chairman confirmed that he had attended this forum earlier today, the subject of which was community safety and the availability of a £5k budget for each Locality to be used for the purchase of a variety of security options. On behalf of the Parish Council, the Chairman said that Lower Penn’s preferred option would be mobile security cameras and that a decision would be made in due course as to whether our bid was successful.</p>				
26/21	<p>May Elections The Victory Hall will be used as a Polling Station on 6 May so the Parish Council’s next Meeting will be held on Wednesday 5 May 2021</p>				
27/21	<p>Standards & Resources Committee It was agreed Cllr Mrs Taylor’s name would be put forward as a nominee to sit on this Committee.</p>	Clerk			
28/21	<p>ACCOUNTS The Clerk gave details of the Council’s bank accounts as at 27 February 2021.</p> <p>The Meeting agreed that the following account is authorised for payment and a cheque would be circulated for signature:</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="207 1568 1276 1612"> <tr> <td>BG Ground Maintenance</td> <td>March Account</td> <td>£135.00</td> </tr> </table> <p>The Meeting agreed the setting up of a Direct Debit to Defib Machines for the hire of the defibrillator and cabinet at the following hire rates: Cabinet Plan: £1.00 (+VAT) per unit per day Defib Plan: £150.00 deposit plus £1.00 (+VAT) per unit per day The Chairman thanked Cllr Mrs Taylor, Cllr Mrs Brazenell and Cllr Williams for all their hard work in setting up this project.</p>	BG Ground Maintenance	March Account	£135.00	Clerk
BG Ground Maintenance	March Account	£135.00			
29/21	<p>DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Leisure Centres: will be re-opening shortly with free membership for the remainder of April and reduced membership fees for May and June 2021. ▪ Boundary Commission Review: Cllr Kinsey reiterated that this was not a review of the South Staffordshire boundaries, but was to consider political representation of the 				

various parishes. He said that a reduction in councillors across South Staffordshire in the 2023 election was a possibility.

- **Covid-19:** the case rate for South Staffordshire last week was 38/100,000 which is a continued reduction, and that for the first time there were no recorded cases in Wombourne or Lower Penn.
- **Pot Holes:** these should be reported to Staffordshire County Council on the 'Reportit' app or on the County Council's web site.

30/21

FINANCIAL RISK ASSESSMENT

The Clerk reported that paperwork had now been received from Mazars, the Audit Commission's chosen auditor and that audit of the Council's books could commence, after which the books would be submitted to our internal auditor, before being sent to Mazars.

31/21

SECTION 17

Nothing to report

32/21

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

WEDNESDAY 5 MAY 2021 commencing at 7.15. The Meeting will be held in the Victory Hall for Parish Councillors but residents will be invited to attend via Zoom.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

Signed: **Chairman**

Date:

Clerk

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