

LOWER PENN PARISH COUNCIL

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PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on THURSDAY 3 JUNE 2021 At THE VICTORY HALL, LOWER PENN

PRESENT:

Cllr N Cox - Chairman
Cllr S Bradley
Cllr Mrs K Brazenell
Cllr Ms H Fuller
Cllr Mrs K Preece
Cllr D Williams

District Cllr D Kinsey
County Cllr Mrs V Wilson

6 Members of the public

		Action
60/21	APOLOGIES Received from Cllr Mrs Southall, Cllr Mrs Taylor, Cllr Solway-Blower, District Cllr Reade and South Staffordshire Police.	
61/21	MINUTES Proposed by Cllr Mrs Brazenell and seconded by Cllr Williams and carried that the minutes of the remote Council Meeting held on 5 May 2021 be approved and signed as a true and correct record.	
62/21	DECLARATIONS OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE The Chairman signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and an undertaking to observe the Code of Conduct in the presence of all councillors. The newly elected councillors, Cllr Bradley, Cllr Ms Fuller and Cllr Mrs Preece, signed their Declarations of Acceptance of Office and an undertaking to observe the Code of Conduct in the presence of all councillors. The newly elected councillors were asked to complete their Disclosable and Pecuniary Interest Forms and return to the Clerk for submission to the District Council.	SB/HF/ KP
63/21	DECLARATION OF INTERESTS District Cllr Reade declared an interest in the land put forward in the site suggestions due to personal land holdings in Lower Penn.	
64/21	POLICE REPORT Received and circulated to the Council and details given to the public present.	
65/21	LOCAL PLAN Cllr Mrs Southall forwarded a report to state that there had been no new sites or amendments to those already submitted sites in Lower Penn.	

	<p>District Cllr Kinsey confirmed that officers are still preparing the preferred options for the public consultation stage, which should be held in August/September this year. The Meeting agreed to invite Mr Anthony Hodge to the July Parish Council Meeting</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>66/21</p>	<p>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION The Chairman welcomed members of the public to the meeting and the following issues were discussed: Sandhills Nursery – as minuted below Access Road 58/62 Springhill Lane – as minuted below</p>	
<p>67/21</p>	<p>COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Trees – Penstone Lane: County Cllr Mrs Wilson advised that the tree surgeon would be carrying out an inspection within the next few days and would advise the Council of his findings. However, it was reported that there was a further very large overhanging branch in a dangerous condition and Cllr Mrs Preece agreed to report this as an emergency. ▪ Blocked Gullies: County Cllr Mrs Wilson to follow up the gully that is blocked by boulders. Cllr Williams advised that there were numerous blocked gullies along Springhill Lane and he would send the locations to Mrs Wilson. ▪ Highway Divisional Programme Fund: The Chairman agreed to forward a copy of his earlier email to County Cllr Mrs Wilson 	<p>VW KP VW DW NC</p>
<p>68/21</p>	<p>PLANNING App No: 21/00440/FUL Battery Farm Castlecroft Road The Parish Council objects on the following grounds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Green Belt – no very special circumstances offered ▪ Site access on a busy junction and road improvements will impact on local community ▪ Possible noise pollution affecting nearby residents and users of the Railway Walk ▪ Negative impact on resident wildlife ▪ Existing application for another battery farm to the east of the substation. ▪ Owner of the proposed access road, who is not the applicant, is unaware of the proposals and has not been notified. District Cllr Kinsey to follow this issue up. <p>App No: 21/00509/FUL Extensions Orchard Farm, Springhill Lane District Council to be made aware that this property sits in the green belt and the Lower Penn Conservation area.</p> <p>App No: 21/00505/FUL Building of sand based manege for horses The Parish Council has no objection providing it complies with all green belt policies.</p> <p>Plans Considered mid-Meeting: 21/00411/FUL Extensions 263 Castlecroft Road – no objection 21/00467/FUL Extensions 56 Springhill Park – no objection 21/00487/FUL Extensions 8 Drivefields – no objection 21/00179/FUL Extensions Orchard Hill, Showell Lane – no objection</p> <p>APPLICATIONS APPROVED 21/00277/FUL – Heat Pumps – Orchard Farm, Springhill Lane</p> <p>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 App No: 21/00411/FUL – Extensions 263 Castlecroft Road App No: 21/00467/FUL - Extensions 56 Springhill Park App No: 21/00487/FUL – Extensions 8 Drivefields App No: 21/00179/FUL – Extensions Orchard Hill, Showell Lane</p>	<p>Clerk DK Clerk Clerk</p>
<p>69/21</p>	<p>MATTERS ARISING Sandhills Nursery Appeal</p>	

	District Cllr Kinsey gave details of the recent meeting held at the District Council and said that officers are waiting to see if the owners will comply with the conditions of the Appeal decision. It was agreed that the Parish Council would write to Enforcement if the conditions are not met by 22 June 2021.	KB/NC
70/21	Access Roads – 58/62 Springhill Lane Section 111: County Cllr Mrs Wilson to check and confirm that all agreements have been signed by the developer and all monies paid. With regard to the unauthorised section of the access road, it was reported that the developer has refused to co-operate and comply with the conditions laid down by Enforcement and that action will now be taken. Cllrs Kinsey and Mrs Wilson to provide an update on this issue regarding timescales.	VW VW/DK
71/21	Community Speedwatch/Speeding Issues Cllr Williams said that a number of vehicles had been identified as speeding during a recent Speedwatch along Springhill Lane. Cllr Mrs Southall sent a report stating that there were several local training dates being held in the next month for new recruits.	
72/21	Fly Tipping/Litter Keep Britain Tidy are hosting their annual 'Great British Spring Clean' event from 28 May to 13 June 2021 and Cllr Mrs Taylor confirmed she would liaise with residents to arrange an organised litter pick. Cllr Mrs Taylor to provide update.	CT
73/21	Market Lane – Radio Masts Radio masts now moved to the side of the house.	
74/21	Drug Issues – Lower Penn Cllr Williams confirmed that there had been a number of incidents recently which had been reported to the Police and asked that councillors and residents remain vigilant and obtain car registration numbers where possible which he would then relay to the police.	All
75/21	Government Rural Broadband Scheme Cllr Williams said it appeared that some BT policies were now changing and confirmed he would send the details to County Cllr Mrs Wilson to follow this issue up.	DW/VW
76/21	Victory Hall Cllr Williams reported that there was a full calendar of bookings and that a great deal of work had been carried out making improvements to the Hall and all safety aspects had been covered. The Chairman congratulated everyone concerned for their hard work and effort and said this was excellent news.	
77/21	Chairman's Chain/Plaque for Ex-Cllr Harry Brown Chairman's Chain now engraved and given to the Chairman. Cllr Mrs Southall to arrange for a plaque in memory of ex-councillor Harry Brown.	BS
78/21	Dangerous Willow Trees – Greyhound Lane It was reported that the Tree Team from Baggeridge will inspect the trees to make a decision as to whether to reduce them or fell them. To be kept under observation.	
79/21	Life After Lockdown Initiatives District Cllr Kinsey said that he would ask the Locality 5 leader, Harvey Bains, to contact the Chairman to discuss further.	DK/NC
80/21	Open Space Improvement Scheme Andrew Aston will be contacting all Parish Councils in due course.	
81/21	Election of Officers as from May 2021	

	<p>Nigel Cox – Chair, Financial Officer, communications/notice boards Beccy Southall – Vice Chair, Community Safety/Police Kate Brazenell – Finance Sub-Committee, Planning David Williams – Finance Sub-Committee, Community Safety/Police, VH Representative Corinne Taylor – VH Representative, Highways Tony Solway-Blower – Highways Steve Bradley – Environment, Communications/notice boards, social media Kirstein Preece – Environment Holly Fuller – Communications/notice boards, social media Jan Footman – Responsible Financial Officer</p>																			
82/21	<p>Local Government Boundary Commission District Cllr Kinsey advised that the District Council's preferred option is to reduce the number of District Councillors from 49 to 41 and the Boundary Commission is likely to agree with this submission. It was agreed the Parish Council's submission would advise that this does not directly impact on Lower Penn.</p>	Clerk																		
83/21	<p>Water Pressure Springhill Park Cllr Williams reported that he had spoken to Severn Trent Water and that there are options available to improve the pressure. County Cllr Mrs Wilson will follow this up.</p> <p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p>	VW																		
84/21	<p>Weight Limit Restrictions – Springhill Lane The Meeting discussed the problems relating to the signage along Springhill Lane which was causing large vehicles to attempt access to this area. County Cllr Mrs Wilson agreed to look into this and also speak to Wolverhampton City Council regarding re-siting the signs. The Parish Council agreed to consider match-funding for any costs involved.</p>	VW																		
85/21	<p>ACCOUNTS The Meeting approved the payment of the following cheques:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Mrs B Southall</td> <td>Reimbursement for engraving of Chain</td> <td>£36.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>L.P. Victory Hall</td> <td>Hire of Hall June – December 2021</td> <td>£120.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BG Gd Maintenance</td> <td>May ground works</td> <td>£330.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mrs J Footman</td> <td>Quarterly Salary</td> <td>£1586.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mrs J Footman</td> <td>Office Accommodation March, April, May 2021</td> <td>£105.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DBS</td> <td>for HMRC quarterly account</td> <td>£161.68</td> </tr> </table> <p>Audit 2020/2021 It was noted that the Council's gross income or expenditure for the year did not exceed £25,000 and that the Council wished to certify itself as exempt from a limited assurance review under Section 9 of the Local Audit (smaller authorities) Regulations 2015. The Clerk confirmed that all audit books/paperwork had been approved satisfactorily by the internal auditor and that there were no recommendations for further action. The following documents were approved and signed by the Chairman and Clerk:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Certificate of Exemption Section 1 Annual Governance Statement Section 2 Accounting Statements Year End Bank Reconciliation Significant Variances Report Assets Register Receipts & Payments Book <p>The Clerk confirmed that all paperwork would be submitted to the external auditor within the next few days, and all audit documents would be posted on the website for public inspection.</p>	Mrs B Southall	Reimbursement for engraving of Chain	£36.00	L.P. Victory Hall	Hire of Hall June – December 2021	£120.00	BG Gd Maintenance	May ground works	£330.00	Mrs J Footman	Quarterly Salary	£1586.00	Mrs J Footman	Office Accommodation March, April, May 2021	£105.00	DBS	for HMRC quarterly account	£161.68	<p>Clerk Clerk Clerk Clerk</p>
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86/21	DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT																			

District Cllr Kinsey reported that there had been one Covid-19 case reported in South Staffordshire.
All other items contained within above minutes.

87/21

FINANCIAL RISK ASSESSMENT

All audit paperwork presented, approved and signed. To be submitted to external auditor and published for public inspection.

Clerk

88/21

SECTION 17

Nothing to report

89/21

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 1 July 2021 at the Victory Hall commencing at 7.15pm

Signed: **Chairman**

Date:

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