

LOWER PENN PARISH COUNCIL

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PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on THURSDAY 9 JUNE 2022 at the VICTORY HALL LOWER PENN

PRESENT:

Cllr Mrs B Southall - Chair
Cllr Mrs V Barnes
Cllr Mrs K Brazenell
Cllr N Cox
Cllr Mrs K Preece
Cllr Mrs C Taylor
Cllr D Williams

District Cllr D Kinsey
County Cllr Mrs V Wilson
Mr Ryan Taylor – District Council

5 Members of the public

		Action
56/22	APOLOGIES Received from Cllr Ms Fuller, District Cllr Reade and Staffordshire Police.	
57/22	MINUTES Proposed by Cllr Mrs Taylor and seconded by Cllr Cox and carried that the minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 5 May 2022 be approved and signed as a true and correct record.	
58/22	DECLARATION OF INTERESTS None recorded	
59/22	POLICE REPORT : 04/05/2022 – 06/06/2022: Received and circulated. Vehicle Crime: Springhill Park 11.05.2022 Theft of motor vehicle without keys Dimmingsdale Road 20.05.2022 Theft of motor vehicle without keys ASB: No repeat ASB locations Operation 'Cable' – targeting ASB hotspots Operation 'Lightening' – targeting vehicle crime Thanks to the Speedwatch Team – more volunteers required Incidents can be reported on 'Digital 101' service or on a private message on Facebook/Twitter pages, rather than phoning 101 to queue. Officers also discussed the problems of fly tipping and the provision of cameras.	
60/22	Fly Tipping Enforcement Mr Ryan Taylor Performance & Envirocrime Manager – District Council presented his report: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 1285 fly tips removed last year of which 47% were household waste▪ Signs can be provided and erected to act as a deterrent▪ Both covert and overt cameras are operated – covert cameras require a court authority	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Crimes in progress should be reported to the police and all incidents reported to the District Council ▪ All fly tipping incidents are reported regularly to DEFRA by the District Council ▪ April 2021-March 2022 – 10 Fixed Penalty Notices were issued, 2 of which led to court appearances. ▪ District Council is working with the police to support landowners and offer advice on how to protect their property and land against fly tipping. ▪ Parish Councils can sponsor a camera at a cost of £300 to include camera, battery and SD card which will be used throughout the Parish on a 3 month movement cycle. <p>The meeting discussed this initiative further and it was agreed that Mr Taylor would provide 'No Fly Tipping' signs for the Parish Council to erect in relevant hot spot sites and that councillors would further discuss the acquisition of a camera and advise Mr Taylor accordingly. It was also agreed that Mr Taylor would provide some information on the responsible disposal of waste for inclusion in the parish newsletter/website.</p>	
61/22	<p>LOCAL PLAN</p> <p>The next stage of the consultation is expected early autumn when it will be known whether the Langley Road site has gone forward and District Cllr Kinsey confirmed that he will continue to give the same level of representation to Lower Penn as always. There will also be a District Council surgery held on Saturday 11 June hosted by D. Cllr Kinsey.</p>	DK
62/22	<p>COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT</p> <p>No report available</p>	
63/22	<p>DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT</p> <p>Forwarded by D. Cllr Reade, as attached.</p>	
64/22	<p>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</p> <p>Nothing to report</p>	
65/22	<p>PLANNING</p> <p>App No: 22/00524/FUL Extensions 1 Dene Road</p> <p>The Parish Council asks that planners comply with all green belt and conservation buffer zone policies. Councillors also had concerns regarding the underpinning of the property next door and the balcony overlooking neighbouring properties.</p>	Clerk
	<p>App No: 22/00525/FUL Retrospective application for front boundary wall – 20 Springhill Park</p> <p>Cllr Cox declared an interest and took no part in the discussion or decision</p> <p>The Parish Council objects to this application on the grounds that it is incongruous in its setting of the street scene</p>	Clerk
	<p>APPLICATIONS MID-MEETING</p> <p>App No: 22/00449/FUL Extensions 102 Langley Road – no objection</p> <p>App No: 22/00466/FUL Extensions 'Habberley' Radford Lane</p> <p>App No: 22/00478/FUL and 22/00482/ROOF – 119 Springhill Lane: as this dwelling is in the green belt, planners are asked to ensure all relevant green belt policies and permitted development policies are followed.</p>	
	<p>APPLICATIONS PENDING</p> <p>App No: 22/00044/FUL Battery Storage Facility – Field at (Penn 1) Penstone Lane</p> <p>App No: 22/00045/FUL Battery Storage Facility – Field at (Penn 2) Penstone Lane</p> <p>App No: 22/00146/TREE Pruning of Yew Tree – 'Chimneys' Springhill Lane</p> <p>App No: 21/01103/TREE Removal of Ash Tree, Charlton House</p> <p>App No: 22/00100/FUL New replacement dwelling – Robins Nest Farm, Dirty Foot Lane</p> <p>App No: 22/00423/TTREE Land adj. Springhill Cottage, 58 Springhill Lane</p>	

	<p>PLANNING APPLICATIONS APPROVED App No: 22/00243/FUL Extensions, Garage, Boundary Wall, Gates 59 Springhill Lane App No: 22/00321/FUL Ground Floor Rear Extension – ‘Lenchford’ Radford Lane App No: 22/00238/FUL Extensions 263 Castlecroft Road</p> <p>Appeal: Battery Storage Facility – Langley Road/Railway Walk – reiteration of objections sent to Inspectorate. Nothing further to report Appeal: Removal of Condition No. 4 Sandhills Nursery – reiteration of objections and further comments sent to Inspectorate. Nothing further to report.</p> <p>MATTERS ARISING</p>	
66/22	<p>Enforcement Issues Access Road/58 Springhill Cottage District Cllr Kinsey advised that the landowner is refusing to comply and casework is now being prepared to submit the case to court.</p>	
67/22	<p>Overgrown hedges/verges along Castlecroft Road To be re-reported to Wolverhampton Council and District Cllr Kinsey to also follow matter up. Clerk to contact District Council regarding lack of grass cutting at bottom end of Radford Lane</p>	Clerk/ DK
68/22	<p>Community Speedwatch/Speeding Issues Cllr Williams and Cllr Mrs Barnes to contact Mr Dunton to formulate a timetable of visits. Cllr Mrs Barnes advised that she will hopefully be recruiting some new volunteers. The Chairman suggested that the CSW team consider any funding they may require for consideration in next year’s budget.</p>	DW/VB
69/22	<p>Fly Tipping/Litter Next litter pick before the end of June – Cllr Mrs Preece to ask Mr Taylor for a supply of litter pickers.</p>	KP
70/22	<p>Victory Hall The Clerk granted dispensation to all councillors who are trustees of the Victory Hall to speak at Parish Council meetings on all matters relating to the Victory Hall. The Clerk reported that the Statutory Declaration had now been signed and sent to the Land Registry regarding the registration of land that the Hall is built on. Cllr Williams presented the Victory Hall accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021. It was noted that Cllr Mrs Taylor is the Parish Council’s representative on the Victory Hall Management Committee.</p>	
71/22	<p>The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Celebrations – 2 June 2022 The Chairman thanked all volunteers and guests for both the Parish Council and Victory Hall Jubilee events, which were extremely successful and enjoyed by all. The Victory Hall made a profit of £383.26 raised through donations, and expenditure for the Parish Council event was £400.17 taken from the grant received from the District Council. The Meeting considered a further Parish Council event in late summer and Cllr Mrs Taylor and Cllr Williams agreed to speak to the Cricket Club about this.</p>	CT/DW
72/22	<p>Climate Change Group The Chairman asked the group to set out its aims and objectives for the coming year and to look at any funding requirements that could be put forward for consideration at the Budget Meeting later this year.</p>	KP/HF/ CT
73/22	<p>Castlecroft Playing Field The District Council is unwilling to provide a copy of the deeds for the 1960 Conveyance or to consider transferring the land back to the Parish Council. Carry forward to next Meeting.</p>	

74/22	<p>Change of Meeting Day Carry forward to next meeting.</p>																			
75/22	<p>Adoption of Code of Conduct Lower Penn Parish Council agreed to adopt the same Code of Conduct May 2022 as the District Council. District Council to be advised accordingly.</p>	Clerk																		
76/22	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS None reported</p>																			
77/22	<p>ACCOUNTS Jubilee grant received from District Council in the sum of £675.00</p> <p>The following accounts were presented for payment and cheques signed accordingly.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>BG Ground Maintenance</td> <td>May Account</td> <td>£330.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ms H Fuller</td> <td>Reimbursement printing costs</td> <td>£40.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DBS (Midlands) Ltd</td> <td>Quarterly fees for HMRC</td> <td>£221.70</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DBS (Midlands) Ltd</td> <td>Qtrly wage fees/year end fees/ Internal audit</td> <td>£210.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mrs J Footman</td> <td>Clerk's Qtrly salary incl agreed increase</td> <td>£1677.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mrs J Footman</td> <td>Qtrly Office Accommodation etc.</td> <td>£105.00</td> </tr> </table> <p>Audit 2021/2022 It was noted that the Council's gross income and 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.</p> <p>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 presented to the Council and those requiring signature were approved and signed by the Chairman and Clerk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Certificate of Exemption b) Section 1 Annual Governance Statement c) Section 2 Accounting Statements d) Year End Bank Reconciliation e) Significant Variances Report f) Assets Register g) Receipts and Payments Book <p>The Clerk confirmed that all paperwork would be submitted to the external auditor within the next few days, a date would be set for the commencement for the exercise of public rights and that all audit documents would be posted on the website for public inspection.</p>	BG Ground Maintenance	May Account	£330.00	Ms H Fuller	Reimbursement printing costs	£40.60	DBS (Midlands) Ltd	Quarterly fees for HMRC	£221.70	DBS (Midlands) Ltd	Qtrly wage fees/year end fees/ Internal audit	£210.00	Mrs J Footman	Clerk's Qtrly salary incl agreed increase	£1677.60	Mrs J Footman	Qtrly Office Accommodation etc.	£105.00	Clerk Clerk Clerk Clerk
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78/22	<p>FINANCIAL RISK ASSESSMENT Annual Audit – audit documents now completed by Clerk to be sent to external auditor.</p>																			
79/22	<p>SECTION 17 Nothing to report</p>																			
80/22	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING Thursday 7 July 2022 commencing at 7.15pm in the Victory Hall Signed: Chairman</p> <p>Date:</p> <p>District Report June 9th 2022</p>	Clerk																		

The Boundary Commission final decision reduced the overall number of councillors for the District Council and there is new warding that affect Lower Penn . The elections 2023 will see the full affect as Lower Penn will then be Bobbington, Lower Penn, Pattingham & Patsull ,Trysull & Seisdon Ward. At the AGM May 2022 of the District Council, changes were put in place for the forthcoming Municipal year which include a reduction in the Planning Committee to 18, your members are Robert Reade & Victoria Wilson.

Local Plan

The next round of consultation on the Local Plan for South Staffordshire will be conducted in the Autumn/Winter this year. This stage of consultation is essentially to consult on the soundness of the plan. The District Council Planning Team are working through all the representations from the last round of consultation on the plan. The last round of consultations have been varied with many opposing opinions. The development industry are making the point that the housing numbers are too low and many communities feel that the housing numbers are too high. Officers are working to make sure that we have the best plan for South Staffordshire. It's important to note that Lower Penn has not had any major development since 1960.

The Plan will need to be examined by an Independent Planning Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State and the plan will need to satisfy the Inspector that it has dealt with all appropriate matters before they can consider it sound. There is much in the news about the Levelling Up Bill and the impact on Planning and in particular Plan Making. The proposed changes to planning polices will not affect the Local Plan to be submitted. The Government have been clear that any legislative changes would not come into effect before the date that our local plan must be submitted which is December 2023.

Meeting the deadline of securing a plan in place before December 2023 is critical. Without a plan in place to set the strategic policy direction we would be defenseless against any applications on Green Belt land.

Beyond planning matters, the pressures on dealing with the Afghan asylum seekers remain. Work to ensure that we can meet our obligations for welcoming Ukranian Guests also continues.

The government is now seeking to resolve the strain on authorities in the South of the country by spreading the accommodation needs for Afghan Asylum seekers across the whole of the United Kingdom.

Changes to waste collections and Government council tax rebate calls are putting pressures on our customer services. Extra measures and resources have been put in place to alleviate telephone waiting times and this is work in progress.

South Staffordshire Council have made improvements in communications for our residents via the web site and other social media sources.

I hope that the Jubilee celebrations were a great success and that the successful grant bid from South Staffs lottery was well spent and that Lower Penn residents are encouraged to join the lottery in order to support its important and worthy causes.

District Councillor
Robert Reade

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