

# LOWER PENN PARISH COUNCIL

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

5 MARCH 2020

### PRESENT:

Cllr N Cox - Chairman  
 Cllr Mrs B Southall – Vice-Chair  
 Cllr S Bradley  
 Cllr Mrs K Brazenell  
 Cllr Ms N Davies  
 Cllr R Manoharan  
 Cllr R Reade  
 Cllr Mrs C Taylor

District Cllr D Kinsey  
 PCSO Paula Wilkes  
 Members of the Public

		Action
343/20	<p><b>APOLOGIES</b>                      Received from Cllr Waltho</p>	
344/20	<p><b>MINUTES</b>                      Proposed by Cllr Ms Davies and seconded by Cllr Mrs Taylor and carried that the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 6 February 2020 be signed as a true and correct record.                      The Chairman thanked Cllr Mrs Southall for chairing February’s meeting in his absence.</p>	
345/20	<p><b>DECLARATION OF INTERESTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cllr Cox declared an interest in Sandhills Nursery</li> <li>▪ Cllr Reade declared an interest in County Council owned land</li> </ul>	
346/20	<p><b>POLICE REPORT – February 2020</b>                      PCSO Wilkes reported that there had been a couple of suspicious incidents that had occurred in the past month and also a case of sheep worrying. She confirmed that vehicle crime was still problematic in South Staffordshire and encouraged residents to purchase a SPD1 Disklok steering wheel lock from the company’s web site.                      She also said that Staffordshire Police will be holding a Property Marking and Crime Prevention event on Sunday 5 April at Sainsbury’s Car Park in Perton 10.00am – 12.00 midday and at Wombourne Library car park from 2.00pm – 4.00pm.</p>	
347/20	<p><b>COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT</b>                      No report available.</p>	
348/20	<p><b>Community Speedwatch/Speeding Issues</b>                      Cllr Mrs Southall said that she has asked for a re-quote to provide Speedwatch signs in Market Lane. The Chairman thanked everyone involved in the Speedwatch project.</p>	
349/20	<p><b>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</b>                      Litter</p>	

	<p>It was reported that large amounts of litter were in evidence at The Roughts, Castlecroft end of Radford Lane and Dimmingsdale and residents were encouraged to report all incidents to Environmental Health as and when they occur. The Chairman agreed to make enquiries into the provision of cameras and signs to deter litter dropping.</p> <p>Cllr Manoharan thanked Cllr Mrs Southall and Cllr Kinsey for their help in obtaining 6 high viz jackets and 6 litter picks and said that, as soon as the weather has improved, he would be organising litter picking groups of 6 people, possibly on Saturdays, to carry out litter picks along Springhill Lane, Market Lane, Radford Lane, Langley Road and Penstone Lane.</p>	<p><b>NC</b></p> <p><b>RM</b></p>
<p><b>350/20</b></p>	<p><b>Connect Bus Service</b></p> <p>Residents reported that they had been unable to contact the service to order transport and Cllr Reade said that as this was a District run scheme, he would make enquiries into the problem and advise residents accordingly.</p>	<p><b>RR</b></p>
<p><b>351/20</b></p>	<p><b>Sandhills Nursery</b></p> <p><b>Asbestos:</b> Residents were extremely annoyed about the response from the District Council which stated that this issue is now closed. District Cllr Kinsey referred to the contents of his previous email from August 2019 and said that he had spoken with the District Council about this and had contacted the Environment Agency to request that a full investigation takes place. The Agency has agreed to do this on receipt of a report giving full information and residents agreed to do this in conjunction with Cllr Kinsey.</p> <p><b>Enforcement Notices:</b> it was reported that there were still a number of open notices relating to this site, including the unlawful access, and Cllr Ms Davies confirmed she had sent a full list of all breaches to the Enforcement Officer but to date had received no reply. To be followed up.</p> <p><b>New Planning Application – 4 March 2020:</b> development extended with further encroachment into green belt with no special circumstances put forward and inaccurate drawings.</p> <p>Cllr Mrs Brazenell confirmed that a letter had been sent to the Planning Officer outlining the history of this application and concerns regarding the ongoing delays which have occurred. She also said that, at the request of residents, she had drafted a letter from the Parish Council to the Secretary of State which had been circulated to all councillors and it was agreed by a majority that this letter would be sent.</p> <p><b>Seisdon Quarry</b></p> <p>Cllr Mrs Taylor reported that, as the weather improves, HGV traffic will increase for approximately a 3-week period, for the site to import materials for restoration purposes.</p> <p>.....</p>	<p><b>DK</b></p> <p><b>ND</b></p> <p><b>Clerk</b></p>
<p><b>352/20</b></p>	<p><b>PLANNING</b></p> <p>Cllr Reade took no part in the discussion of current planning applications.</p> <p><b>App No: 19/00048/FUL – Sandhills Nursery Springhill Lane</b></p> <p>It was agreed that the Parish Council would object to the movement of the red line which further encroaches into the green belt, drawings continue to be inaccurate and no very special circumstances have been submitted as to why further green belt land has been taken</p> <p><b>App No: SS.19/02/627MD1 – Importation of Restoration Materials at Seisdon Quarry</b></p> <p>Parish Council has no objection in principle, but has concerns regarding the control of agreed lorry movements and whether the County Council has a commitment to repair road and verge damage to Market Lane and Langley Road and enquiring as to the previous agreement of financial recompense for damage done to highways.</p> <p><b>Agricultural Applications for Trescott Grange Farm and Brookfield Farm</b></p> <p>Cllr Waltho to be asked for advice on green belt issues.</p>	<p><b>Clerk</b></p> <p><b>Clerk</b></p> <p><b>Clerk</b></p>

	<p><b>App No: 19/00441/UNDEV – Enforcement – Caravan at The Lindens Penstone Lane</b> Nothing to report</p> <p><b>APPLICATIONS PENDING</b> App No: 19/00048/FUL – Retrospective application – Sandhills Nursery App No: 19/00986/AGRRES – Barn Conversion – Robins Nest Farm App No: 19/00883/FUL – Detached Garage – The Lindens Penstone Lane</p> <p><b>PLANNING PERMISSION GRANTED</b> App No: 19/00953/FUL – 2 new dormer windows, The Arawak, Blackpit Lane</p> <p><b>PLANNING PERMISSION REFUSED</b> App No: 19/00187/FUL Change of use of stable block – 229 Castlecroft Road</p>	
353/20	<p><b>LOCAL PLAN</b> Cllr Mrs Southall advised that she had spoken to the Local Plan Team that day and there were no updates or changes to any of the sites and/or plans submitted for the 3 Lower Penn sites. The Chairman said that he had received a number of telephone calls regarding this issue and had advised residents that there is no additional information available at present.</p> <p>District Cllr Reade said that the next stage will be for the District Council to filter out those sites that are not acceptable, and this will identify all the objections received so far and also any problems with environment or infrastructure issues and those sites least harmful to the green belt will be selected. The District Council will have consulted all appropriate authorities and organisations during this filtering stage and this phase should be completed during May/June this year. Cllr Bradley asked whether Staffordshire Wildlife Trust had been consulted and Cllr Reade said he would check on this.</p> <p>District Cllr Kinsey said that following a recent residents’ meeting which was attended by MP Gavin Williamson, the DC have issued a rebuttal of the comments made by Mr Williamson at that meeting.</p>	RR
354/20	<p><b>Land adjacent Springhill Cottage Site (No 58)</b> Cllr Ms Davies reported that the amount of rubbish being deposited was increasing and she would follow this up with the Enforcement Officer.</p>	ND
355/20	<p><b>9 Springhill Park</b> Cllr Ms Davies advised the skip had now been removed, the discarded fridge was still in evidence and that no scaffolding has been erected to enable work to continue on the house.</p>	ND
356/20	<p><b>Notice Board – Radford Lane</b> Cllr Mrs Southall reported that confirmation had been received from Highways that it was in order to re-erect the notice board in the same vicinity as previous and that this would be done over the next 2/3 weeks.</p>	BS
357/20	<p><b>No 62 Springhill Lane (Jays Farm)</b> Property now sold and Enforcement will be contacting the new owner regarding permission for the septic tanks. Cllr Ms Davies to follow this matter up.</p>	ND
358/20	<p><b>Wildflower Verges</b> Cllr Bradley reported on the recent meeting held to discuss this matter and said that there was a general agreement that all available verges as indicated on the map provided by Ryan Taylor should be re-wilded, but this would not include the Village Green. The meeting discussed this at length and it was agreed that Mr Taylor would be contacted to advise that the first cut of the season (end March) would not be required and that he be asked for more information as to how the decision to not cut verges can be communicated to all residents and whether there will be any control over the wild flower verges and if any seeds or bulbs will be provided.</p>	Clerk

359/20	<p><b>Crash Barrier – Dimmingsdale Bridge</b> It was reported that the broken barrier had still not been removed and was a danger to motorists and motor cyclists. County Cllr Mrs Wilson had been contacted about this and a reply was being awaited.</p>	VW
360/20	<p><b>Missing Road Sign – Market Lane</b> This had been reported – Clerk to chase.</p>	Clerk
361/20	<p><b>Pavements – Springhill Park</b> Residents were encouraged to continue to report any road/footpath defects or incidents of people being hurt due to the poor condition of the footpaths.</p>	
362/20	<p><b>Flooding Market Lane</b> County Cllr Mrs Wilson to check on gully clearance situation and pot holes to be reported.</p>	VW/ Clerk
363/20	<p><b>Victory Hall</b> Land Registration – Being discussed with District Council’s Legal Department The accounts for the year ending December 2018 were presented and given to Cllr Ms Davies for inspection.</p>	RR/RW ND
364/20	<p><b>Defibrillator</b> Nothing to report</p>	CT
365/20	<p><b>Log Reports February 2020</b></p> <p><b>Castlecroft Playing Field</b> Cllr Bradley to provide a draft plan of the area with current suggestions and this would be circulated to all councillors for further discussion. It was also agreed that Cllr Bradley and volunteers would approach neighbouring properties to ascertain their views and ideas on the suggestions for improving the Playing Field. The District Council’s Arboreal Officer had been contacted regarding whether the trees fronting the Castlecroft Playing Field were covered by TPO’s.</p> <p><b>Village Green</b> Cllr Mrs Taylor reported on the current rat situation and encouraged residents to report any sightings to the Environmental Health Department.</p> <p><b>The Roughts/Bus Shelters</b> County Cllr Mrs Wilson had offered some financial assistance in making the bus shelter at the bottom of Market Lane more attractive. The meeting discussed ways that this could be improved and Cllr Mrs Southall agreed to speak to Dimmingsdale Garden Centre about this.</p>	SB      BS
366/20	<p><b>Horse Rider Warning Signs</b> Cllrs Mrs Southall and Mrs Taylor to contact CSW and residents to ascertain where signs can be obtained.</p>	BS/CT
367/20	<p><b>BT Red Telephone Box</b> Cllr Mrs Southall reported that a number of suggestions had been made for the use of the telephone box and these would be reviewed at next Meeting.</p>	BS
368/20	<p><b>Railway Walk</b> All items reported to Baggeridge Range</p>	
369/20	<p><b>Parish Council Web Site</b> The Chairman reported that he had received very positive feedback for the new web site and thanked all those involved in its creation and running, particularly Darren Barnard for all his help.</p>	
370/20	<p><b>Free Tree Offer</b></p>	Clerk

371/20	<p>It was agreed that the Parish Council would like to order 50 native and animal friendly trees and the Clerk was asked to contact Ryan Taylor about this.</p>													
372/20	<p><b>Parish Summit</b> The Spring Parish Summit will be held on Thursday 26 March 2020 9.00am – 1.30pm</p>													
373/20	<p><b>Place Narrative – District Council</b> The Chairman advised that he had received a communication regarding the above and would circulate to all councillors.</p>	NC												
374/20	<p><b>Residents’ Meeting with Gavin Williamson MP</b> The Chairman reported on the recent meeting and thanked all those responsible for organising the event at such short notice.</p>													
375/20	<p><b>Hire of Victory Hall – Environmental Group</b> The meeting agreed the charge of £15.00 for this event and Cllr Mrs Taylor agreed to arrange for an invoice to be submitted.</p>	CT												
376/20	<p><b>Government Flood Recovery Scheme</b> Details circulated to all councillors and Cllr Mrs Brazenell advised that this information had been posted on the Lower Penn Facebook page.</p>													
377/20	<p><b>ACCOUNTS</b> Details of the Council's current bank balances as at 29/02/20 were given to the meeting.</p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr Ms Davies and seconded by Cllr Mrs Taylor and carried that the following accounts be paid and cheques were signed accordingly:</p> <table data-bbox="207 1131 1404 1265"> <tr> <td>Mrs J Footman</td> <td>Quarterly Salary Cheque</td> <td>£1500.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mrs J Footman</td> <td>Office Accommodation – 3 months</td> <td>£105.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC</td> <td>PAYE/Employers NIC</td> <td>£108.05</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Victory Hall</td> <td>Donation</td> <td>£2000.00</td> </tr> </table> <p><i>This would be paid following inspection of the Victory Hall's latest accounts – previous cheque written September 2019 was now out of date and cancelled.</i></p>	Mrs J Footman	Quarterly Salary Cheque	£1500.00	Mrs J Footman	Office Accommodation – 3 months	£105.00	HMRC	PAYE/Employers NIC	£108.05	Victory Hall	Donation	£2000.00	Clerk Clerk Clerk Clerk
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378/20	<p><b>ANY ISSUES ARISING FROM DISTRICT COUNCIL BUSINESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Due to new IT programme being installed, council tax figures are not available at present</li> <li>▪ The District Council's financial strategy appears healthier due to the charge for garden waste collection being introduced</li> <li>▪ The District Council has been awarded Gold and Bronze awards in the iESE Public Sector Transformation Awards Scheme.</li> </ul>													
379/20	<p><b>FINANCIAL RISK ASSESSMENT</b> In place and up to date</p>													
380/20	<p><b>SECTION 17</b> Nothing to report</p>													
381/20	<p><b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING</b> Thursday 2 April 2020 – 7.15pm followed by the April Parish Council Meeting</p>													
381/20	<p><b>DATE OF MAY ANNUAL MEETING</b> As the Hall is being used for election purposes, it was agreed the Annual Meeting would be held on <b>Saturday 2 May 2020 commencing at 10.00am in the Victory Hall Lower Penn</b></p>													

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

**Date:** .....

