

LOWER PENN PARISH COUNCIL

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MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL held on THURSDAY 7 MARCH 2024 at the VICTORY HALL, LOWER PENN

PRESENT:

Cllr Ms H Fuller – Vice-Chair
Cllr Mrs K Brazenell
Cllr K Crane
Cllr D Everett
Cllr S McEwen
Cllr Mrs C Taylor

County and District Councillor Mrs V Wilson
District Councillor R Reade

7 Members of the Public
Mr Peter Woodley, Janine, Chloe and Daniella – Severn Trent Water
PCSO Paula Wilkes

| | | Action |
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| 217/24 | APOLOGIES Received from Cllr Mrs Southall. | |
| 218/24 | MINUTES Proposed by Cllr Everett and seconded by Cllr Crane and carried that the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 1 February 2024 be approved and signed as a true and correct record. | |
| 219/24 | DECLARATION OF INTERESTS D. Cllr Reade declared an interest in any discussions relating to the Local Plan and Battery Storage Sites. | |
| 220/24 | POLICE REPORT 01/02/2024 – 06/03/24 Received and circulated. <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Three residential burglaries in the area - one in Springhill Park, two on borders.▪ Vehicle Crime: BMW stolen on Sedgley Road▪ Stolen vehicle found in Castlecroft▪ Increase in vehicle thefts in South Staffordshire.▪ Incident of threatening behaviour towards a Lower Penn householder.▪ Operation to prevent off-road bikes from using the Railway Walk to be organised.▪ Staffordshire Police now have a drone which can be used for assistance | |
| 221/24 | SEVERN TRENT WATER Project 1: Site investigations currently being carried out and Ebstree Road closed until 1 April 2024. Operatives will then move into fields for continued pipe laying, although the presence of newts has been found in the pond by the sub-station and this may delay their | |

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| | <p>schedule for environmental reasons. STW are working towards May 2024 for roads to be re-opened. District Cllr Mrs Wilson asked for STW contact numbers to be put on road signage.</p> <p>Project 2: Improvement of water quality – provisional completion date October 2024.</p> <p>Market Lane to be closed 17 June 2024 (provisional) for 2 weeks. STW confirmed that any damage caused to roads/footpaths would be made good.</p> <p>19 March 2024 – Drop In – Victory Hall. Cllr Everett agreed to share this on Facebook page.</p> | |
| 222/24 | <p>LOCAL PLAN</p> <p>District Cllr Mrs Wilson advised that the Consultation will be open this month. The Chair asked that all councillors check the new Plan to identify the differences between the two.</p> | DE |
| 223/24 | <p>UPDATE FROM DC OFFICERS</p> <p>Enforcement to be asked for an update on the Road to Nowhere.</p> | All Clerk |
| 224/24 | <p>COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community Survey: 2,106 responses received– details given. ▪ Street Lighting – Penstone Lane: County Council unable to provide extra lighting. ▪ Chevron Replacement – Dene Road: will be carried out in due course ▪ Pot Holes: County Council is investing heavily in pot hole repairs this year and current methods of repairing are being improved. Councillors and residents were urged to continue to report pot holes, particularly along Springhill Lane and Radford Lane. ▪ Dimmingsdale Bridge: The Canals & River Trust has confirmed the barrier will not be replaced. | All |
| 225/24 | <p>DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT</p> <p>Winander: An approved arboreal contractor will be engaged (at applicant’s expense) to remedy the compaction caused which could affect the root system. The protection fencing is too close to the tree and applicant has been advised that this should be to protect the roots and also that padding should be placed to carry heavy vehicles. Failure to adhere to the root protection will cause a temporary stop notice to be served. A landscape scheme has not been submitted and this must be received by 25 March 2024.</p> <p>Sandhills Nursery – Increase from 105 to 150: Informally, Environmental Health officers are not happy that the noise survey has been carried out in the winter and they will, therefore, be objecting on that basis, although no formal comments have yet been submitted.</p> <p>Sandhills Nursery – BREEAM: The agent has not been responding to any emails/phone calls and the applicant has been advised accordingly.</p> <p>20 Springhill Park – Wall/Pillars: There was an error made by Enforcement on the initial notice and a further notice will now be served.</p> <p>107 Springhill Lane – Care Home: Application has confirmed that the home will be for 16-64 year olds but further information and clarity on staffing and need is still required. Highways has not yet responded.</p> | |
| 226/24 | <p>Highways Issue with Planning Responses</p> <p>Cllr Mrs Southall had written to County/District Cllr Mrs Wilson regarding the Highways response to App No: 24/00042/VAR and Cllr Mrs Wilson had arranged for a Teams meeting to be held with Highway Officers, Cllr Mrs Southall, Cllr Mrs Brazenell and herself to discuss this further. Cllr Mrs Brazenell gave details of this meeting and it was unanimously agreed that a letter would be sent to Helen Benbow on behalf of the Parish Council, with a copy to Mrs Wilson, regarding Highways response.</p> <p>District Councillor Mrs Wilson also agreed to send a copy of the Call In form to the Council if this was allowed.</p> <p>The Council thanked Mrs Wilson for kindly arranging the meeting.</p> <p>Both District Councillors gave an explanation as to why they were not prepared to comment on applications through the planning portal.</p> | KB VW |
| 227/24 | <p>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sandhills Nursery Access: not signed off/safety issues. ▪ Sandhills Nursery – Condition 9 FWD – as already discussed. | |

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| <p>228/24</p> | <p>PLANNING App No: 24/00173/FULHH Extensions/Outbuilding – 43 Springhill Park The Meeting had concerns regarding the overdevelopment of the site and the potential for the outbuilding to be used as a residential dwelling.</p> <p>PLANNING APPLICATIONS PENDING App No: 23/00928/FULHH Ashmore Nurseries, Radford Lane App No: 23/01036/VAR – Removal of Conditions, Battery Farm, Land off Railway Walk App No: 23/01011/FUL C2 Care Home – 107 Springhill Lane App No: 22/00724/VAR Vary Condition 2 - Winander, Radford Lane App No: 24/00042/VAR Change of Condition 5 to increase pupil numbers to 150 – Sandhill Day Nursery, Springhill Lane App No: 24/00048/BUHOEX Additional storey – 83 Springhill Lane App No: 24/00095/BUHOEX Additional storey – 85 Springhill Lane App No: 24/00107/FUL Erection of new Score Box – Old Wulfrunians Club, Castlecroft App No: 24/00065/TREE – Keepers Cottage, Springhill Lane</p> <p>APPLICATIONS APPROVED App No: 23/00464/FUL Replacement Dwelling – Radford Lodge, Radford Lane App No: 24/00021/TREE – Tree works, Charlton House Springhill Lane App No: 23/00944/TREE – TPO Langley Hall, Langley Road App No: 23/01030/FULH – Extensions The Barns Pool Hall</p> <p>APPEALS 58A Springhill Lane: Appeal for Outbuilding and boundary fence</p> <p>MATTERS ARISING Enforcement Issues: Sandhills Nursery (19/00048)– Breach of Condition Notice 4 Case Ref: 22/00132/BOC</p> | <p>KB/ Clerk</p> |
| <p>229/24</p> | <p>Unauthorised Wall/Pillars – 20 Springhill Park Notice is being served on householder.</p> <p>Three Ridings Radford Lane – Case Ref: 23/00176/UNDEV Given to 19 January 2024 to comply with removal of unauthorised garage.</p> <p>Springhill Lane – Access Road to Nowhere Update required</p> | |
| <p>230/24</p> | <p>Dimmingsdale Bridge Cllr Mrs Wilson confirmed that CRT will not be replacing the crash barrier.</p> | |
| <p>231/24</p> | <p>Battery Storage Facilities District Cllr Reade left the room during this discussion. Cllr McEwen had produced a comprehensive report on this issue, including the possible safety issues with these applications, which had been circulated to all councillors. The Meeting discussed this report and the amendments that needed to be made. Cllr Everett advised that he had spoken to Wolverhampton’s Chief Fire Officer on the safety aspects of this type of storage facility, and Cllr Mrs Wilson confirmed that she had also had a meeting with the Fire Service and that guidelines from the Service are available and it would likely be best practice for all Councils to work with the Fire Service as a statutory consultee.</p> <p>The Meeting agreed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The District Council be asked to add the Fire Service as a statutory consultee on any applications ▪ Cllr McEwen would make amendments to his report as suggested and this could then be shared with the District Council if agreed at the next Council Meeting. | |

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| | Temporary Caravan - The Lindens, Penstone Lane Caravan permission terminates mid-March. | SM | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 232/24 | Community Speedwatch/Speeding Issues/SID's Cllr Crane confirmed he will make enquiries with Keith Dunton into Speedwatch training. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 233/24 | Fly Tipping/Litter Cllr Ms Fuller had arranged a litter pick at Dimmingsdale recently and the next one is booked for 6 April 2024. | KC | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 234/24 | Victory Hall Cllr Mrs Taylor confirmed she had had a meeting with David Williams to discuss possible funding pots that are available and that time constraints had been noted. She confirmed that as soon as an overview of the Victory Hall's plans was available, this would be presented to the Parish Council. | All | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 235/24 | Castlecroft Playing Field Nothing to report. | CT | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 236/24 | White Posts – Springhill Cross Roads Cllr Ms Fuller is obtaining further quotes. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 237/24 | St Dominic's Grammar School Residents have been in contact with the school, but they report that the situation has not improved greatly. To be kept under observation. | HF | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 238/24 | Staffordshire Parish Councils Association The Meeting agreed not to become a member of the SPCA. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 239/24 | Penstone Lane Footpaths To be monitored by Cllr Crane. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 240/24 | Signage – Market Lane/Dene Road Cllr Ms Fuller agreed to report the poor 'Give Way' signage to Eon. | KC | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 241/24 | ANY OTHER BUSINESS Robins Nest Farm Cllr Mrs Taylor reported the damage being caused to the road, verges, hedges, etc. during past and current building works. Photo evidence required. Bring forward to next meeting. | HF | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 242/24 | ACCOUNTS The following accounts were presented for payment and cheques signed accordingly. | CT | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 243/24 | <table border="0"> <tr> <td>DBS (Midlands)</td> <td>For Qtrly HMRC</td> <td>£238.30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mrs J Footman</td> <td>Reimbursement for IT Diagnostic</td> <td>£25.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mrs J Footman</td> <td>Qtrly Clerk's Salary</td> <td>£1648.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mrs J Footman</td> <td>Qtrly Accommodation, Heating, Lighting etc.</td> <td>£105.00</td> </tr> </table> | DBS (Midlands) | For Qtrly HMRC | £238.30 | Mrs J Footman | Reimbursement for IT Diagnostic | £25.00 | Mrs J Footman | Qtrly Clerk's Salary | £1648.60 | Mrs J Footman | Qtrly Accommodation, Heating, Lighting etc. | £105.00 | Clerk Clerk Clerk Clerk |
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| | Standing Orders <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Defib Machines</td> <td>Annual Hire of Defibrillator</td> <td>£482.68</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Defib Machines</td> <td>Annual Hire of Cabinet</td> <td>£438.00</td> </tr> </table> | Defib Machines | Annual Hire of Defibrillator | £482.68 | Defib Machines | Annual Hire of Cabinet | £438.00 | | | | | | | |
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| | FINANCIAL RISK ASSESSMENT Nothing to report | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 244/24 | DATE OF NEXT MEETING | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 245/24 | Thursday 4 April 2024 at the Victory Hall commencing at 7.15pm | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Signed: **Chairman**

Dated:

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