

LOWER PENN PARISH COUNCIL

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PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on THURSDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2021

At THE VICTORY HALL, LOWER PENN

PRESENT:

Cllr N Cox – Chairman
Cllr Mrs B Southall – Vice Chair
Cllr Mrs K Brazenell
Cllr Ms H Fuller
Cllr Mrs K Preece
Cllr Mrs C Taylor
Cllr D Williams

County Cllr Mrs V Wilson
District Cllr D Kinsey

		Action
198/21	APOLOGIES Received from Cllr Bradley and District Cllrs Bond and Reade	
199/21	MINUTES Proposed by Cllr Mrs Taylor and seconded by Cllr Mrs Southall and carried that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11 October 2021 be approved and signed as a true and correct record.	
200/21	DECLARATION OF INTERESTS District Cllr Reade declared an interest in any housing proposals for the preferred options. Cllr Cox advised that he no longer had an interest to declare.	
201/21	POLICE REPORT – 10/10/21 – 01/11/21 Received and circulated. PCSO Rhys Rockley attended the meeting and introduced himself to those present. Burglary: 31/10/21 Springhill Park Overnight residential property – investigation ongoing Vehicle Crime: Market Lane 18/10/21 attempted break-in to a van ASB; No repeat locations Operation 'Androme' – targeting Catalytic converter crime Operation 'Cable' – targeting ASB hotspots Operation 'Lightening' – targeting vehicle crime Thanks to the Speedwatch Team – more volunteers required Public can report incidents via the 'Digital 101' service where a private message can be sent to Staffordshire Police on Facebook/Twitter pages, rather than phoning 101 to queue. The Chairman thanked PCSO Rockley for attending.	
202/21	LOCAL PLAN Cllr Mrs Brazenell said that the Parish Council has undertaken a great deal of work relating to the Local Plan and that the following preparations have been made:	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A newsletter and information sheet have been compiled and delivered to all households within the Parish. Further copies are available in the Victory Hall. Thanks to all volunteers who helped delivery. ▪ A crib sheet has been prepared as a guide to help formulate residents' responses – copies available in the Victory Hall. ▪ An open meeting has not yet been arranged due to availability of relevant invitees ▪ Drop-in sessions have been organised in the Victory Hall – dates and times are listed on the information sheet. ▪ A planning consultant has been commissioned to provide a report, a major element of which is to question the housing numbers in the duty to co-operate. The Save Lower Penn Greenbelt group of residents (SLPG) has kindly agreed to make a cash donation to assist with fee and it was proposed by Cllr Mrs Southall, seconded by Cllr Mrs Taylor and agreed by the public present and unanimously carried that the Parish Council proceed with this consultancy report. <p>The Meeting was then opened to the public and a number of issues were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Residents were encouraged to write individual and personal responses using the crib sheet as a guide if required, and that only material considerations will be taken into account. ▪ District Cllr Kinsey advised that responses sent using the Council's portal would be uploaded immediately, but if responses are sent by e-mail/letter these will take longer to upload. ▪ It was noted that residents are not required to answer all the questions in Appendix G and that Question 8 relates to the specific sites – Site 582 is the Langley Road site. ▪ Cllr Kinsey agreed to make enquiries into whether Lower Penn responses on the portal can be identified separately in order to assess how many residents are responding. He was also asked to enquire whether the District Council's database can accommodate the large number of responses anticipated from many parishes. ▪ In response to a member of the public, District Cllr Kinsey explained the term 'buffer zone' which referred to the area between the urbanisation and the centre of the village. ▪ District Cllr Kinsey explained the timeline following the end of the consultation period in December. The responses to the formal consultation will be used to inform the next stage of the plan preparation which will be a Publication Plan, published for consultation in 2022. This will then be submitted to the Inspectorate in Bristol by 2023. 	DK
203/21	<p>Rural Services Audit</p> <p>District Cllr Kinsey reported that as of 2012, Lower Penn fell into the District Council's new system whereby all settlements within South Staffordshire were categorised in accordance with best practice and to provide clarity. The settlements were tiered into 5 different groups and Lower Penn village is included as a Tier 5 village but that Lower Penn Parish as a whole has urban extensions which are distinctly separate from the Tier 5 village. He went on to explain the difference between Green Belt and open countryside and confirmed that the proposed 8800 target homes are spread across the whole of South Staffordshire. He then read out an email from Mr Edward Fox from the Strategic Planning Team which he would forward to the Parish Council.</p>	DK
204/21	<p>Battery Storage Facility – land off Penstone Lane/Blackpit Lane</p> <p>No application yet received. District Cllr Kinsey reported that a further meeting was planned with the agent and the developer and that the District Council will have a further meeting to discuss the overall policy of battery storage facilities. He said that extra time may be needed to consider the proposals and the Chairman requested that this applies to the Parish Council also.</p>	
205/21	<p>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</p> <p>Redundant Diversion Signs</p> <p>To be collected from various locations within the Parish</p> <p>Barrier – Dimmingsdale Bridge</p>	Clerk

206/21	To be kept under observation.	
207/21	Overgrown verges along Castlecroft Road To be reported - between Cricket Club and start of housing.	Clerk
208/21	Overgrown Hedges – Market Lane County Cllr Mrs Wilson advised that these will only be cut by the County Council for safety reasons and if residents felt there were concerns, then she asked that they report these on the County Council’s Report It site.	
209/21	COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bus Service: Kinver has a new ‘Select’ bus service, specifically for users in rural areas. She said that Lower Penn could be included in this service if there was sufficient need and asked the Parish Council to make enquiries into this. ▪ Climate Change Community Fund: this is a new fund which has recently opened ▪ Ice Busters: Details to be emailed to Cllr Ms Fuller for information. 	PC VW/HF
210/21	DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Climate Change Action Plan: Now adopted and publicised – see website for details ▪ Boundary Commission Review: Proposals now received and published with very few amendments – number of councillors reduced from 49 to 42. 	
211/21	PLANNING App No: 21/00440/FUL Battery Storage Facility – Castlecroft Road/Langley Road The Council viewed the plans and it was agreed that the original objections would stand with an additional objection to the proposed access onto Langley Road on the grounds of existing traffic issues which would be compounded by extra site traffic and safety issues.	Clerk
	App No: 21/01118/FUL Alterations 119 Springhill Lane Councillors viewed the plans and it was agreed that there would be no objection providing the proposals complied with all green belt and planning policies.	Clerk
	Planning Applications Considered mid-meeting App No: 20/01029/FUL Temporary Consent for Caravan – The Lindens Penstone Lane The Council has no objection to this application for consent for 1 year only. Councillors asked for the exact dates that this consent will run.	
	APPLICATIONS PENDING 21/00440/FUL – Battery storage plant, land off South Staffs Railway Walk 21/00863/FUL Detached garage – Three Ridings Radford Lane 21/00795/FUL Works to Castlecroft Farmhouse, Radford Lane 21/01034/FUL – 2 storey side extension – 1 Dene Road, Lower Penn 21/00947/VAR Removal of Condition No. 4 Sandhills Nursery 21/00921/FUL Extensions 59 Springhill Lane 21/00869/FUL 5 Bedroom Detached Dwelling – Springhill Farm, 70 Springhill Lane	
	MATTERS ARISING	
212/21	Sandhills Nursery – Discharge of Conditions Decision awaited	
213/21	Enforcement Issues Access Road/58 Springhill Cottage It was reported that the District Council intends to issue a breach of Condition Notice for this matter.	
214/21	Temporary Barrier – Railway Bridge Greyhound Lane It was reported that no work had been carried out and the Clerk was asked to report this again (4 th report).	Clerk

215/21	<p>Broken Fence – Railway Walk Market Lane Now repaired. Take off minutes</p>	
216/21	<p>Market Lane Flooding - The County Council will be installing raised kerbs to help alleviate the flooding problems down the lane and it was agreed to keep this issue under observation. It was also reported that the Environment Agency had been contacted with regard to the balancing lake which appears to require attention.</p>	
217/21	<p>Community Speedwatch/Speeding Issues Cllr Mrs Southall reported that the Team now has 2 new members and a further 2 waiting for training. Speedwatch visits as follows: Langley Road: 754 vehicles in 2 hours 38 speeding Orton Lane: 145 vehicles in 2 hours 52 speeding Springhill Lane: 29 speeding</p>	
218/21	<p>Fly Tipping/Litter The Roughts/Furnace Grange Road still hotspots for tipping – reported immediately.</p>	
219/21	<p>Victory Hall Very busy – Christmas Fair Saturday 27 November 4.00pm – 8.00pm</p>	
220/21	<p>Plaque for Ex-Cllr Harry Brown Carry forward to next meeting.</p>	BS
221/21	<p>Overhanging Trees – Penstone Lane Work now completed – take off minutes</p>	
222/21	<p>Weight Limit Restrictions – Springhill Lane Cllr Williams said that he would formulate a plan for signage and liaise with County Cllr Mrs Wilson – the Parish Council had already agreed to consider match funding if necessary. Carry forward to next meeting.</p>	DW
223/21	<p>Parish Notice Boards The meeting thanked Cllr Williams for reinstating the notice board in Radford Lane.</p>	
224/21	<p>BT Red Phone Box Electricity to be safety checked and for the unit to be re-located to a more suitable site – suggested sites Victory Hall or Village Green. Bring forward to next meeting.</p>	DW
225/21	<p>The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Beacons – 2 June 2022 The Chairman confirmed that the Cricket Club is happy to work with the Parish Council regarding a Jubilee Beacon. The Meeting also agreed that the Parish Council would organise a Jubilee Tea Party in the Victory Hall to commemorate the event and Cllr Mrs Taylor agreed to organise this.</p>	CT
226/21	<p>Climate Change Group Cllr Ms Fuller advised that several responses to the recent survey had been received and that residents are concerned but require guidance.</p>	Sub-Comm
227/21	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS Parish Council Vacancy The Public Notice of Vacancy has now been advertised – 14 day period ends 5 November.</p>	
228/21	<p>Chairman’s Meeting with the Chief Executive and Council Leader Proposed meeting in January via Teams – the Chairman asked councillors to prepare any questions they may have for this meeting.</p>	All Cllrs

229/21	<p>Climate Change – Carbon Literacy Training Cllr Mrs Preece expressed an interest in this training and it was proposed by Cllr Cox and seconded by Cllr Mrs Taylor and carried that the cost of the training at £140.00 be met by the Parish Council.</p>							
230/21	<p>Tree Planting The meeting discussed extra tree planting and it was agreed this would be discussed in the New Year and Mr Brian Taylor contacted.</p>							
231/21	<p>ACCOUNTS It was proposed by Cllr Mrs Taylor and seconded by Cllr Mrs Southall and carried that the following accounts were presented for payment and cheques signed accordingly:</p> <table data-bbox="207 660 1380 739"> <tr> <td>BG Ground Maintenance</td> <td>October Account</td> <td>£330.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mrs K Brazenell</td> <td>Reimbursement for Local Plan photo-copying</td> <td>£24.00</td> </tr> </table> <p>It was also agreed to reimburse Cllr Williams £9.00 from Petty Cash for the supply of concrete for erecting the Radford Lane notice board.</p>	BG Ground Maintenance	October Account	£330.00	Mrs K Brazenell	Reimbursement for Local Plan photo-copying	£24.00	<p>Clerk Clerk Clerk</p>
BG Ground Maintenance	October Account	£330.00						
Mrs K Brazenell	Reimbursement for Local Plan photo-copying	£24.00						
232/21	<p>FINANCIAL RISK ASSESSMENT Nothing to report</p>							
233/21	<p>SECTION 17 Nothing to report</p>							
234/21	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING Thursday 2 December 2021 commencing at 7.15pm in the Victory Hall</p>							
<p>Signed: Chairman</p>								
<p>Date:</p>								

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