

LOWER PENN PARISH COUNCIL

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PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held remotely via Zoom on THURSDAY 1 OCTOBER 2020

PRESENT:

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

Ms Kerry Bolister – Housing Plus Group
3 Members of the public

		Action
66/20	APOLOGIES Received from County Cllr Mrs Wilson	
67/20	VIRTUAL MEETING The Meeting approved the substitution of a standard Council Meeting for a remote meeting due to the current Covid-19 restrictions.	
68/20	MINUTES Proposed by Cllr Reade and seconded by Cllr Mrs Taylor and carried that the minutes of the remote Council Meeting held on 3 September be approved as a true and correct record.	
69/20	DECLARATION OF INTERESTS There were none	
70/20	83/85 Springhill Lane – Housing Plus Group Ms Kerry Bolister, Director of Development at Housing Plus Group, joined the meeting to discuss this matter further. Councillors reiterated that Lower Penn wishes to retain the above land and properties to provide affordable housing, as there is very little provision for this type of property in the parish, particularly for young people wishing to remain in the village, or older people. Ms Bolister said that down-sizing for this type of property would not be applicable as they are for renting or shared ownership and due to their restricted size, would not be suitable in their current condition for disabled persons or large families. She continued by saying that in order to provide suitable affordable housing on this site, a Housing Needs Survey would have to be undertaken by the Parish Council in order to evidence the need. If the bungalows are to remain, then they would need to be brought up to standard and rents would need to be increased long term to cover this expenditure.	

71/20	<p>The Meeting discussed further options regarding extensions, site configuration and disabled grants and both Ms Bolister and District Cllr Reade agreed to raise these options at the District Council and report back as soon as possible. Ms Bolister then left the meeting. The Clerk advised that a Housing Needs Survey had been undertaken some years ago, and that she would obtain this documentation for the Parish Council.</p>	RR Clerk
72/20	<p>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION The Council welcomed members of the public to the meeting and the following issues were discussed: 83/85 Springhill Lane: Members of the public agreed with the Parish Council's wish to retain land and properties for affordable housing. Bungalow – Black Pitt Lane/Penstone Lane: it was reported that there appears to be a very large concrete slab in evidence and Cllr Reade agreed to speak to Enforcement about this and request a site visit. 9 Springhill Park: residents were concerned about the installation of CCTV cameras which appeared to be facing onto the public highway and Cllr Ms Davies advised that she had already spoken to Enforcement about this and was monitoring the progress or otherwise of the building work at the property and advising the Enforcement team regularly. Planning Portal: it was reported that since the re-design of this facility, a great deal of information was now no longer available, particularly information relating to old planning applications and the Clerk was asked to contact Planning Department about this problem.</p>	RR ND Clerk
73/20	<p>COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT Not available</p>	
74/20	<p>PLANNING District Cllr Reade took no part in the discussion of the application below. App No: 20/00772/FUL Erection of new garage and conversion of former stables in gym and home office – 62 Springhill Lane As the application had only been received that afternoon, councillors were unable to comment adequately about the proposals. However, concern was expressed as to how a new application could be lodged when there is currently enforcement action on this property to submit a retrospective planning application for a septic tank. Cllr Reade advised that the owners of the property would be submitting a planning application for a new septic tank within two weeks. Cllr Waltho agreed to view the new plans in depth and circulate his comments to the Parish Council for agreement and submission to the Planning Department – consultation date 22 October 2020 PLANNING PERMISSION GRANTED 20/00385/FUL Extensions Robins Nest Farm, Dirty Foot Lane APPLICATIONS PENDING App No: 19/00986/AGRRES – Barn Conversion – Robins Nest Farm</p>	RW
	<p>LOCAL PLAN The Chairman confirmed that he had written to Mr Hodge from County Farms detailing the Council's understanding of the points raised at last month's meeting and had received a response confirming that this was an accurate account of the issues raised. Cllr Reade advised that the District Council will be filtering out those sites not suitable within the next 2-3 months and that preferred options would be discussed in 2021. The Meeting also discussed the Planning White Paper virtual meeting held earlier that evening at the District Council and Cllr Reade confirmed that the District Council has a number of concerns and will be responding to the consultation accordingly.</p>	

MATTERS ARISING		
75/20	<p>Community Speedwatch/Speeding Issues Cllr Mrs Southall had sent the latest CSW speeding report to all councillors for information. She advised that Lower Penn will be hosting the next CSW Training session at the Cricket Club on 31 October 2020 and there will be two sessions, 10.30am and 1.30pm, and this has been advertised for volunteers on the Facebook page.</p>	
76/20	<p>9 Springhill Park As discussed in Public Participation</p>	ND
77/20	<p>Land adjacent Springhill Cottage Site (No 58) Cllr Ms Davies reported the area in general remains very untidy and has contacted the District Council again about the situation.</p>	
78/20	<p>62 Springhill Lane (Jays Farm)– Septic Tanks Cllr Reade advised that a retrospective application should be received within 2 weeks.</p>	RR
79/20	<p>Springhill Cottage – 58 Springhill Lane Cllr Reade advised that the extension currently being built is not permitted development and that the District Council will instruct the owners to demolish the building.</p>	
80/20	<p>Grass Cutting This has now been carried out throughout the parish and the Street Scene team have done a litter pick.</p>	
81/20	<p>Flooding Market Lane/Radford Lane Several incidents of flooding have occurred over the last few weeks and County Cllr Mrs Wilson be asked for an update on her list recently sent to the Cabinet Minister for Highways.</p>	VW
82/20	<p>Fly Tipping This continues to be an on-going issue and the meeting discussed the problems being experienced with Council run tips.</p>	
83/20	<p>Victory Hall Land Registration – This will be now be undertaken by Cllr Ms Davies on behalf of the Parish Council Constitution – to be further researched.</p>	ND
84/20	<p>The following issues will be temporarily suspended due to Covid-19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Log Reports ▪ Horse Rider Warning Signs ▪ BT Red Telephone Box ▪ Notice Board – Radford Lane ▪ Crash Barrier – Dimmingsdale Bridge ▪ Defibrillator 	
85/20	<p>Market Lane – Caravan/Radio Masts It was reported that the caravan had now been removed but that a third radio mast had been erected. It was pointed out that the garden is a shared plot with all 4 flats and Cllr Reade said he had requested a site visit from Enforcement to establish whether the masts were permanent or mobile, in order to assess the situation.</p>	RR
86/20	<p>Active Travel The Chairman confirmed that he had passed this issue to the County Council.</p>	

	No further action required.										
87/20	<p>Overhanging Oak Trees – Penstone Lane Cllr Mrs Taylor said that the owners of the property affected by the large overhanging trees had been told by the County Council that they would not be cutting back the trees and that the property owners must not prune the trees either. Cllr Ms Davies and Cllr Mrs Taylor will check the trees to ascertain if they are the subject of TPO's.</p>	CT/ ND									
	ANY OTHER BUSINESS										
88/20	<p>Drug Issues – Lower Penn It was reported that there had been several incidents recently regarding suspected drug issues throughout many areas of the Parish. It was agreed that all incidents should be reported to Cllr Williams who will collate information relating to location, car registrations, dates and times on a monthly basis for further action.</p>	DW									
89/20	<p>Government Rural Broadband Scheme Cllr Williams gave details of the above scheme and said he would undertake a survey of all Lower Penn residents to ascertain the possible interest. He also gave details of a further option relating to radio mast broadband which may be worth considering. The Chairman thanked Cllr Williams for offering to undertake this survey and said that he would also speak to a resident in Springhill Park who may be able to help. It was agreed that a flyer would be posted on the Council's web site and also on the Facebook page, and the Clerk would arrange for a clearer map to be provided.</p>	DW/ NC KB/BS/ Clerk									
90/20	<p>Pavements – Springhill Park County Cllr Mrs Wilson to provide an update if available.</p>	VW									
91/20	<p>SPCA Training Sessions - Planning Noted – no further action required</p>										
92/20	<p>Staffordshire Fire & Rescue Service – Safety Plan Noted – no further action required</p>										
93/20	<p>ACCOUNTS The Clerk reported the half-yearly precept of £8750 had been paid into the account. It was proposed by Cllr Reade and seconded by Cllr Mrs Taylor and carried that the following accounts be authorised for payment and cheques would be circulated for signature:</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">Bluelight Design</td> <td style="width: 40%;">Additional page to Web Site</td> <td style="width: 30%; text-align: right;">£40.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BG Ground Maintenance</td> <td>September Account</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£330.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DBS</td> <td>Quarterly Charges</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£24.00</td> </tr> </table>	Bluelight Design	Additional page to Web Site	£40.00	BG Ground Maintenance	September Account	£330.00	DBS	Quarterly Charges	£24.00	Clerk Clerk Clerk
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94/20	<p>ANY ISSUES ARISING FROM DISTRICT COUNCIL BUSINESS All information contained within previous minutes</p>										
95/20	<p>FINANCIAL RISK ASSESSMENT In place and up to date</p>										
96/20	<p>SECTION 17 Nothing to report</p>										
97/20	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING The Meeting will be held via Zoom unless otherwise stated on: Thursday 5 November 2020 commencing at 7.15pm</p>										

Signed: **Chairman**

Date:

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