

LOWER PENN PARISH COUNCIL

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PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on MONDAY 11 OCTOBER 2021

At THE VICTORY HALL, LOWER PENN

PRESENT:

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

County Cllr Mrs V Wilson
102 Members of the public

		Action
168/21	APOLOGIES Received from District Cllrs Kinsey, Reade and Bond	
169/21	MINUTES Proposed by Cllr Mrs Taylor and seconded by Cllr Mrs Brazenell and carried that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2 September 2021 be approved and signed as a true and correct record.	
170/21	DECLARATION OF INTERESTS District Cllr Reade declared an interest in any housing proposals for the preferred options Cllr Cox declared an interest in the Local Plan preferred option	
171/21	POLICE REPORT – 02/09/21 – 09/10/21 Received and circulated. Vehicle Crime: One break-in of an unattended vehicle in Langley Road 7 October 2021 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.	
172/21	Battery Storage Facility – land off Penstone Lane/Blackpit Lane Responses had been received from District Cllrs Bond and Reade to the Parish Council's enquiry, and it was noted that Cllr Bond believes that there should be a national plan regarding the number and general locations for this type of facility and that applications should not be determined until this is clear.	

<p>173/21</p>	<p>The Chairman reported that no application had yet been received and that the Parish Council would respond accordingly when appropriate.</p> <p>COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Application for the full amount of funding for the Victory Hall has been approved ▪ PC Webinar held with representatives from all Parish Councils in attendance. ▪ Highways: Parish Councils are encouraged to increase their precepts to enable them to finance small works that are required within their parish. ▪ Ice Busters – Parish Councils are urged to consider ways of assisting residents during the winter months e.g. provide stores of grit in grit boxes. ▪ Trees Penstone Lane – ongoing at present. 	
<p>174/21</p>	<p>DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT No report available.</p>	
<p>175/21</p>	<p>Rural Services Audit This was discussed within the Public Participation session – see below</p>	
<p>176/21</p>	<p>PLANNING App No: 21/01034/FUL – 2 storey side extension – 1 Dene Road, Lower Penn As this property was in the green belt, the Parish Council agreed that it would have no objection providing all appropriate green belt policies were adhered to.</p> <p>Planning Applications Considered mid-meeting App No: 21/00947/VAR Removal of Condition No. 4 Sandhills Nursery The Council had agreed to object to this application</p> <p>App No: 21/00921/FUL Extensions 59 Springhill Lane The Council had concerns regarding overdevelopment of this site.</p> <p>App No: 21/00869/FUL 5 Bedroom Detached Dwelling – Springhill Farm, 70 Springhill Lane The Council had concerns regarding the site which sits within the green belt, and also drainage, highways and environmental issues.</p> <p>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</p> <p>APPLICATIONS APPROVED 21/00605/FUL Extensions/loft conversion – 58 Springhill Park 21/00766/FUL Orangery – Dee Hills, Wynne Crescent 21/00616/FUL Alterations – The Barns Trescott 21/00696.VAR – Static caravan Wton Rugby Club</p> <p>APPLICATIONS REFUSED 21/00836/VAR Reinstatement of Permitted Rights Development – 119 Springhill Lane</p> <p>MATTERS ARISING</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>177/21</p>	<p>Sandhills Nursery – Discharge of Conditions A further submission for discharge of Condition 4 has been received by the District Council and the Parish Council has again objected to this as councillors feel that all conditions should be met in line with the planning permission approval.</p> <p>Enforcement Issues Access Road/58 Springhill Cottage</p>	

178/21	The Parish Council is waiting for a response from the District Council to its request for an update on these enforcement issues.	
179/21	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. It was also noted that an amount of litter had been deposited on this site – to be reported.	Clerk
180/21	Broken Fence – Railway Walk Market Lane It was reported that temporary repairs had been carried out – to be carried forward.	
181/21	.Market Lane <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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. ▪ Missing Road Sign – now replaced. Take off minutes. 	
182/21	Community Speedwatch/Speeding Issues Cllr Ms Fuller reported that a visit had been made to Orton Lane that day where 786 vehicles were logged in 2 hours, of which 50 were breaking the speed limit. She encouraged residents to apply for volunteering duties which would involve as little as 2 hours per month.	
183/21	Fly Tipping/Litter Industrial fridge/freezer tipped by The Roughs – now reported. Cllr Mrs Taylor advised that no further litter picks had yet been arranged.	
184/21	Victory Hall Now fully booked until Christmas – Christmas Fair Saturday 27 November.	
185/21	Plaque for Ex-Cllr Harry Brown Carry forward to next meeting.	BS
186/21	Overhanging Trees – Penstone Lane County Council has confirmed that remedial works will be carried out as soon as possible.	
187/21	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.	DW
188/21	Parish Notice Boards Cllr Williams confirmed that he would arrange for the notice board in Radford Lane to be reinstated.	DW/BS
189/21	BT Red Phone Box Cllr Williams agreed to arrange for the 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.	DW
190/21	The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Beacons – 2 June 2022 The Meeting discussed the possibility of lighting a beacon in conjunction with Springhill Cricket Club and the Chairman agreed to contact the Club about this. 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.	NC CT
191/21	Climate Change Group Cllr Ms Fuller advised that a link to the Group’s survey will be included in the forthcoming newsletter. She also advised that the meeting tomorrow regarding the District Council’s strategy and action plan cannot be accessed but that it will be downloaded and available to watch later on the website.	HF
	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	

192/21	None reported										
193/21	<p>ACCOUNTS</p> <p>Details of the Council's bank balances were given to the meeting. The half-yearly precept had been paid into the Council's bank in the sum of £8272.50. It was proposed by Cllr Cox and seconded by Cllr Mrs Taylor and carried that the following accounts were presented for payment and cheques signed accordingly:</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="209 465 1433 566"> <tr> <td>BG Ground Maintenance</td> <td>September Account</td> <td>£330.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DBS (Midlands) Ltd</td> <td>Qtrly accountant's fee</td> <td>£24.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mrs J Footman</td> <td>Petty Cash</td> <td>£250.00</td> </tr> </table>	BG Ground Maintenance	September Account	£330.00	DBS (Midlands) Ltd	Qtrly accountant's fee	£24.00	Mrs J Footman	Petty Cash	£250.00	Clerk Clerk Clerk
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194/21	<p>FINANCIAL RISK ASSESSMENT</p> <p>Nothing to report</p>										
195/21	<p>SECTION 17</p> <p>Nothing to report</p>										
196/21	<p>LOCAL PLAN</p> <p>Cllr Mrs Brazenell said that when the present Councillors were elected, they pledged to protect all land in the green belt and that this pledge remains. A public meeting was held in 2019 and the Parish Council forwarded its objections to the proposals. Since then, the Local Plan has been on the Agenda of the Council Meetings for 2 years and that residents have been encouraged to attend Council Meetings for updates. She went on to explain the Local Plan process and the action that the Council would be taking:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public Consultation will be from 1 November 2021 to 13 December 2021. No comments will be accepted outside of these dates. All comments/objections must be sent by letter or email. The District Council will not be sending information or letters to individual residents as all information will be available online. ▪ The Parish Council had attended a virtual Scrutiny Meeting on 28 September 2021 but had been unable to access the second half of the meeting due to technical difficulties and no recording was available. The Parish Council will be making a formal complaint to the District Council about this. ▪ Objections will only be considered on material planning considerations. Comments on infrastructure will be welcome i.e. roads, health services, education, wildlife, environment, employment, etc. ▪ There is a Teams Meeting for Locality 5 on 17 November 2021 which is available for the public to attend. The Parish Council will stream this meeting in the Victory Hall for anyone wishing to access this meeting. ▪ The Parish Council will hold drop-in sessions at the Victory Hall for advice to residents and all information available will be displayed. Information will also be available on the Parish Council's website and the Lower Penn residents Facebook page. In addition, the Parish Council will be circulating a Newsletter to all residents of the Parish. ▪ Residents are encouraged to lobby their local MP and District Councillors for a change to the national policy on housing in the green belt. ▪ The Parish Council will ask the District Councillors to hold surgeries and residents should also request this, as this is a District-led initiative. ▪ The Parish Council will provide as much information as they can to help residents form the basis of their letters of objection. ▪ Members of the Parish Council attended a virtual Teams meeting run by the District Council which gave an overview of the Local Plan. This meeting was held on Thursday 7 October 2021 (the Parish Council's normal monthly meeting date) which is the reason why this Parish Council Meeting was being held on Monday 11 October 2021. <p>The Meeting was then opened for Public Participation and a vote was taken which identified that all residents present were against building on the green belt. A long discussion took place and residents were unhappy that no District Councillors were present at the meeting to</p>	Clerk									

answer questions. A suggestion from the floor was made that a residents' group/sub-committee be formed to represent the entire parish and to work in conjunction with the Parish Council and councillors agreed to consider this option. A member of the public who heads up an action group asked that a public meeting be arranged so that residents could put questions to their District Councillors. This was seconded by another action group and the Parish Council agreed to try and facilitate this.

Rural Services Audit

The issue of the Rural Services Audit was raised and Cllr Mrs Brazenell went through the District Council's response to the Parish Council's question to them from a previous meeting as to why Lower Penn had been left out of the Audit. The District Council's response was that it was an oversight that Lower Penn had been left out of the Audit. The District Council went on to say that although Lower Penn village is classed as a Tier 5 village, the remainder of the parish is not designated as Tier 5 status. The Parish Council confirmed that it will seek further clarification on this issue by asking for the documentation around when the decision was made and by whom.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

197/21

Thursday 4 November 2021 commencing at 7.15pm in the Victory Hall

Signed: **Chairman**

Date:

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