

# LOWER PENN PARISH COUNCIL

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## MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL held on THURSDAY 5 OCTOBER 2023 at the VICTORY HALL, LOWER PENN

### PRESENT:

Cllr Mrs B Southall – Chair  
Cllr Ms H Fuller – Vice-Chair  
Cllr Mrs K Brazenell  
Cllr Mrs C Taylor

District/County Councillor Mrs V Wilson

7 Members of the Public

		Action
110/23	<b>APOLOGIES</b> Received from Cllr S McEwen, Cllr D Everett, D Cllr R Reade and Staffordshire Police.	
111/23	<b>MINUTES</b> Proposed by Cllr Mrs Taylor and seconded by Cllr Mrs Brazenell and carried that the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 7 September 2023 be approved and signed as a true and correct record.	
112/23	<b>DECLARATION OF INTERESTS</b> None declared.	
113/23	<b>POLICE REPORT 05/09/2023 - 04/10/2023</b> Received and circulated. No burglary, vehicle crime or anti-social behaviour reported. Due to the increase in vehicle theft/crime in the area, the Operation Bormus team have been covering Wombourne and surrounding areas over the past week.	
114/23	<b>LOCAL PLAN</b> Nothing to report	
115/23	<b>COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>Pot Holes:</b> some requiring urgent attention have been filled in Lower Penn but the Parish is not on the 'cluster' programme at present. Gritting works will be commencing shortly.</li><li>▪ <b>Dimmingsdale Bridge:</b> CRT report that the bridge structure is not safe enough to erect a safety barrier and temporary traffic lights remain in situ. County Cllr Mrs Wilson will make enquiries into permanent traffic lights and/or the feasibility of chevron boards.</li></ul>	VW
116/23	<b>DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT</b>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Sandhills Nursery:</b> Condition 4 BREEAM applicant given to 15 November to respond – if not received this will be passed to Enforcement.</li> <li>▪ <b>Sandhills Nursery:</b> Nursery numbers increase – Appeal still awaiting outcome</li> <li>▪ <b>Three Ridings:</b> Nothing to report</li> <li>▪ <b>Access Road -land adj. Springhill Cottage- Case Ref: 19/00192/BOC:</b> the developer failed to attend the Hearing on 2 October 2023 to answer the charge of failing to comply with the Breach of Condition Notice and has been fined £6,724. The District Council will continue to pursue compliance with the Breach of Condition notice.</li> <li>▪ <b>UK Prosperity Fund:</b> available for local businesses.</li> </ul>	
117/23	<p><b>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Pot Holes:</b> Residents felt that many of the pot holes evident in our area are as a result of utility services not reinstating the road surface to an acceptable level. Cllr Mrs Wilson advised that any such incidents should be reported to the County Council. Cllr Ms Fuller said that she had reported a number of pot holes and had received a reply stating No Further Action. Cllr Mrs Wilson agreed to follow this up, in particular Springhill Lane.</li> <li>▪ <b>Sandhills Nursery:</b> Residents expressed their dissatisfaction with the outcome of Condition 9 FWD and the meeting discussed this at length.</li> <li>▪ <b>Access Road:</b> As above minuted in District Council Report.</li> <li>▪ <b>New Build 58A Springhill Lane:</b> Cllr Mrs Wilson agreed to make enquiries into the possible incorrect siting of the driveway to this property.</li> <li>▪ <b>Market Lane:</b> It was reported that the lock and chain had been broken twice on the double gates in Market Lane and that this had been reported to the police.</li> </ul>	VW  VW
118/23	<p><b>PLANNING</b></p> <p><b>23/00708/TREE: 128 Springhill Lane - Crown reduction to 3 no. TPO's – No objection</b></p> <p><b>23/00782/FUL: Demolition of 2 bungalows and provision of single dwelling – 83 Springhill Lane</b> Councillors agreed to respond requesting compliance with all green belt policies and that officers should note the impact on the green belt as the proposed dwelling is higher than street level.</p> <p><b>PLANNING APPLICATIONS PENDING</b> App No: 23/00464/FUL Replacement Dwelling – Radford Lodge, Radford Lane</p> <p><b>APPLICATION WITHDRAWN</b> App No: 23/00011/FUL Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement dwelling – Ivydene, Radford Lane</p> <p><b>22/01049/VAR Change of Condition 5 Sandhill Day Nursery Appeal lodged.</b></p> <p><b>MATTERS ARISING</b></p>	Clerk  Clerk
119/23	<p><b>Enforcement Issues:</b></p> <p><b>Sandhills Nursery (19/00048)– Breach of Condition Notice 4</b> Case Ref: 22/00132/BOC Condition 4 BREEAM – given to 15 November 2023 to comply.</p> <p><b>Access Road – Land adj Springhill Cottage – Lawnswood Homes</b> Case Ref: 19/00192/BOC District Council to pursue compliance with the Breach of Condition order.</p> <p><b>New Build 58A Springhill Lane- App 18/00022/FUL</b> Case Ref: 22/00333/BOC Outbuilding (retrospective) - Refused</p>	

	<p><b>Three Ridings, Radford Lane</b> Unauthorised structure under investigation.</p> <p><b>Old Wulfrunians Club, Castlecroft Road</b> Case Ref: 23/00234/UNDEV Alleged unauthorised structure.</p>	
120/23	<p><b>Severn Trent Water-Expansion of Drainage Scheme:</b> The Clerk advised that she had not received any response from STW regarding these proposals. Bring forward to next Meeting to ask D. Cllr Reade for any update.</p>	RR
121/23	<p><b>Dimmingsdale Bridge</b> As County Council minute.</p>	
122/23	<p><b>Overgrown Hedges/Trees Castlecroft Road:</b> District Cllr Mrs Wilson to follow this issue up with Cllr Wendy Dalton from Wolverhampton City Council.</p>	VW
123/23	<p><b>RFU Castlecroft Road:</b> It appears a brick structure (garage) has been built without planning permission – photo to be sent to enforcement for further investigation.</p>	Clerk
124/23	<p><b>Community Speedwatch/Speeding Issues</b> No visits carried out this month. The meeting discussed Speed Limit signs and the Chairman said she would make enquiries into costings.</p>	BS
125/23	<p><b>Fly Tipping/Litter</b> Nothing to report.</p>	
126/23	<p><b>Victory Hall</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cllr Mrs Taylor applying for additional funding to be added to existing Jubilee funds to provide 2 new benches.</li> <li>▪ Wednesday Lower Penn Social Club – a number of events have been organised. Thanks to Cllr Ms Fuller and all those who attend.</li> </ul>	CT HF
127/23	<p><b>Castlecroft Playing Field</b> Cllr Ms Fuller reported that a site visit had been held with the Forest of Mercia and the wild flower meadow is growing well. It has been agreed to plant some additional trees to fill in where there are gaps.</p>	HF
128/23	<p><b>Red Telephone Box</b> Cllr Ms Fuller reported that following a survey among residents, there had been a number of suggestions made as to the use of the telephone box but the majority of residents do not want the box moved to an alternative site. No further action – take off minutes.</p>	
129/23	<p><b>Notice Boards and Planters</b> Bring forward to next Meeting.</p>	
130/23	<p><b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b></p> <p><b>Repair Café:</b> Cllr Ms Fuller suggested a joint Repair Café with other parishes in our ward and it was agreed these parishes would be contacted to identify whether there was any interest in such a project and if so, to request volunteers. Cllr Ms Fuller and Cllr Mrs Wilson agreed they would also promote this on social media and word of mouth. It was also agreed that Ms Fuller would invite members of the Stourbridge Repair Café to visit.</p>	Clerk HF/VW HF
131/23	<p><b>Christmas Card Event - Social Club</b> Cllr Ms Fuller said that she was proposing to hold a Christmas Card workshop at the Wednesday Social Club and the meeting agreed that the necessary supplies/kits could be purchased.</p>	HF

**132/23**

**ACCOUNTS**

The half-yearly precept had been paid into the Council's current account on 15 September 2023 in the sum of £8585.00

The following account was presented for payment and a cheque signed accordingly:

BG Ground Maintenance	September Account	£330.00
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**Clerk**

**133/23**

**FINANCIAL RISK ASSESSMENT**

Nothing to report

**134/23**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Thursday 2 November 2023 at the Victory Hall commencing at 7.15pm**

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

**Dated:** .....

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