

LOWICK & SLIPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 20th September 2023 at 7.00pm at The Germain Rooms Lowick

Present: Councillors W Childs (Chair), S Gardner, D Chipchase, L Blow, C Bithray, S Barton

In attendance: Mrs N Phillips (Clerk). Unitary Cllr G Shacklock, 6 x member of public

23.09/823	To receive and approve apologies for absence Cllr D Campden				
23.09/824	Public participation session Members of the public addressed the Council on matters concerning Item 23.09/852 and 23.09/835 (NE/23/000435/FUL).				
23.09/825	To receive declarations of interest under the Council's Code of Conduct related to business on the agenda. Cllr L Blow – item 23.09/835 (NE/23/000435/FUL).				
23.09/826	To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 19th July 2023 Resolved: Approved and signed by the Chair				
23.09/827	To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda for report only None				
23.09/828	To receive a report from North Northamptonshire Council None				
23.09/829	To receive and approve the Balance of Accounts/Bank Reconciliation Resolved: The balance of accounts and the bank reconciliation were approved.				
23.09/830	To examine and approve the Bank Statements Bank balance at 30.08.2023 of £21242.41 including £8400.56 Pocket Park funds. Resolved: Bank statements examined and approved				
23.09/831	To resolve under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, to incur the following expenditure which in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure: 2 x poppy wreath at a cost £100 (invoice total plus donation). Resolved: To allocate £100.00 for the wreaths.				
23.09/832	To approve and authorise payment of the following invoices				
	Cheque	Payee	Item	Amount	Power to Pay
	BAC 8	NCALC	Civility & Respect training Part 1	£16.80	LGA 1972 s111
	100584	N A Phillips	July expenses	£29.81	LGA 1972 s 111
	100587	N A Phillips	September Salary	£312.88	LGA 1972 s112
	100586	N A Phillips	October Salary (TBC)	£312.68	LGA 1972 s112
	100584	N A Phillips	August expenses	£13.70	LGA 1972 s 111
	DD10	Salix Finance	7th installment loan	£1,000.00	PCA 1936 s3
	DD11	SSE	Unmetered supply Sept 2023 (TBC)	£24.54	PCA 1936 s3
	DD12	SSE	Unmetered supply Oct 2023 (TBC)	£22.87	PCA 1936 s3
	100585	RBL	2 x poppy wreaths (TBC)	£100.00	LGA 1972 s 137
	DD13	HMRC	Clerks September Tax	£1.00	LGA 1972 s 112
	DD13	HMRC	Clerks October Tax (TBC)	£TBC	LGA 1972 s 112
	100588	Eon Energy Solutions	Streetlighting safety checks	£810.00	PCA 1936 s3

	Resolved: Payments authorised – cheques signed by Cllrs Childs and Gardner
23.09/833	To review the budget and make any adjustments necessary. Resolved: Shortfall in audit to come from office expenses
23.09/834	To receive the results of the half yearly internal finance checks from Cllr Barton Resolved: All in order – no action needed
23.09/835	To consider and resolve the council’s response to planning applications listed below plus any other planning applications advised by North Northamptonshire Council and available on its website between the circulation of this agenda and the meeting. NE/22/00151/FUL – no additional comments submitted NE/23/00444/FUL + NE/23/00445/LBC – no objections NE/23/00435/FUL – Lowick & Slipton Parish Council has no objections in principle to this application but requests that sufficient screening and other mitigating measures are put in place where possible to address the concerns around privacy raised by the neighbouring property. NE/23/00436/LBC – no objections
23.09/836	To note response to applications received and reviewed between meetings None
23.09/837	To note planning decisions made by NNC None received
23.09/838	To resolve to support the campaign against the proposed development of the Kettering Energy Park Resolved: To support the campaign due to concerns about the continuing encroachment of warehousing on open countryside alongside the A14
23.09/839	To note that the weekly safety checks of the Pocket Park Equipment are carried out. Resolved: Checks carried out by Cllr Chipchase – concerns raised about the monkey bars on the wooden climbing structure, Cllrs to meet to view equipment and consider how to rectify. Checks show no reason to take out of use at present.
23.09/840	To note that the weekly checks of the defibrillators are carried out Resolved: Checks carried out by Cllrs Blow and Bithray
23.09/841	To discuss any highways, or rights of way issues and to resolve what action to be taken Resolved: Some drain clearing carried out but some drains still blocked and unable to cope with current rainfall. Cllrs and residents urged to report blocked drains directly via Street Doctor or to send photos of problem along with the What3Words coordinates to the Clerk for forwarding on. Ongoing concerns with the condition of the A6116 – Clerk to write again to Unitary Cllrs expressing the need for urgent works to be carried out.
23.09/842	To note any issues concerning streetlighting Resolved: No issues reported – electrical safety checks carried out by Eon Energy Solutions – all in order. Re-test recommended in 2029
23.09/843	To receive an update on traffic calming measures. Resolved: Consultation with adjacent landowners carried out, grant form needs checking before submission
23.09/844	To receive an update on appointing a Flood Warden

	Resolved: Adam Hughes has agreed to stand as flood warden – details passed on to NNC. A hi-vis waterproof jacket requested – Clerk to look for funding.
23.09/845	To approve and adopt the Safeguarding Policy Resolved: Approved and approved
23.09/846	To approve and adopt the Playground Inspection & Accident Reporting Policy and procedures Resolved: Approved and approved
23.09/847	To discuss whether an Emergency Plan would be useful to this parish Council Resolved: Strong feeling that being small communities in the event of any issues villagers would naturally pull together so no need for a plan at this stage – to be reviewed in six months or earlier if circumstances change.
23.09/848	To discuss participation in the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day Landing commemorations. Resolved: To be marked in some way in both villages, Clerk to re-send link to information to Cllrs so planning can start.
23.09/849	To receive feedback on the recent Joint Action Group (JAG) meeting Resolved: Cllrs and residents encouraged to complete the quarterly local priorities survey as this flags up items of local concern – Clerk to send link to Cllrs
23.09/850	To confirm arrangements for the laying of the poppy wreaths to mark Remembrance Day Resolved: Cllrs Bithray and Barton to arrange to place Slipton wreath on the war memorial in the churchyard, Cllrs Childs and Gardner to attend service at Lowick church and place wreath on the memorial inside the church – Clerk to find out time and details of service. Wreaths ordered.
23.09/851	To note any issues with the Council's assets and to resolve what action, if any, to be taken Resolved: None
23.09/852	To give consideration to a proposal to close the Pocket Park play area permanently and to remove all of the equipment and restore to park land Resolved: Due to complaints from park users about the state of the grass and presence of nettles and Cuckoo Pint, along with complains about dogs, bird droppings and other wild animals it was felt that this matter needed to be discussed. Now that donations have been received and grant funding is in place for repairs, it was resolved not to close the play area. Additional quotes need to be obtained for the work. Cllr Gardner will undertake to cut the grass using his 'topper' but it will not be a neat, manicured cut. Clerk to seek advice and obtain quotes for reducing the canopy of some trees as well as removal of branches or some trees if necessary. The signage around dogs to be reviewed and if necessary, a 'no dogs' policy to be reintroduced. Cllr Gardner to review signage
23.09/853	Correspondence Resolved: Barclays – know your customer review forms completed
23.09/854	To confirm the date of the next meeting as 15th November 2023 Resolved: Date confirmed with the Pocket Park meeting taking place at 6.45pm followed at 7.00pm by the Parish Council meeting
23.09/855	To close the meeting The meeting closed at 8.30pm

Signed:

Dated: