LOWICK PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual General Meeting of Lowick Parish Council was held on Thursday 19th May 2016 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall
Present: JA Huddart, SA Mather, W Perks, Mrs MA Bell, Mrs S Graham, P Hanson, Mrs F Burn and 2 members of the public

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting

2. Apologies for absence were received from Mrs A Worlock and Mrs L Bradbury

3. There were no declarations of interest

4. Play Park – the 2 members of the public attending the meeting outlined their hopes to upgrade some of the Play Park equipment, particularly for younger children. A group has been set up to consider ideas and a suggestion box is in the Village Store. JA Huddart requested that the proposals be ready for the July meeting of the Parish Council and an application for funding will be submitted to the Barmoor Windfarm Fund

5. Election of Officials
   Chairman – JA Huddart, proposed - Mrs MA Bell, seconded - Mrs S Graham, unanimously agreed
   Vice-Chairman – Mrs A Worlock, proposed Mrs S Graham, seconded W Perks, unanimously agreed

6. Financial Report – the clerk had circulated the financial report to 31st March 2016 which showed a balance of £3410.96 in the current account and a zero balance in the deposit account. The large current account balance is in readiness to pay a solicitor’s bill of £2954.00. The clerk went on to explain that in addition to paying £2954.00 there’s still an outstanding amount of £2640 to pay and even with receipt of the first part of the precept (£1795) the Parish Council does not have sufficient funds to pay this amount. In addition there will be insurance to pay and the County Council to pay in respect of grass cutting in the Play Park.
   JA Huddart reported that he’d been in touch with Councillor Davey and Stephen Rickett (NALC) to discuss the possibility of a loan, these discussions are still ongoing.

7. Minutes of previous meeting – these were agreed as being correct

8. Matters Arising
   • JA Huddart produced a document summarising what the Neighbourhood Plan is about, no other progress to report. A Facebook page has been set up – I Love Lowick – to try and get people involved
   • Seats on the Common – W Perks had obtained prices for wood to repair the seats – redwood £75, alternative £30. It was agreed that W Perks should go ahead and repair the seating part and replace the backs at the same time. Seat at gravel pit – enquire about moving it
   • Interactive Speed Signs – P Hanson reported that it was thought the wind was causing the current problems – the wind update worked one day and not the next. The company is looking into the problem but P Hanson has not yet heard from them
9. Matters to report on potholes, repairs/maintenance to highways, street lights etc
   - A response had been received from Anne Marie Trevelyan with regard to the Parish Council’s concerns about roads deteriorating as a result of traffic being diverted from the A1
   - P Hanson reported that he had walked from Barmoor Lane End to Wooler and the road at the Wooler end is in a much better condition that at Lowick

10. Correspondence
   - Transparency Fund – nothing the Parish Council can apply for
   - Street lighting – received

11. Any other business
    The Common – JA Huddart reported that Kate Jackson (Wellers Law Group) is waiting for the Parish Council’s instructions before submitting valuations to TC Smith. JA Huddart had questioned why it was necessary for the Parish Council to employ a barrister as it had done nothing wrong; it was thought that a determination of any figure could be made using Andrew Young’s valuation as a guide.

    Discussion followed as to the proposed amount to be paid in respect of any easement. There was a strong feeling that the Parish Council should receive their costs. If the smaller amount of £2,500 was to be paid then the Parish Council’s costs should also be paid, however if the larger amounts were to be paid it was agreed that the Parish Council would absorb their costs.

    Again, Parish Councillors were unanimous in their desire to reach a settlement and remain willing to discuss the issue. The Parish Council is responsible for getting the best value for the community. It was also agreed that the Parish Council would like a response in time for the next meeting.

    It was agreed that a letter should be distributed to the community outlining the position and current costs

    Grass cutting on the Common and Play Park – equipment in Play Park not strimmed around, clerk to contact Bob Hodgson

    Mrs S Graham reported a tree leaning over the road at Low Lyn which could be a possible danger to motorists

12. Date of next meeting – 16th June 2016

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00pm

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16th June 2016