LOWICK PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual General Meeting of Lowick Parish Council was held on Thursday 18\textsuperscript{th} May 2017 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present: JA Huddart, Mrs A Worlock, Mrs MA Bell, Mrs S Graham, Mrs L Bradbury, P Hanson, SA Mather, County Councillor R Lawrie

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone, in particular new County Councillor R Lawrie, and opened the meeting

2. Apologies for absence were received from Mrs F Burn

3. There were no declarations of interest

4. **Election of Officials**
   - Chairman - a request was made for nominations. JA Huddart was proposed by Mrs S Graham, seconded by Mrs L Bradbury and unanimously elected
   - Vice Chairman – Mrs MA Bell proposed Mrs A Worlock, seconded by Mrs S Graham. Mrs A Worlock was unanimously elected Vice-Chairman

5. **Finance** – the clerk had previously circulated the end of year statements which showed that the balance at 31\textsuperscript{st} March was £5,045.42. This amount included £1,078 which had to be repaid to Groundworks, being the unspent amount from the £5575.00 grant received for work on the Neighbourhood Plan.

Legal bills are still outstanding, but JA Huddart reported that a letter had been received from Wellers confirming that all parties had now paid their agreed amounts towards the Parish Council costs.

Mrs A Worlock outlined the history of the legal dispute to R Lawrie who expressed surprise that the County Council had not been more helpful and said he would make enquiries; he also said he might be able to offer some financial assistance towards the legal costs

The end of year return for the auditors had also been circulated previously and this was approved

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

7. **Matters Arising** – JA Huddart commented that he thought the County Council should try and work out the education system in Northumberland, Lowick First School is in the middle of 2 tier/3 tier system

Mrs A Worlock reported that she had measured width of the bridle path gates; they are 1.4 metres which are within Northumberland County Council acceptable limits, although the latch is not rider friendly

8. **Play Park bid** – JA Huddart circulated information regarding grants given from the windfarm community fund. The feeling was that the Community Foundation is not very good at passing on information and deliberations are not very transparent. R Lawrie said some play parks were receiving equipment for nothing in return for publicity and said he would try and find out more information.

An email had been received from the County Council regarding the safety of the area around the sea saw. JA Huddart suggested there should be a management plan for the Play Park and the Parish Council could perhaps apply for a grass cutter. JA Huddart asked for volunteers for the Play Park management to make progress - Mrs A Worlock volunteered
9. **Planning Applications**

Ref: 17/01659/FUL : Proposed siting of traditional shepherds hut for commercial letting within former paddock including provision of parking access and services : Hunting Hall Farm. There were no comments to make regarding this application

Ref: 17/01516/FUL : The painting of public art (mural) on existing front and gable walls : Electrical sub-station, Barmoor Windfarm, Lowick. It was felt this was not appropriate artwork for the countryside and could cause a distraction to motorists on near a bend on the road. Disappointment was expressed that EDF had not consulted with the community, the clerk to contact EDF.

10. **Neighbourhood Plan** – a meeting had been held on 15th June. JA Huddart reported that it was an enthusiastic group. The main feature should be buildings/heritage and community projects to sustain tourism. Redundant buildings (eg churches) should possibly be turned into business hubs. It was planned to hold another open event in September and Jenny Ludman will get back to say what can/can’t be done. There are no plans to shorten the process and no grant will be available after next year. It was decided that no housing needs survey is to be undertaken

11. **Interactive speed signs** – P Hanson had previously circulated the information. The number of vehicles entering the village from the east was 18,485 and from the west 22,822. P Hanson commented that he thought the speeds were getting slower, he also reported that the police have been outside the school in the afternoon and have warned a few motorists. R Lawrie offered to put forward a request for the speed limit to be lowered to 20mph, he also said he would look into the County Council approved speed signs. JA Huddart commented that we probably have a reasonably safe regime and Lowick is one of the few Parish Councils to have signs which record speeds

12. **Matters to report on potholes, repairs/maintenance to street lights, highways etc.** P Hanson reported that Neil Howie has said there will be some structural patching but he is not sure wh

13. **Correspondence**

- Insurance – ok
- NALC membership £133.97, cheque signed
- Northumberland County Council Play Park inspection 2017/18 - £1031 – cheque signed
- Permission granted for additional shed at Aidensfield Farm

14. **Any other business** – JA Huddart reported that no further progress had been made on his idea to rebuild a pinfold on the Common except for expressions of support. JA Huddart plans to contact the planning department to see if the idea is possible

Mrs S Graham said she is part of WASPI women and a meeting is to be held on 24th May in the Swan Centre, 7 for 7.30pm. Anne-Marie Trevelyan and Julie Porksen plan to be there. There will be a question and answer session.

15. **Date of next meeting** - 17th June 2017

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25pm

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(17th June 2017)