A special meeting of Lowick Parish Council was held on 15th December 2009 at 7.30 p.m. in Lowick Village Hall

Present: JA Huddart, Mrs F Burn, Ms M Harker, Councillor RJD Watkin

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting

2. Apologies for absence received from Mrs S Graham, SA Mather, A Fairbairn

3. The reason for calling this meeting was to discuss the precept for 2010/2011. The County Council has requested that the Parish Council becomes responsible for the Playpark and that it sets its precept to cover the costs involved in this.

RJD Watkin explained that the Council’s aim was to make everyone equal, because at the moment some Parish Councils are responsible for their Play parks (eg Horncliffe) and others aren’t. The aim is to make local people responsible for local facilities. If the Parish Council decided not include the cost of the Playpark in its precept the Council would indicate a separate charge for the Playpark in its Council Tax bill.

It was felt that at the moment the Parish Council did not have enough guidance or expertise to take on the responsibility for the Playpark.

The clerk outlined the current financial situation, the Parish Council’s balance is £1231.43 and possible future expenditure (if the Parish Council agreed to the donation requests it historically receives between January and March) would be £175 which would leave a balance of £1156. It was agreed to leave the precept at £1213 for 2010/2011.

4. The Chairman read out a letter from Lowick in Bloom outlining their wish to create a pond area on the common. It was suggested that the stream be enlarged rather than creating a separate area as it would be more in keeping with the area and wouldn’t become stagnant.

5. Planning Application : Full Planning Application : Demolish existing garage to the rear and rebuild garage with hobby room, shower room and conservatory within existing boundaries : 22 Main Street, Lowick.

RJD Watkin declared an interest in this application and took no part in the discussions.

There were no comments to make regarding this application.

5. Date of next meeting - 21st January 2010

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.54 p.m.