A meeting of Lowick Parish Council was held on Thursday 21\textsuperscript{st} January 2016 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present: JA Huddart, Mrs MA Bell, SA Mather, P Hanson, Mrs S Graham, W Perks, Councillor RJD Watkin

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone and wished them a happy new year

2. Apologies for absence were received from Mrs A Worlock, Mrs F Burn, Mrs L Bradbury

3. There were no declarations of interest

4. \textbf{Peregrini Project} – P Hanson introduced David Suggett who is the Community Engagement and Interpretation Officer for the project. Mr Suggett explained there were 3 other officers involved in the £1.8 million pound project of which £1.2 million pounds is from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The project covers an area from Scremerston to Budle Bay and inland east of Belford. While Lowick isn’t included in the area covered Mr Suggett said they were still keen to engage with Lowick as there are volunteering and educational opportunities. Contact has been established with Belford History Group and he would like to have a similar contact with Lowick Heritage Group.

Part of the project involved maximising visitor offers. The first project is at Cocklawburn lime kilns and archaeology work has found industrial and domestic relics. Social research is also being undertaken to find out about the families who lived there. Mr Suggett said there were huge opportunities for people to get involved and activities can be tailored according to educational requirements. They will have a website active by the beginning of February and an events/activities programme is being finalised – eg beach cleaning.

JA Huddart said the main point of contact for the project should be the Heritage Group and although St Cuthbert’s Cave is outside the project area it will be included as an orientation mark.

Mr Suggett was thanked for attending the meeting, and he then left.

5. \textbf{Minutes of previous meeting} – these were agreed as being correct

6. \textbf{Matters Arising}

- the clerk has prepared a draft of the Service Level Agreement and Contract; this has to be signed by both the Parish Council and the County Council.
- No response has been received from Anne-Marie Trevelyan

7. \textbf{Precept} – the clerk circulated a financial summary which showed the Current Account had a balance of £1,384.33 and the Savings Account a balance of £1,485.47. The expenditure to 31\textsuperscript{st} March 2016 included £2,954 legal bills for the advice the Parish Council has received to date in relation to the Common easement.

After much discussion it was proposed to set a precept of £3590 for the year 2016/17. This sum included £1186.50 which is currently shown as a special expense in relation to the Play Park. Also included is the cost of registering the Common with the Land Registry as well as making provision for any more legal bills. The proposal was proposed by P Hanson, seconded by Mrs S Graham and was unanimously agreed.

8. \textbf{The Common} – JA Huddart reported that Mrs K Taylor has said she would take off a small part of her claim and make it part of the easement and put it onto the Common which the Parish Council would then own and the Colgan estate would then get access to the field. He also reported that the Colgan estate now want to claim the bank of the stream. RJD Watkin said he didn’t think a bank could be claimed as it would have to go to the centre of the stream.

No one has yet received a letter with regard to the registration of the Common. A letter has been received as to the availability for a court case but if the issue is resolved by 10\textsuperscript{th} February all would go away. It is hoped that Mr Butson would have heard from the Colgan estate by then.

JA Huddart said the Parish Council have been forced to take legal advice because of the impossibility of the Colgan’s solicitor to come up with a signable agreement. It is not clear if the Parish Council would need only a solicitor or if a barrister would have to be involved. JA Huddart pointed out that the Parish Council is acting...
on behalf of the community as the Common is a public asset and the Parish Council is not at liberty to give parts of it away. RJD Watkin thanked JA Huddart for all his work which is more than expected from a Parish Council

9. **Black Bull** – P Hanson reported that Karl Crane has stepped in at the last minute and bought the freehold of the pub and he has confirmed that he will get the Black Bull into action again. Sketch plans have been drawn up to improve the interior and allowing for disabled access, including a downstairs bedroom. A structural survey is still to be carried out, although the electrics have been checked and they’re not as bad a feared.

Mark Dodds is keen on a Community Benefit Society being established. Major grant people have turned down applications as they say they’re setting up special pub funds. If Mark Dodds is successful in obtaining funding Karl Crane is happy for the pub to be a Community Benefit Society.

Plans are being drawn up to ‘doorstep’ everyone to show them the plans and engage more with the community. JA Huddart commented that he is pleased the Black Bull has a future and pleased it’s remaining with local people. He offered any help the Parish Council might be able to give

10. **Interactive Speed Signs** – P Hanson had circulated the information prior to the meeting. The spikes in the number of vehicles show when traffic has been diverted, and the increase in the volume of traffic showed a decrease in speed.

The possibility of re-siting the signs to just before the school to the east and near Bookless Motors from the west was discussed. P Hanson is to contact the manufacturers to see if the signs would be compatible with these locations. JA Huddart asked if Parish Councillors were in agreement with the possibility of the signs being moved, agreement was unanimous.

11. **Matters to report on potholes, repairs/maintenance to highways/street lights** etc – RJD Watkin said the County Council would get to them eventually but because of the very wet weather they are overwhelmed with reports of potholes

12. **Correspondence**
   - A response had been received regarding privacy at council offices
   - Request for a donation from Citizens Advice Bureau – it was agreed not to make a donation
   - Request for a donation from the Air Ambulance – it was agreed to make a £50 donation
   - A pre-application for planning at Barmoor Castle had been received but no full planning application had yet been received
   - Animal Boarding establishments consultation – received

13. **Any other business**
   - JA Huddart reported that he had sent out a press release to the Berwick Advertiser asking for anyone interested in becoming involved to contact him.
   - Bus shelter – the roof is leaking
   - Defibrillator – Lynsey Pitman is no longer living in the village so Mrs LA Bradbury has agreed to take on checking the defibrillator with P Hanson and the clerk as backup. It was agreed to send Lynsey some flowers as a thank you for all her work.

14. **Date of next meeting** – Thursday 18th February. The clerk reported she would be on holiday but the Chairman agreed that the minutes would be taken in her absence.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25pm

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18th February, 2016