LOWICK PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Lowick Parish Council was held on 14th June 2012 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present: Mrs LA Bradbury, SA Mather, PD Calder, Mrs S Graham, Mrs MA Bell, Mrs A Worlock, JA Huddart and 9 members of the public

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting

2. Apologies for absence were received from Mrs F Burn, W Perks and Councillor RJD Watkin

3. Planning Application 12/00841/RENE: Erection of single wind turbine at Moorhouse Farm with a maximum blade tip height of 47.1m

The Chairman decided to hold a discussion on this application at the beginning of the meeting, so that the members of the public who did not wish to stay for all the meeting could leave after the discussions. He invited everyone to look at the plans prior to the discussions.

Mrs A Worlock began the discussions by showing the position of the turbine on the OS map. Members of the public were then asked to give their views, in summary these were:

- Concern about the cumulative effect of wind turbines in the area, it was felt the area could become awash with them
- Concern that it was going to be a delegated decision and that there had not been adequate consultation
- Lack of view
- On the edge of an area of high landscape value, the Devil’s Causeway an old Roman road is nearby and popular with walkers and cyclists, turbine could spoil their enjoyment of the countryside. Kyloe is iconic.
- Size too big and intrusive because of the movement

Parish Councillors were then asked for their views. Mrs Worlock said there was nothing to obscure the view from Lowick which is 1500 metres away and a full visual impact study should be done. A member of the public suggested that they weren’t much more of a scar on the landscape that the silos. Mrs Worlock also thought an environmental impact assessment should be carried out and that the turbine would adversely affect the character of the area. PD Calder was concerned about the visual and cumulative impact and SA Mather was concerned that none of the neighbouring property owners had been consulted. Other Parish Councillors agreed with these comments. The Chairman then asked for a vote which was 5 against the application with 1 abstention. It was agreed to write to the planning department and formally object to the application because of the concerns raised.

Members of the public were invited to stay for the rest of the meeting but decided to leave

4. Minutes of previous meeting – JA Huddart said he had not spoken directly to Roy Cossar but reported from someone who had spoken to him. The rest of the minutes were agreed as being correct

5. Matters Arising – It had been hoped that Mr Colgan and his solicitor would attend the meeting to discuss issues in relation to the Common but Mr Colgan felt that the meeting discussing the wind turbine was not appropriate for this discussion.

With regard to the Common Mrs MA Bell said the residents were becoming increasingly upset and wanted to know what the situation was and they are at a loss to know why discussions are still ongoing when the Parish Council have refused permission for the chain link fence to be moved. JA Huddart said he had been talking to the residents on a regular basis and Mrs S Graham wondered what the urgency was and she thought residents should also be able to bring a legal representative to the meeting. JA
Huddart said the law was very vague with regard to parking and it was a very complex situation. The law implies that is had to be sole access and Mr Colgan does have another access. Mr Colgan’s solicitor has no objection to 1 metre in front of the houses but Mr Colgan objects to a wider strip. JA Huddart commented that the best solution would be for everyone to stop and reach an amicable solution.

Mrs Taylor and Mrs & Mrs Currah have contact the Land Registry for a ruling on the ownership of the land in front of their houses, ie theirs, no-ones or part of the Common and . The chain link fence was put up to stop encroachment onto the Common and to stop people turning on the Common and churning up the grass. Mrs MA Bell asked why Mr Colgan couldn’t talk to the residents and SA Mather asked what more could the Parish Council do. JA Huddart pointed out that as custodians of the Common the Parish Council are involved. Mrs A Worlock suggested a site visit so that everyone had a clearer picture of the issues involved. It was agreed to make this visit before the next Parish Council meeting on 19th July.

6. **Election of Vice-Chairman** – PD Calder expressed reluctance to be elected as Vice Chairman. Mrs A Worlock was proposed by Mrs MA Bell, seconded by Mrs L Bradbury. Mrs Worlock agreed to become Vice Chairman. The Chairman expressed the Parish Council’s gratitude to PD Calder for all the work he has done for the Parish Council over the years.

7. Date of next meeting – 19th July 2012

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10pm

19th July 2012