LOWICK PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual General Meeting of Lowick Parish Council was held on Thursday 28th May 2015 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present: JA Huddart, Mrs A Worlock, Mrs MA Bell, Mrs F Burn, Mrs LA Bradbury, Mrs S Graham, S Mather, Councillor RJD Watkin

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting

2. Apologies for absence were received from P Hanson

3. There were no declarations of Interest

4. Election of Officials – JA Huddart was unanimously re-elected as Chairman and Mrs A Worlock was unanimously re-elected as Vice-Chairman

5. Presentation of Accounts – the clerk presented the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2015 which showed balances of £307.95 in the Community Account and £1484.91 in the Business Saver Account. These accounts were unanimously accepted by Parish Councillors. The submission to the auditors was also approved by Parish Councillors

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

7. Matters arising
JA Huddart reported on the first panel meeting for the Barmoor Windfarm Community Fund. An application from Wooler Boxing Club was a bit contentious as it was felt it was outside the area, but many members of the panel felt it was good for young people and it was agreed to give them £7000. It was agreed to spend around £30,000 with a further £30,000 to be spent at the next panel meeting. The clerk reported that A Fairbairn from the football club would like to attend a meeting to explain how the community could benefit from the mini bus the club are buying following an award from the Community Fund.

8. The Common – JA Huddart reported that he had been involved in a telephone conference which took place on 21st May between the Parish Council, the Judge and the solicitors involved. It was agreed that 8 weeks was a reasonable time for everyone to come to an agreement otherwise the case will go back to court which would involve barristers etc.

The Parish Council has received advice from a solicitor with regard to the draft agreement. This advice was that the agreement was much too vague, and as Parish Councillors could be personally liable for agreeing to any breach of legislation regarding common land it is recommended that the Parish Council seek advice from a solicitor specialising in common land matters. The Parish Council was also advised that granting a right of way over common land requires the land to be de-registered by the Secretary of State which is not a quick or cheap process and may require other land being registered to replace the land being deregistered. JA Huddart has forwarded this advice to M Butson (solicitor to the Colgans). Mrs Worlock commented that she thought M Butson and H Hughes should be drawing up a new draft agreement. H Hughes has responded saying that he thinks it essential the Parish Council receives specialist advice. JA Huddart suggested the Parish Council obtains an estimate of the cost of any advice to pass to Mr Butson for his clients to consider following his agreement at the without prejudice meeting.
The Parish Council will investigate other parcels of land in the village to consider for registration. It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council hold fast – proposed Mrs F Burn, seconded Mrs LA Bradbury

9. **The Black Bull** Mrs A Worlock reported that at the first meeting 27 people attended and at that meeting it had been agreed to try and move forward. The project manager is Mark Dodd who is putting together funding applications and a business plan. 23 people attended the 2nd meeting and the next public meeting is on 10th July when it is hoped Anne-Marie Trevelyan will attend. The Black Bull has to remain a pub for 5 years but after 6 months other bids can be made, but they would have to be to run the premises as a pub. Mrs Worlock summarised by saying it’s a long game but it’s safe as a pub for the time being. Mrs Worlock was thanked for all her work.

10. **Neighbourhood Plan** notices are out in the village. Phase 2 involves a survey and a proposal to be put forward. JA Huddart has listed all the houses in the Parish.

11. **CPR Poster** it was agreed this could be put up in the bus shelter

12. **Correspondence** – planning permission refused for 3 eco units at Kemping Moss and the planning application for alterations at 3 Black Heddens has been withdrawn

13. **Any other business**
   - The fence in the Play Park is damaged
   - Street light on Main Street not working
   - RJD Watkin apologised for not being able to attend many recent meetings

14. **Date of next meeting** – 18th June 2015

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10pm

18th June 2015