

Lowick Parish Council

Annual Parish Assembly

16 June 2016

Agenda

1. Annual Report
2. Any Other Business

Annual Report

For adoption at the meeting

The year 2015/2016 has seen a number activities taking place within the parish.

The Council continues to support LCH and Lowick Green Management Committee financially. This helps towards the cost of grass cutting on The Green. There was a very successful event on The Green in July last year organised by LGMC and attended by residents and others.

The Parish Council opposed the proposal by RWE to erect massive wind turbines on Kirkby Moor during 2015 and Councillors attended a public hearing in November when the application was rejected.

Consideration has been given by the Parish Council to a planning application by Burlington Slate to extend the quarry at Kirkby Moor. Mr Peake from the company came to a meeting in May 2015 to talk about the proposal. Having seen the application, Lowick Parish Council has opposed it. Mr Doug Cross provided an expert opinion on the environmental impact of aspects of the suggested development which has been sent to SLDC.

Mrs Cate Plimmer, Team Leader for the Crake Valley First Responders, addressed the July meeting at the request of the Parish Council. Her enthusiasm and commitment to the establishment of a network of defibrillators in the Crake Valley encouraged the Council to purchase a defibrillator which has been installed at Lowick Bridge.

The 40mph speed limit which the Council worked hard to achieve is not always adhered to by through traffic but the location of the speed warning signs does not allow a safe monitoring distance by the police. There has been some discussion about sharing the cost of a speed gun with other local parishes but this has not been resolved.

Councillors have attended consultation meetings organised by the National Grid about a network of pylons to carry electricity which will be generated by a new nuclear power station on the west coast. These structures will be visible from Lowick parish and the option of

underground cables is preferable. To date, the National Grid is focussed on overhead power lines. A planning application will be submitted in due course.

Councillor Rob Dove confirmed that he did not intend to continue after the Parish Council elections in May 2016. His decision was accepted with regret as he has been a diligent and active member of the Council.

It was very disappointing that only two Councillors, Liz Vaughan and John Longmire submitted nomination papers for the May election. This left the Parish Council in a very unsatisfactory situation of not being quorate (three Councillors are required). SLDC had to step in to ask District Councillor Anne Hall to become a temporary Councillor to enable the Parish Council to continue to function.

Fortunately, Anne Hall agreed to support Lowick and will be a temporary parish councillor until local residents can be co-opted to enable the Parish Council to become a viable entity again – representing local views and opinions and being pro-active in dealing with requests and suggestions from residents of the parish.

At the Parish Council meeting scheduled for 24 May, Councillor Vaughan tendered her resignation before the meeting began. As a result, the Council was not quorate again and SLDC had to intervene again and asked County and District Councillor David Fletcher to become a temporary member of the parish council. He agreed, and hopefully the parish council can begin to function again.