LOWICK PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Lowick Parish Council was held on Thursday 20th February 2014 at 7.30pm in Lowick Village Hall

Present: JA Huddart, Mrs F Burn, Mrs S Graham, SA Mather, P Hanson, W Perks and one member of the public (J Daniels)

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting

2. Apologies for absence were received from Mrs A Worlock, Mrs LA Bradbury, Mrs MA Bell, Councillor RJD Watkin

3. Declaration of Interest – Mrs F Burn and the clerk (Barmoor Wind Farm)

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

5. Matters Arising
   - Lowick Churchyard – Mr Daniels reported that the Archdeacon has been contacted with regard to burials in Lowick churchyard. He said it was not the responsibility of the PCC to set the criteria but that it was up to the church and he thinks the church will eventually come up with a statement. Mr Daniels went on to say that the decision with regard to burials in Lowick churchyard is up to Rev Dickinson. JA Huddart asked if the church could establish any criteria for the public if the churchyard was to be re-opened and he also wondered what the legal requirement would be with regard to the County Council maintaining the churchyard. J Daniels said he would report further to the Parish Council when the situation was clarified. The Chairman thanked Mr Daniels for the update and Mr Daniels left the meeting
   - Merger with Fenwick Parish Council – JA Huddart reported that when it becomes clear that the parishes would like to merge they should contact Lesley Bennet at the County Council stating the reasons why – consultation is necessary. JA Huddart said he had also contacted Liam Henry, County Solicitor, with regard to the number of councillors required but he hadn’t received a response
   - Speed Indicator – the clerk reported that Stefan Bell had informed her that the DF15 was not available in this country, so the DF11 was ordered
   - War Memorial – P Hanson said that the War Memorial at Barmoor was not on land belonging to Northumberland County Council, the land belongs to J Reavley. JA Huddart asked if it was registered as a War Memorial, P Hanson said it was recognised as a War Memorial.
   - School bus pick-up point – this has been resolved
   - Black Bull – an application has been made for it to be an asset of community value, this is under consideration, if it is agreed it would be on the asset list for 5 years
   - Barmoor Wind Farm access track – P Hanson circulated amendments to a previously circulated email. P Hanson suggested that until the foundations are begun the Parish Council could oppose the development. JA Huddart asked P Hanson if there was any ecological reason why P Hanson was against the change of access. The clerk confirmed she had expressed concerns to Joe Nugent with regard to the discharge of conditions. JA Huddart commented that he thought the developers would be very concerned with regard to safety and asked if the community wanted a good relationship with the developers and benefit from their community fund. Mrs S Graham commented that as the plans have been passed it is better to work with the developers. JA Huddart said that the Parish Council has objected to every wind turbine application considered. P Hanson said the Government are now cutting subsidies for renewables on land and the Secretary of State could stop the development
• Community Fund – JA Huddart commented that he hoped this would be seen as a good thing. P Hanson said that if the decision has been made now the fund would have been £69,000 but because it was determined earlier we will not qualify for the higher amount. It was agreed that the Parish Council should welcome the opportunity to participate with the developer in administering the fund. The clerk to contact D Butterworth with regard to the fund administration.

6. Peregrini Project – P Hanson was unable to attend a recent meeting but he said that Natural England have had their budgets cut so no match funding is available. The project has now gone for Lottery funding for the basics only – Holy Island quayside, Lifeboat Museum – and the scheme is unable to be spread further. It was hoped that Bastle Corner, which is where pilgrims passed, could have become a bit of a tourist route but there’s no funding now.

7. Lowick Common – JA Huddart had received an email from Mrs Taylor which stated that she’d seen a SHLAA stating that any developer would have to build a road and she’s worried that the Colgan’s might try to buy the road past the Common

8. School Catchment Area – a letter was received stating that Holburn was not in the Lowick catchment area. The clerk to request a review. Holburn Grange is in Lowick catchment but Holburn Village isn’t.

9. PC Alan Morton’s report – Parish Councillors were disappointed to learn that PC Morton will no longer be the Lowick Community Officer as PC Morton has moved to be Community Officer in Seahouses and Beadnell. There were no incidents of significant crime to report

10. Matters to report on potholes, repairs/maintenance to highways, street lights etc.
• Barmoor to Lowick road – water along the side of the footpath, pavement breaking up near the stream
• Potholes at Black Heddons

11. Correspondence
• Acknowledgement received for donation to Air Ambulance
• Toma Fund – it was decided not to make a donation

12. Any other business
• Post Office – the van has only been in the village for 1 day out of 7 recently, the clerk has emailed a complaint with a copy to Sir Alan Beith

13. Date of next meeting – 20th March 2014

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00pm

20th March 2014