LOWICK PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Lowick Parish Council was held on Thursday 21st January at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall

Present: Mrs F Burn, Mrs S Graham, Ms ME Harker, SA Mather, PD Calder, JA Huddart, W Perks and 2 members from Lowick in Bloom, Mrs A Waite, Mrs M Kenny

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone, especially the Lowick in Bloom members and opened the meeting

2. Apologies for absence were received from Mrs MA Bell, A Fairbairn and Councillor RJD Watkin

3. Declaration of Interest - none

4. Lowick in Bloom - Mrs M Kenny from Lowick in Bloom outlined the group’s proposals for the Common, especially the proposal for a pond/damp area near the burn. The aim of this proposal would be to establish a nature conservation area and maintain natural habitat.

The feeling at the moment is that the Common is a bit empty and they would like to add to what is there and a small pond with natural planting would add to the amenity of the common. They have had a meeting with a representative from Groundworks for some guidance and the best site would be beside the willow trees near South Road.

PD Calder thought the proposal was a good idea but wondered if there would be a problem with regard to safety as golf course ponds have life belts. He also said that the burn can dry out and he asked what would be done to retain the water. JA Huddart suggested that the pond should have a natural look and be fed from the burn.

Lowick in Bloom agreed to contact Groundworks again and come back with suggestions, they will also consult with those who live around the Common once the weather has improved. Parish Council members thought this was a good idea. JA Huddart asked if Groundworks could advise on husbanding downstream.

Mrs F Burn congratulated Lowick in Bloom on the hard work they have done in the village, all Parish Councillors agreed.

A suggestions was made that the 30mph limit should be moved to below the football field, the clerk to investigate this.

5. Minutes of previous meeting - these were agreed as being correct

6. Matters Arising
   • The Parish Council could decide at any time if they want to take over the responsibility for the play park inspection
7. Correspondence
- Postal services meeting on 26th January - no one to attend. The general feeling was that the post van is working ok, although it did not come into the village in the bad weather. Mrs S Graham said they had not had a postal delivery for 3 weeks
- VCS - received
- Planning permission received for 84 additional pitches at Barmoor Castle
- Planning permission received for additional parking spaces at Lowick First School
- CPRE received
- British Legion receipt for poppy wreath received
- Northumberland News received
- County Council funding proposal received
- CAN it was agreed to make a donation of £15
- Northumberland Landscape Assessment received
- Traffic calming letter received - to be discussed at next meeting

8. Any other business
- Ms M Harker offered to compile a list of vulnerable people who would like to be contacted in the event of more bad weather
- Mrs S Graham said that the mini bus driver, Michael Douglas had done a marvellous job during the bad weather and it was a huge benefit having someone who knew the roads, especially in bad conditions.
- JA Huddart asked about a pavement being obstructed, the clerk to contact the County Council
- PD Calder said that the official opening of the hall would be on 25th February and everyone is invited.

8. Date of next meeting - 18th February 2010

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

18th February 2010