A meeting of Lowick Parish Council was held on 21st January 2013 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present: W Perks, Mrs LA Bradbury, JA Huddart, Councillor RJD Watkin, and Mrs A Waite and R Black from Lowick In Bloom

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting

2. Apologies for absence were received from Mrs A Worlock, Mrs S Graham, SA Mather, PD Calder

3. There were no declarations of interest

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

5. Matters Arising
   - The Common – David Frances had been in touch with JA Huddart and meeting has been suggested between the Parish Council, NALC and Stephen Ricketts. The clerk confirmed that no communications had been received from solicitors with regard to the Common
   - The clerk had received guidelines on the removal of hedges from the Enforcement Officer. RJD Watkin suggested that if anyone was aware of a hedge being removed they should contact the Officer.
   - RJD Watkin reported that he is letting the question of the Church Lane topping work its way through the system, he thinks it’s possible that the road is made up to adoptable standard but that it would not be adopted
   - PC Alan Morton was unable to attend the meeting but sent a report saying there had been no crime in Lowick since the last Parish Council meeting, he had stopped and spoken a number of motorists who were speeding through the village and that he was keeping an eye on the problem of lorries parking outside the silos before they open. He also said that he had obtained a 30mph light-up sign which will be used in the village for 3 months, this news was welcomed

6. Lowick in Bloom – Plans for the planting at the War Memorial which were presented by Mrs Waite and R Black were considered. Two options were presented and everyone agreed that the semi-circular planting option was the preferred choice. R Black, Chairman of Lowick in Bloom said he was trying to get more forward thinking and consolidation into Lowick in Bloom. Sculptures each end of the village are in plans for the future as are other plans which can only take place depending on resources.

7. Precept – The localisation bill means that the Parish Council would receive £33 less. RJD Watkin advised that the Parish Council should be able to account for what any contingency might be needed for. It was decided to leave the precept the same as last year - £1545. JA Huddart stated that he felt that the money which was given to the Norham and Islandshires
Parish Councils Association should come back to the Parish Councils, RJD Watkin said this matter should be brought up at a meeting of the Association.

An acknowledgement was received for the Air Ambulance for the donation sent by the PC

8. Any other business
   • Everyone felt the roads had been cleared well, RJD Watkin said the clearance was left to the discretion of the contractors
   • Mrs Bradbury asked about a grit bin outside the school, the clerk agreed to contact the County Council about this
   • Midwifery services in Berwick – consultation documents received. JA Huddart commented that he thought not enough information is given with regard to the midwifery services offered at Alnwick
   • The street light outside the school isn’t working.
   • Local elections – RJD Watkin said the clerk would receive information with regard to these

9. Date of next meeting – the clerk said that if no business came through before the scheduled meeting there was little point in holding a meeting, but it would be necessary to have the March meeting as it is the Annual Parish meeting. The date of the next meeting was left open.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50pm

19th February 2013