LOWICK PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Lowick Parish Council was held on Thursday 18th July at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present: JA Huddart, P Hanson, SA Mather, Mrs MA Bell, W Perks, Mrs A Worlock, Mrs F Burn, Councillor RJD Watkin

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting

2. Apologies for absence were received from Mrs S Graham and Mrs L Bradbury

3. Minutes of previous meeting – correction to read an additional £40 on the rates, not £400, otherwise the minutes were agreed as being correct

4. Matters Arising
   - **The Common** – Councillor Watkin took no part in these discussions as he is now on the committee which might need to look into issues relating the common.
     Mrs MA Bell said that she was under the impression that the chain link fence was to be removed, JA Huddart said he felt it was unclear as to what the Parish Councillors views were. Mrs Bell went on to say that Mr Colgan has made silage in the field and access to the field by large farm machinery was in no way impeded by the parked cars and she thought the fence should not be moved.
     JA Huddart suggested that any in-kind contribution from Mr Colgan could perhaps be a pathway from the Community Orchard back to the village.
     It was felt that the whole issue had gone on much too long and JA Huddart said it would save a lot of stress and expense if an agreement could be reached, but if there is no agreement the saga will eventually reach its legal conclusion.
     S Hanson said legally you can park within 5 metres of the edge of a common but as owners it’s up to the Parish Council to decide on its use, ie parked vehicles
     JA Huddart is going to state that the chain link fence which marks Common boundary stays for the foreseeable future
   - **Interactive Speed Signs** - Mrs A Worlock asked about the theory that speed is increased between signs indicating the speed of cars. RJD Watkin said the local authority no longer used them as the indicated speed can be used in defence if a driver is prosecuted for speeding
     P Hanson circulated information on various interactive speed signs. The clerk had received an email from Stefan Bell at the County Council with regard to the signs and the clerk was to contact him again for clarification
   - **Public Access Defibrillator** – The Clerk had circulated information received on a defibrillator. Mrs A Worlock expressed concern about the number of people trained in basic life support while the defibrillator is being accessed and the ambulance arrives. P Hanson agreed that people must be made aware of the training needed if fund raising is undertaken. Mrs A Worlock asked when someone had last had a cardiac arrest in Lowick
     JA Huddart thought the Parish Council should take a lead in something like this and if the community was keen to have a defibrillator then hopefully they would support the fundraising. Mrs Worlock thought basic life support training first was essential – this was agreed.
     RJD Watkin said sometimes emergency call out takes too long but the Fire Service also has defibrillators and all retained fireman are trained in their use. He suggested the Parish Council should write to the leader of the County Council to suggest joint responders between the Ambulance and Fire Services and to the relevant Trade Union to suggest co-operation.
     The Clerk said that the suppliers of the defibrillator plan to visit the area in September and it was suggested that there should be an open meeting with them to hear about the defibrillator and also the basic life support training

5. Planning Application – RJD Watkin declared an interest and took no part in the discussions - Application Ref: 13/01858/FUL : Proposed construction of 2no Eco Holiday Units : Kemping Moss, Lowick, Berwick-upon-Tweed TD15 2QE – it was agreed to support this application
6. Matters to report on potholes, repairs/maintenance to highways/street lights etc – Potholes on Eelwell Road, near Moorhouse and the Dipper Road

7. County Councillors Report – RJD Watkin reported that discussions regarding free parking are still on going

8. Any other Business
   • P Hanson said that the Heritage Group would like to put up a sign at the Bastle Corner. The Heritage Group would provide the sign if the Parish Council supported it, the request would have to go to the County Council. Mr Colgan has agreed that the sign can be sited on his wall. Request approved by the Parish Council
   • SA Mather said the person cutting the grass in the Play Park is not shutting the gates when he leaves
   • JA Huddart said he has been talking to Hugh Leyland from Fenwick Parish Council who only have 2 Parish Councillors and are not quorate. H Leyland raised the question on an amalgamation between Lowick and Fenwick Parish Councils, the only stumbling block would be Fenwick Village Hall, if it was sold the money would have to go to charity. RJD Watkin said there are 3 bus shelters on the A1 for which the Parish Council is responsible. JA Huddart to contact H Leyland
   • Community Service Award – Parish Council to take nominations – item for September agenda. RJD Watkin said Ford Parish Council give an award to a local young person for further education or other activity
   • RJD Watkin suggested the clerk should contact Karen Ledger of the Planning Department to ask about the community contribution from the developers of the proposed Barmoor wind farm
   • SA Mather said the barrier outside the school was damaged, the clerk to contact Mick Tully
   • The clerk reported there had again been problems with the mobile Post Office not turning up, RJD Watkin suggested she contact Sir Alan Beith’s office

9. Date of next meeting – Thursday 19th September 2013

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10pm

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19th September 2013