A meeting of Lowick Parish Council was held on 27th June 2013 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present: JA Huddart, Mrs LA Bradbury, Mrs MA Bell, Mrs S Graham, Councillor RJD Watkin, PC Alan Morton, Paramedic Steve Jones and P. Hansen

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting

2. Apologies for absence were received from Mrs F Burn, Mrs A Worlock and SA Mather

3. As PC Morton was on duty he asked if he could give his report first, the Chairman agreed to this request. PC Morton reported that there had been 2 crimes in the area since last month, at Fenwick Steads a shed had been broken into and a vehicle was stolen from Lowick Hall. The police know who carried out these crimes and someone from County Durham has been arrested. PC Morton said it was quite common for people to travel from Durham to try and steal high powered cars and tractors.

PC Morton also reported that residents are complaining about the speed of vehicles through the village and are planning a petition. There haven’t been enough accidents in the village to merit the County Council providing traffic calming measures but as PC Morton commented everyone wants to avoid any accidents. He said he would start coming into the village with the hand held speed camera and he can start prosecuting speeding motorists when he’s using that – RJD Watkin said 3 fatalities are needed for a speed camera to be provided.

Discussion followed with regard to interactive speed signs, RJD Watkin said the Council weren’t in favour of signs showing the speed of motorists as people try to increase their speed, but are more in favour of the 30mph flashing sign. JA Huddart asked about the prospect of finance and RJD Watkin said a camera could be bought from his allowance. It was agreed that Highways should be contacted with regard to the sign and the posts and that residents immediately adjacent to the proposed locations should also be consulted.

Before leaving the meeting PC Morton was thanked for his attendance.

4. Co-option of Parish Councillor – the Clerk reported that Rev V Dickinson has contacted her just before the meeting to indicate that he no longer wished to be considered for the Parish Council so JA Huddart proposed that P Hansen was co-opted and this was unanimously approved. JA Huddart agreed leave of absence at the meeting to Mrs F Burn, Mrs A Worlock and SA Mather

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

6. Matters Arising – The Common – JA Huddart confirmed that he had emailed Mr Butson and has since met with him he has also had 3 conversations with the Currahs. He had asked Mr Butson if there would be an approach from Mr Colgan for an easement on the Common and if so he could then have a small meeting between himself and Mr Colgan and suggest something in kind in return for 1 metre of the common as he felt it would achieve more than having the public present. The adjudication is proceeding, it is not known where, one side would like it in London the other at Berwick magistrates. Were agreement to be reached between the parties it was hoped a solution could be found. The County solicitor has confirmed it has responsibility for the Common but that the Parish Council owns it. RJD Watkin said that if Mr Colgan wanted a metre he would have to give something back to the community in return and that if Mr Colgan had made his request in the first place if would have been treated more sympathetically, he also pointed out that any increase in the access road could not have a hard base.

7. Public Access Defibrillator – Paramedic Steve Jones introduced himself and outlined the emergency health cover in the area. He said there was 1 24 hour ambulance at Belford, 1 at Berwick plus 1 available until 10pm and 1 24 hour ambulance at Wooler. There are also 1st responders at Crookham and Belford.
He said for the past 3 years Public Access Defibrillators have been introduced at Cornhill, Glanton, Powburn, Whittingham, Milfield and Etal and that they are not difficult to use and the ambulance service would like to see them in all outlying villages. S Jones then gave a short demonstration on how the defibrillator works. He went on the explain that each box has a code number in it and 999 will be advised that there is a defibrillator and the code to access it, so the person making the phone call can be told the code. The ambulance service provides training, and the police service knows the codes for all the defibrillators.

P Hansen asked about the differences – the Heart Foundation prefers them to be unlocked. An electricity supply is required but only a minimum charge is needed. It would be up to the Parish Council to decide on the location, the Ambulance Service would check the equipment but the Parish Council would also have responsibility to carry out checks. The Parish Council would have to raise funds but the Ambulance Service could advise on which charities to contact, S Jones agreed to email information to the clerk on who to contact for further information.

S Jones gave an example of a defibrillator being used recently which helped to save the person’s life. Parish Councillors were unanimously in favour of going ahead and S Jones said as a starter there would be a first aid course and a defibrillator introduced. The Chairman thanked S Jones for attending the meeting.

8. **Finance** – confirmation had been received from Barclays that JA Huddart and Mrs A Worlock had been approved as cheque signatories for the Parish Council. £261.45 VAT rebate had been received. The clerk circulated the form for submission to the external auditors and this was approved.

9. **Planning Application**: Application No: 13/01738/OUT : Outline planning application : erection of 1 no residential unit with garage : Land adjacent to 73 Main Street, Lowick. RJD Watkin declared an interest in this item and took no part in the discussion. There were no comments to make regarding this application.

10. **County Councillor’s Report** – RJD Watkin reported that the Council has started to spend the extra £6 million on road repairs so should be catching up.

11. **Matters to report on potholes, repairs/maintenance to highways, street lights etc** U1050 Holburn Grange which is the road to Cuddy’s Cave. It was reported that the signpost for the bridal path at Laverock Law had been cut down. The clerk reported that she had spoken to Tony Derbyshire at the County Council who was going to report the matter to his colleague. She was told that the sign would be replaced and if it was cut down again the landowner would be contacted.

12. **Correspondence** – A letter had been received with regard to free parking. RJD Watkin said there was no such thing as free parking and if there were no parking charges the Band D council tax would possibly have to increase by around £400.

13. **Any other Business** – the clerk reported that the Enforcement Officer had been in touch to say she had been on long term sick but that she would look into the matters raised as soon as possible.

JA Huddart said he would put up the new County Council flag in time for the Lowick in Bloom judging.

14. **Date of next meeting** – 18th July 2013

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.05pm

18th July 2013