A meeting of Lowick Parish Council was held on 19th June 2014 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present: JA Huddart, P Hanson, SA Mather, Mrs L Bradbury, Mrs M Bell, Mrs S Graham, W Perks
County Councillor RJD Watkin

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting

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

3. Declaration of Interest – none

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

5. Matters Arising
   • Speed indicators are operating in covert mode for 2 weeks
   • Peregrini Project – a revised scheme has been submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund, this has to be in by 20th June with 30th September being the decision date
   • Bridge which is on the pilgrim’s route/byway at Hunting Hall is in a poor state. The County Council are not interested in repairing it. P Hanson agreed to contact the person at the County Council responsible for footpaths
   • School transport – a reply from the Headteacher at Lowick First School received saying that the letter from the Parish Council has been forwarded to the school governors. Berwick Middle School has written to the County Council. SA Mather has written to Glendale Middle School but they have no governors meeting until next term. The County Council don’t appear to be interested in reviewing the situation (RJD Watkin joined the meeting)
   • It was agreed that the Parish Council write to John Clarke, Sir Alan Beith and Daljit Laly regarding the transport situation
   • The road markings have been done but one chevron sign at Barmoor corner not up yet, P Hanson agreed to cut back the branches at the sign warning of the corner
   • Nothing has yet been done with regard to the damage done to the Black Heddon’s road by a forestry vehicle
   • Community Fund – it is still a bone of contention as to who would administer the fund. RJD Watkin said the County Council has experience of administering open cast site money as it has done so for many years
   • It was suggested that the money still with the Norham and Islandshires Parish Council Association be paid back to individual Parish Councils – the clerk to contact the Association clerk
   • JA Huddart to be the Council’s representative on the County Council/EDF liaison group meeting

6. Lowick Common – A copy of the letter received from Mr Butson has been sent to D Francis (CAN) and Phil Newton at the County Council, a copy is also to be sent to Stephen Rickitt. It was felt that the Parish Council couldn’t attend a meeting without having received some guidance. RJD Watkin felt the matter would be low on the County Council’s agenda because of the workload.

Discussion followed on the upkeep of the road – it’s possible that householders might become responsible if the road is damaged by heavy vehicles. The Colgans have conceded that Mrs Taylor and Mr & Mrs Currah can park on the land in front of their homes. Costs need to be detailed and there should be indemnification against drains and water supply. The track should be surveyed and a wayleave agreed, with a fee/restitution of some kind. An agricultural purpose should be specified. It was agreed the parties should be invited to the next meeting for further discussion.

7. The audit was approved. Cheque for £170.78 payable to Northumberland County Council for insurance was signed
8. Planning Applications
- Ref: 14/01657/LBC: Listed Building Planning Consent to replace damaged and missing gutters and down-pipes: 7 Main Street, Lowick
- Ref 14/01679/FUL: Proposed residential development of 8no detached dwelling houses Land at South Road, Lowick

It was unanimously agreed that it would be better to see a proper restoration of the gutters using similar materials or as alike as possible

- Ref 14/01679/FUL: Proposed residential development of 8no detached dwelling houses Land at South Road, Lowick

After discussion it was agreed to make the following observations
1. The development is not in keeping with the houses around the common which are predominantly terrace houses, houses overlooking the common, which is an important part of the village should be stone fronted
2. There is no provision for affordable homes and there are currently a number of higher priced homes in the village on the market
3. Light restriction to neighbours
4. Traffic would be increased on an already busy road/road junction
5. The Parish Council expressed disappointment that the developer did not discuss the plans with them before they were submitted

9. Matters to report on potholes, repairs/maintenance to highways, street lights etc
- P Hanson reported that water is permanently leaking on the Main Street
- C18 floods
- Ford Common, pothole, a car tyre has been damaged

10. County Councillor’s report – Post 16 transport – RJD Watkin said the charges have been introduced to save money. Where public transport is available to students they will have to use that which often cost more than £600 per year. Anyone not on free school meals will not be helped with transport costs

11. Any other business
- The Black Bull has been bought but there is still nothing to stop the new owners selling it for development. JA Huddart asked why, as it is a Community Asset, it was sold. P Hanson said he had contacted Christies but they don’t know if it will go straight back on the market and he will be contacted if it does. RJD Watkin said it was bought as a group
- JA Huddart asked if he could remove the wreaths from the war memorial as they are in a poor state – this was agreed
- JA Huddart asked if the Union flag could be flown on Scottish Independence election day – this was agreed

12. Date of next meeting – to be agreed

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30pm

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1st September 2014