LOWICK PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Lowick Parish Council was held on Thursday 16th June at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present: JA Huddart, Mrs A Worlock, P Hanson, Mrs MA Bell, Mrs S Graham, W Perks, S Mather, Councillor RJD Watkin

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting

2. Apologies for absence were received from Mrs L Bradbury and Mrs F Burn

3. There were no declarations of interest

4. Minutes of previous meeting – amendment to minute 8 – Interactive Speed signs, Windows 10 was causing the problem, this has now been fixed but then Houston radar had been causing problems

5. Matters Arising –
   - the clerk had spoken to Bob Hodgson about the grass cutting, he reported back that he was instructing the contractors to pay particular attention to the Play Park and strim around the play equipment
   - W Perks said he would speak to Tony Brown with regard to the overhanging tree at Lowick Mill
   - Community Fund meeting – this was held on 9th June and JA Huddart reported that there had been a reasonable amount of people there when he attended
   - 2 quotes are being obtained for new items in the Play Park
   - W Perks said he had looked at the seats on the common and the metal work on them is not very good. SA Mather agreed to look at them to assess whether they were worth repairing

6. Finance – a cheque for £133.98 was signed in respect of NALC membership
   JA Huddart reported that he had been in contact with Councillor Davey with regard to a possible loan in respect of the legal fees, this matter had now been passed to Stephen Rickitt at NALC. JA Huddart commented that he’s not sure why the Parish Council has to pay for a barrister when the Parish Council is a witness

7. The Common – despite a request from the Parish Council for TC Smith to respond to the easement valuations by the date of this meeting no such response had been received. The valuations in question are £2500 limited to agricultural use and access to bare agricultural land held in title ND135665. £36,000 to grant right of way over Lowick Common subject to the terms of the draft Deed of Grant. £55,000 for unrestricted right of way.

8. Neighbourhood Plan – JA Huddart said he had been on the Localities website and had begun the process of applying for funding. The next meeting will be on 5th July when Ms J Ludman will be able to confirm how many days she initially give to the process

9. Interactive speed signs – P Hanson reported that following the problems with Windows 10, and the problem at Houston rectified there were 3 months data together. The fastest speed recorded at the Village Hall end was 65-70mph. Speed limit adherence is improving at the
moment. No progress has been made on new poles because of the cost implications in view of the Parish Council’s expenses with regard to the Common. JA Huddart thanked P Hanson for the update

10. Matters to report on potholes, repairs/maintenance to street lights, highways etc – P Hanson has produced a report for Northumberland County Council with photos and a Google map showing where the potholes are along this stretch of road, there were also 2 cases of dislodged drain covers. P Hanson also said he keeps pushing the state of the road from the vicarage to Barmoor Lane End

The lack of visibility was discussed at the C39/B6349 junction. In response to a query about the possibility of mirrors at blind corners RJD Watkin said they only place where the might be installed was for pedestrians

11. Correspondence
   • Planning permission granted for erection of 2 houses on land behind 85/87 Main Street
   • Response received from Anne Marie Trevelyan re state of roads around Lowick

12. Any other business – P Hanson reported that he had recently attended a CAN meeting on rural poverty where it was pointed out that rural poverty is in the main hidden but that it is mainly in the south east of the county. In Scotland allowances are made to facilities but not in England or Wales. Statistics are no longer being collected but if they are they are no longer being published. P Hanson suggested that those seeking election as Mayor under the Northern Powerhouse legislation should possibly focus on rural poverty in Northumberland and Durham

13. Date of next meeting – 21st July 2016

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.55pm

20th July 2016