A meeting of Lowick Parish Council was held on Thursday 20th March 2013 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present: Mrs A Worlock, P Hanson, W Perks, Mrs L Bradbury, SA Mather, Mrs MA Bell

1. The Vice-Chairman, Mrs A Worlock, welcomed everyone and opened the meeting

2. Apologies for absence were received from Mrs F Burn, Mrs S Graham

3. Declaration of Interest – the clerk declared an interest in the Barmoor Wind Farm

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

5. Matters Arising
   - Churchyard – situation still pending
   - Speed Indicator – the clerk reported that she had attempted to contact Stefan Bell but had received no response, she will keep trying
   - War Memorial – P Hanson had circulated information (copy attached to the minutes). P Hanson also pointed out that if the merger with Fenwick Parish Council went ahead a decision would have to be made as to where the memorial plaques in Fenwick Village Hall would be sited
   - Black Bull – this is now a community asset. A meeting had been held in the Black Bull on 19th March and it was attended by Tony Kirsop, Social Enterprise Manager who raised 2 questions
      i) Is the Black Bull viable? At least 3 years accounts should be seen, to date accounts haven’t been forthcoming, despite requests
      ii) How much would it cost to bring the building back into a good condition?

Until the accounts are forthcoming it is impossible to know if the business is viable enough to service the debt and viability would also need to be known before attempts are made to raise money to buy the business. At the meeting there had been discussion about a group to be set up to drive the scheme forward and to investigate how the money could be raised. Once someone has shown an interest the group would have 6 months to come up with a counter bid. The clerk had received information on Community Asset Workshops to be run by CAN – this information to be forward to Mrs A Worlock and P Hanson. Tony Kirsop is to be asked if he thinks the scheme is viable
   - The clerk reported that she is contact the with Post Office with regard to the shoddy service from the van

JA Huddart joined the meeting

6. EDF Energy Community Fund

RJD Watkin said that Northumberland County Council could administer the fund on behalf of a local committee for nothing and that it might be possible that the County Council would forward finance a project if they knew money was coming in. Mrs A Worlock said the fund should be £5000 per installed megawatt as per Eric Pickles’ recommendation, but RJD
Watkin said it was not a legal obligation to pay anything and the amount was something that could be discussed at the proposed meeting.

JA Huddart asked how the Parish Council would talk to EDF regarding more money and also the criteria for the money. RJD Watkin commented that he thought the Parish Councils would find it difficult to spend that amount of money. P Hanson suggested that it should be pointed out that EDF signed up to a legal agreement and it should be pointed out to them, something he was prepared to do.

It was suggested that the Chairmen and clerks from Bowsden, Ford, Fenwick and Lowick meet to discuss projects on 3rd April at 7.00pm and meet with EDF on 9th April at 7.00pm in the School

7. Peregrini Project – P Hanson summarised the current situation and explained that the project developed from a group a people getting together to try and raise money for projects on Holy Island

8. Lowick Common – there has recently been a meeting on the Common and the understanding is that householders could park on the land and that the Parish Council should move the chain link back. RJD Watkin said the SHLAA said access agreement had been reached but he pointed out that this was not the case. JA Huddart said the Parish Council have never been asked

9. School Catchment – SA Mather reported that he is writing to ask for a review of the catchment area. Lowick First School governors and headteacher are in support of this move but governors at Wooler First School have to be consulted. RJD Watkin said schools can change catchment areas with agreement from the schools concerned.

10. Correspondence
   • Over 16 transport – this questionnaire has to be filled in on line
   • Northumberland Charter- the clerk to complete following receipt of comments from Parish Councillors. JA Huddart asked RJD Watkin if the County Council thought that joint meetings were useful, RJD Watkin said that Locality Officers are the go-between for Parish Councils and the County Council

11. Any other business – Mrs LA Bradbury suggested the Parish Council write to the football club to thank them for their help in raising the funds for the defibrillator
   SA Mather reported that there are moles in the Play Park and that the fence at the back needs some repairs

12. Date of next meeting – 9th April in Lowick First School

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10pm

9th April 2014