LOWICK PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual General Meeting of Lowick Parish Council was held on 15th May 2014 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall
Present: JA Huddart, Mrs A Worlock, Mrs MA Bell, P Hanson, W Perks, SA Mather, Mrs LA Bradbury
Councillor RJD Watkin

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting

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

3. Declaration of Interest – RJD Watkin declared an interest in the planning application – he can listen to the discussion but cannot make any comments

4. Election of Officials – Chairman – JA Huddart, proposed by Mrs MA Bell, seconded by Mrs LA Bradbury, JA Huddart accepted the nomination. Vice-Chairman – Mrs A Worlock – proposed by Mrs MA Bell, seconded by Mrs LA Bradbury – Mrs Worlock accepted the nomination

5. The clerk presented the accounts to the year ended 31st March 2014 which showed that income was £1839.36, expenditure £1326.03 and the balance in the bank at the end of the year was £1392.27. The accounts were proposed for approval by P Hanson, seconded by Mrs A Worlock

6. PC Sean Amer – Community Police Officer – PC Amer introduced himself to the meeting. He only has 15 months remaining in the force and his beat will cover from Norham to Holy Island. He reported that there had been no crime in Lowick. There had been a disorder incident in connection with an orange and black off road bike. There had been a traffic congestion incident with regard to an Irish registered van – RJD Watkin suggested this van could belong to those laying the cable in connection with the Barmoor Wind Farm. PC Amer was thanked for his attendance and left the meeting

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

8. Matters Arising
   • Speed indicators – EDF are putting the poles in and will put 1st camera up, the 2nd camera has been ordered. P Hanson has requested that the sign doesn’t flash for 2 weeks and then it is switched on to see if it makes a difference
   • It was commented that the 40mph signs at the windfarm site are not up, RJD Watkin said that they can’t be put up until the traffic order is through
   • Peregrini Project – P Hanson said there had been a meeting today (15th May) and that the consultant has re-profiled the project, it may now go ahead but there is no certainty
   • Post Office van – is still being late and the driver is not very pleasant
   • School transport/catchment – the County Council have stated that Lowick First School was consulted on the closure of Chatton School but there is no mention of this in the minutes of Lowick First School’s governors meetings. The school governors are not interested in looking into the problem although it would have increased the school catchment area. SA Mather said he had been to see Sir Alan Beith and he is now hoping that Berwick Middle School will contact Glendale Middle School governors. RJD Watkin said SA Mather should have been informed that his children weren’t in the Lowick catchment area. JA Huddart asked if there was a law with regard to changing transport routes but RJD Watkin responded that a large number of children want to attend schools outside their catchment area and transport has to be paid for. RJD Watkin also said that schools can change catchment areas. It was agreed that the Parish Council write to Mrs Vanson and to the Head Teacher at Berwick Middle School. – Mrs LA Bradbury declared an interest in this topic as she works at the school
Defibrillator electricity costs – the clerk had spoken to Lynsey Pitman and it is estimated that the annual cost of the electricity is about £50 which the Parish Council will pay annually.

9. Planning Application : Ref: 14/00930/FUL : Proposed construction of 2no Eco Holiday Units, resubmission of planning application 13/01858/FUL with amended building design and reduced footprint. Kemping Moss, Lowick TD15 2QE. It was decided to support this application.

10. Matters to report on potholes, repairs/maintenance to highways, street lights etc
- P Hanson reported that the road markings at the Ford road end junction need renewing – he plans to chase this up.
- The finger post at Lickar Lee is not currently pointing in the right direction.
- The road past the Black Heddons has been damaged by chains of the wheels of a wood lorry. SA Mather has reported this to Scottish Woodlands who are looking into the matter.

11. Correspondence
- Planning approval received for application no 14/00887/FUL – Sun room extension to the rear of 12 Main Street, Lowick.
- Community Action Northumberland – it was agreed to make a donation of £30.

12. Any other Business
- Community Fund – it was commented that there was potential for disharmony on decisions on the schemes. RJD Watkin said the value of the scheme to the whole community should be considered and not just where it is. It was thought that EDF are not in favour of dividing the fund between parishes. RJD Watkin said that if the County Council administered the fund they would minute the meetings but wouldn’t have any input, and they wouldn’t charge for their work. It was agreed that it would not be a good idea for the fund to be administered locally.

Discussions took place on topics which could be discussed at the joint meeting of parish councils and EDF on 19th May and these suggestions to be circulated to the other parish councils.

- Parish Boundaries, would the fund be divided between parishes?
- Fund administration – Community Foundation, County Council (who would minute meetings, pay the grants but would have no input into decisions made at no cost) or a local trustee option.
- Fund panel – possibly 2 from each parish, one person to be nominated by the parish council and the other to be elected with the parish councils arranging the election in their parish. The length of time for the panel would be 4 years and no one should be on the panel for any longer than 8 years and members should be fully representative of the community it serves.
- There should possibly be a limit on how much could be paid to one scheme in any fund year (eg £20,000).
- Schemes funded should in some instances benefit the whole community and not just an individual parish and match funding should be encouraged and supported.
- There should be a criteria against which funding would be granted, eg transport, energy saving, housing, grants to young people in education, wildlife and heritage, low cost housing.
- A questionnaire should be circulated to all residents (either on line or paper copy) in the community to find out what their views and priorities are and possibly including some suggestions they could vote on.

13. Date of next meeting – 19th June 2014

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.50pm.

_________________________ 19th June 2014