LOWICK PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Lowick Parish Council was held on 8th November 2012 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present: Mrs LA Bradbury, Mrs S Graham, Mrs MA Bell, Mrs A Worlock, Mrs F Burn, JA Huddart, PD Calder, W Perks, Councillor RJD Watkin and PC Alan Morton

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting

2. Apologies for absence were received from SA Mather

3. Declaration of Interest – RJD Watkin declared an interest in the Planning application

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

5. Matters Arising
   • The Common – no progress, JA Huddart reported that he has been in touch with David Francis from NALC
   • The road at Low Lyn has been roughly filled in, trees on the road to Holburn have not yet been cut back

6. JA Huddart welcomed PC Alan Morton to the meeting and invited him to speak to the meeting, the main points PC Morton made were
   • He has moved to North Northumberland from South Shields where he was a beat officer for 8 years, and he hopes to be here for his remaining 9 years in the force
   • Although he lives in Wooler he is based at Seahouses and his beat covers Lowick, Doddington, Fenwick, Fenham, Holburn and Bowsden. Although he has his own patch the force covers 600 square miles with four members of the force based at Wooler and four at Seahouses..
   • PC Morton said that he won awards in South Shields and that he likes to be out and about. He reported that there had been 2 crimes in this area in the last month, in Bowsden.
   • The problem of speeding through the village was raised, and PC Morton said he hoped to get a speed camera in the near future. There was discussion with regard to a flashing speed light, especially as Lowick is a diversion route from the A1, it was suggested that the Highways Agency should be contacted with regard to this and RJD Watkin suggested local businesses might be able to make a contribution
   • He is aware of the problem of lorries parking near the silos and hopes to resolve this
   • He knows Lynsey at the shop and has visited both pubs and the school
   • He plans to hold ‘cuppa with a copper’ once a month in the village hall to give people the opportunity to come along with any concerns they may have
   • If there’s a 999 call from Lowick PC Morton is the first to know about it. He pointed out that 999 is for emergencies and 101 should be used for non emergencies.
   • He advised that valuables, such as Satnav should not be left visible in cars
   • A new office is being set up in Ponteland to help to tackle internet fraud PC Morton requested that a copy of the minutes is sent to him and that he is notified of meeting dates – these requests were agreed to.
JA Huddart thanked PC Morton for attending the meeting

7. Planning Application: Application No: 12/02924/FUL: Conservatory to rear of property, 93 Main Street, Lowick. RJD Watkin declared an interest and took no part in the discussions. There were no comments to make. RJD Watkin clarified that if a Parish Councillor declares an interest they can still vote.

8. Matters to report on potholes, repairs/maintenance to highways, street lights etc
   - High Steads road – potholes
   - Cheviot View – Potholes on Common side
   - Mrs S Graham reported that a fence has been removed near a ravine, clerk to check on hedge laws through Liz Donaldson

9. Correspondence
   - Emergency contacts – JA Huddart and A Gold
   - Area Committee North – RJD Watkin will represent Lowick Parish Council
   - Public Access Live – if there are problems we will get a hard copy. RJD Watkin pointed out that if the plans online aren’t clear enough to be seen the consultation will not have been correctly carried out. RJD Watkin also pointed out that if the County Council didn’t meet their targets planning decisions would be taken from them
   - JA Huddart and the clerk agreed to attend the meeting on 29th November regarding the transfer of services
   - NALC Annual Report received
   - It was agreed to make a donation of £50 to the Great North Air Ambulance

10. Any other business
    - The poppy wreath has been received, and a cheque for £27 signed to pay for it
    - It was noted that there are 5 candidates in the police commissioner elections
    - Church Lane – RJD Watkin is checking with the planners to see who is responsible for final topping on the road

11. Date of next meeting – 17th January 2013

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm