A meeting of Lowick Parish Council was held on 21st November 2013 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present: JA Huddart, Mrs A Worlock, SA Mather, Mrs LA Bradbury, P Hanson, Councillor RJD Watkin and 5 members of Fenwick Parish Council

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting

2. Apologies for absence were received from Mrs MA Bell, Mrs S Graham, W Perks

3. Declaration of Interest – none

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

5. Matters Arising – possible merger with Fenwick Parish Council before the next elections. Discussion on this matter took place with the members of Fenwick Parish Council who were present at the meeting.
   - Hugh Leyland asked if a merger had ever happened before and he also asked what Lowick Parish Council’s thoughts were. JA Huddart asked if any Lowick Parish Councillor’s thought it was a bad idea
   - H Leyland thought a merger would benefit Fenwick as it would be part of a larger/more active Parish Council. Fenwick has 2 wards – Fenwick and Berrington
   - RJD Watkin thought the system would be fairly simple and perhaps an informal referendum could be held – Fenwick would not need to stay as 2 wards
   - RJD Watkin suggested the possibility of sounding Bowsden out with regard to the Berrington part of Fenwick PC.
   - It would be necessary to find out how many parish councillors would be the correct number
   - Fenwick precept is £1700, they pay to keep the hall going from the precept. The hall is well maintained but doesn’t have disabled access. If it was sold the money would have to go to a local charity
   - JA Huddart wondered if the future of the hall should be decided on before the merger was pursued. Fenwick Parish Councillors are trustees of the hall.
   - On principle both Parish Councils are in favour of the merger
   - JA Huddart suggested that initially we should do a survey to see the reaction from the community and also check out the legalities with the County Council. The feeling is that Berrington might like a boundary review and perhaps talk to Bowsden Parish Council to outline thoughts. Fenwick Parish Councillors left the meeting

Bastle Corner – unveiling of the name plaque on 7th December followed by refreshments

The Public Access Defibrillator is ordered

Interactive Speed Signs – an email received regarding moving them. Questions were asked with regard to maintenance and length of guarantee

Gardening Club – initial meeting is planned for 25th November

6. Community Award Nominations – Parish Councillors were very pleased with the number of nominations involving a wide range of nominees. Following discussion it was decided that the first recipients would be Lynsey Pitman and Maureen Scott from the Village Store and Anne Waite for all her work with Lowick in Bloom. Unfortunately the Parish Council were unable to make an award to anyone under 18 this year.

7. Eastern Borders Development Association Award – RJD Watkin took no part in this discussion as he is a member of the judging panel. It was decided to nominate Bookless Motors

8. Finance – precept for 2014/15 – The clerk confirmed that the current precept is £1545 and that following current planned expenditure the balance for the year would be £1300. It was decided to set the precept for 2014/15 at £1750. £17.61 wayleave payment received from Scottish Power

9. Local Development Framework – documents received

10. Severe weather arrangements – requests for volunteers to help in the case of severe weather to be included in the newsletter
11. County Councillor’s Report – RJD Watkin reported that they are still trying to get on top of the potholes. He also said that there has been a small pot of money made available to take photos of the orange glow from Edinburgh and Newcastle as over the next few years it will go as the street lights change. Students from Ashington Tech are taking the project on. Councillor Watkin was asked about the passing places on the road to Holburn, he said he was unenforceable to have them put in.

12. Correspondence
   • War Memorial Trust – passed to the Heritage Group via P Hanson
   • Planning permission granted for the extension of time limit for a proposed first floor extension – 42 Main Street, Lowick. Planning permission also granted for an extension to the planning permission granted for the conversion of farm buildings to form 6 dwellings at East Holburn Farm
   • Invitation to comment on CAP reform – RJD Watkin commented that most farmers spend CAP money in Northumberland
   • A representative from Force 9 energy will attend the January meeting to talk about the Community Fund
   • No one wished to attend a Norham and Islandshires meeting to discuss the Local Development Framework and it was suggested that a letter be sent to formally request that the money is either divided between the parishes or returned to the County Council
   • Peregrini Project – P Hanson said he would attend the meeting

13. Any other business
   • Over hanging ivy is obstructing the footpath at no 5 Main Street – clerk to contact Neil Howie
   • JA Huddart commented that the traffic is getting worse outside the shop and the bus is stopping there in the morning instead of the bus stop – clerk to contact school transport
   • JA Huddart took some photos of the school children at the War Memorial, he commented that he thought it was very selfish of the school not to tell the rest of the community
   • Grain lorries are again parking outside the silo gates before they are open
   • Concerns regarding diverted traffic from the A1 following an accident

14 Date of next meeting – 16th January 2014

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25pm

16th January 2014