LOWICK PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Lowick Parish Council was held on 17th October 2013 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present: JA Huddart, Mrs MA Bell, W Perks, SA Mather, Mrs S Graham, Mrs F Burn, Mrs A Worlock, P Hanson, Mrs LA Bradley, Councillor RJD Watkin and Mr A Fairbairn (Football Club)

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting

2. There were no apologies for absence

3. RJD Watkin declared an interest in the planning application

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

5. Matters Arising
   - P Hanson reported that the sign for Bastle Corner has been received and a date is being arranged for the unveiling
   - JA Huddart has spoken to H Leyland and invited him to the next meeting

6. Public Access Defibrillator – the meeting held earlier in the month to demonstrate the defibrillator and CPR training was well attended.

A Fairbairn reported that he had spoken to D McEwan from the Stephen Carey Fund (Stephen and was 21 and died playing football). The Fund was started in an attempt to install defibrillators into local football clubs. A Fairbairn and another member of the football club attended a first aid course organised by the Fund. Lowick is a priority and D McEwan said the Fund was happy to pay 50% of the cost of buying a defibrillator, A Fairbairn said the Football Club was willing to forward the other 50% now so that the machine could be ordered more quickly. A Fairbairn also stated that Mrs L Pitman from the Village Store is willing to act as Guardian for the defibrillator and she is also happy for it to be on the wall of the shop. There is a collecting tin on the counter in the shop and there is already £50 in it. Mrs LA Bradbury said that she runs a darts and dominoes fund raiser every Christmas in memory of her father and this year the money raised will go towards the defibrillator and the Football Club would be reimbursed.

The Ambulance Service will offer CPR training courses in the village and they are also visiting the school in November. JA Huddart said the Parish Council could be responsible for maintaining the CPR training and Mrs A Worlock stressed how essential it is to administer CPR immediately and that she would not recommend the paediatric pad.

A Fairbairn was thanked for attending and left the meeting

7. Lowick in Bloom – JA Huddart introduced Richard Black and invited him to update the Parish Council on the outcome of the AGM. JA Huddart outlined the Parish Council’s interest and how it might be able to assist Lowick in Bloom in moving forward.

R Black said that the AGM had reflected on a successful year but that the main committee members wanted a rest as there is a huge amount of work involved to achieve what is necessary for the Northumbria in Bloom judges. There had been no candidates for any of the committee positions and discussions had centred on how to move forward. One suggestion had been to form a gardening club which would, hopefully, generate interest without trying to win a gold award.

A suggestion made to R Black was that people could become responsible for certain sections of the village and perhaps some more permanent planting. R Black felt that there would still need to be someone in overall charge to keep things going in the right direction. R Black said that he was willing to chair a meeting of a possible gardening club in November and that many people were keen to do some work. Mrs A Worlock said that she thought a lot of people were very positive at the AGM.
JA Huddart said he thought a gardening club would have the impetus to go on and suggested the first meeting could perhaps have a speaker to interest people. He also pointed out that the other side of Lowick in Bloom was Christmas and the Christmas tree and the cold weather programme. JA Huddart said that the Parish Council could organise an alternative scheme and that Glanton have a scheme which includes path clearing/dog walking.

R Black said that Lowick in Bloom accounts carry forward a balance. Mrs A Worlock said the current treasurer was happy to continue to sign cheques. RJD Watkin thought the financial situation should be sorted out as soon as possible. R Black was thanked for his attendance and left the meeting.

8. **Speed Signs** – There was discussion relating to the possibility of having software installed in the sign which would enable data to be collected with regard to the speed vehicles are travelling at when entering the village. RJD Watkin asked how easy the data was to obtain from the proposed signs. P Hanson suggested that the data could be analysed and passed to the police. A Worlock asked if there was anywhere else which had data collection as she felt the only use for the data would be if it was correctly used. RJD Watkin said that if there was still a feeling that there was a speed problem the County Council could put in a speed monitor check. RJD Watkin said that Lowick would be the first in the County to have data logging. P Hanson agreed to collect the data.

9. **Community Service Award** – it was agreed to have 2 awards, one for age 18 and under and one for over 18. JA Huddart agreed to look into a prize. The award would be for service within the Parish and nominations would be considered at the November Parish Council meeting

10. **PC Alan Morton’s report** – PC Morton was unable to attend the meeting but he reported that there had been problems with poachers in the area and 4 people had recently been arrested, their equipment confiscated and they were to appear in court.

11. **Planning Applications** – RJD Watkin declared an interest in this item

   - Application Ref: 13/03007/FUL : Conversion of existing store building to residential for purposes of holiday accommodation : Building west of Holburn Mill Farmhouse
   - Application Ref: 13/02854/FUL : Extension of the existing sun lounge incorporating a double door on to the garden : 50A Main Street, Lowick

Following discussions it was decided to support both these applications

12. **County Councillor’s Report** – RJD Watkin said that there will be trouble with the budget next year as the County Council has to save £40 million. He went on to say that £4 million will have to be raised because of the free parking and there will be difficult decisions to take. He went on to say that OFSTED has been critical of Northumberland schools but he thought that the governor’s work load is too high. JA Huddart commented that with such severe cutbacks the time will come when things won’t happen. RJD Watkin said that street lights are being replaced by LED lights over the next few years.

13. **Matters to report on potholes, repairs/maintenance to highways/street lights etc** – Mrs S Graham reported that the road to Holburn Grange is in very bad condition, not helped by the heavy traffic using it. RJD Watkin said the Planning Committee would shortly be doing a site visit with regard to the wind turbines and he will go up that road.

14. **Correspondence**

   - Request from the Air Ambulance for a donation – it was agreed to give £50
   - GRACE rape crises information – received
   - Dr Mike Quinn re housing survey – received
   - EBDA Award – to be discussed at the next meeting

15. **Security on Speed Sign** – the clerk agreed to find out about this

16. **Date of next meeting – 21st November 2013**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30pm

_________________ 21st November 2013