LOWICK PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Lowick Parish Council was held on Monday 1st September at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present: JA Huddart (Chairman), Mrs A Worlock, Mrs MA Bell, Mrs L Bradbury, W Perks, Mrs S Graham, SA Mather, P Hanson, Councillor RJD Watkin, M Butson (solicitor to the Colgan family) and 17 members of the public

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting

2. Apologies for absence were received from Mrs F Burn

3. Declaration of Interest – RJD Watkin declared an interest in the planning application, as he is Chairman of the Planning Committee he can listen to discussions but can’t take part in them

4. Lowick Common – the Chairman decided to discuss this item early in the meeting so that members of the public attending because of their interest could then leave the meeting if they wished.

JA Huddart outlined discussions to date, he said that these had taken place over the last 3 years over parking and access to the field. The case is currently before a tribunal but this has been suspended to see if all parties can reach an agreement without any further legal expense. Representatives from the interested parties were in attendance at the meeting and the Parish Council has now been conscripted as a respondent by the adjudicator.

JA Huddart went on to say that there has been much debate regarding the boundary/use of the road. The road has been a means of access to the houses since 1825, the Common has a long history and the road has historic use. In 1979 an easement was granted to Lowick silos for Burnhouse to be built. The Common was passed to Lowick Parish Council in 1965, not Northumberland County Council.

Mrs Taylor submitted a request to register the land in front of her house for parking, the Parish Council was consulted and didn’t oppose this request. The Colgans’ thought access to their field would be compromised and they also widened the bridge to the field from 8ft to 15ft.

Mr Huddart continued that it was now time to look at the present situation, to see what people felt/think and to come up with what could be the best solution. The Colgans have access to the field but feel that if the cars are parked in the front of the houses it makes it difficult for farm vehicles to pass so they would like to widen the road to accommodate everyone. The Tribunal judge has commented that as farm machinery is now larger a wider space is needed.

Guided by the Tribunal judge the households have agreed that the Common boundary can be moved 3ft to give them parking space and access to the field for farm vehicles – subject to the Parish Council’s agreement.

M Butson said that it was not feasible for the access to be purely for agricultural use as other cars/cycles/amenity vehicles etc would use the road, but the Parish Council felt that to widen the road was specifically for wider agricultural vehicles

It was suggested that the drains should be surveyed and consideration given as to what damage heavy farm vehicles would cause – the Land Registry issue it only in front of nos 1 and 2 the Common.

It was commented that agricultural vehicles have a big impact on road surfaces and the Parish Council have asked for repayment in kind for agreement, eg road to Community Orchard, Football Club field. M Butson commented that the Colgans are very supportive of the Football Club and will continue to support them, but that issue will remain between the Colgans and the Football Club. As Grant of Probate has not yet been issued no decision can be made regarding the footpath.

Concerns were expressed regarding a possible precedent being set and other parts of the Common could be taken. JA Huddart and Mrs A Worlock will respond to the Land Registry letter.
3 members of the public left but others remained as they were interested in the planning application

5. **Planning Application** – Application No: Ref: 14/01679/FUL : Proposed residential development of 8no detached dwelling houses : Land at South Road, Lowick (amended plan)  JA Huddart summarised the Parish Council’s response to the first application. With regard to the amended plan

- it was felt that the new access route makes the field very vulnerable to future development
- the new access is very near the Common which would result in an increase in traffic near a recreational area
- traffic would be pulling onto South Road which is very narrow

All members of the public left the meeting

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

7. **Matters Arising**

- P Hanson had been in contact with the County Council footpaths officer with regard to the footpath at Hunting Hall, but doesn’t know if/when it will be fixed
- School transport – replies have been received but it doesn’t appear that anyone is willing to do anything – the matter is still being pursued and Glendale and Lowick governors are still to consider the request for change
- Norham & Islandshires refund – an email had been received stating that consideration would also have to be given to money being refunded to the parish councils which had made an additional contribution
- Listed building consent – withdrawn
- The Holburn Grange passing places have been installed
- Black Bull – the new owners have challenged to community asset registration saying that Northumberland County Council haven’t used the correct procedures in registering it and they are trying to overturn the registration

7. **Neighbourhood Plan** – P Hanson had attended a meeting regarding this. The question was asked should a Parish Council do a Neighbourhood Plan before the County Council produce a Local Development Framework. JA Huddart proposed that the Parish Council just do their own plan and not join the Norham and Islandshires plan. RJD Watkin said D English should be able to produce a template guidance for individual parishes and that the County Council would give some help.

8. **Speed Indicators** – P Hanson reported that when the sign was covered there was no difference in speeds but from week 4 onwards there was a slight reduction in speeds. P Hanson circulated the data he’d collected to date on the speeds and he commented that he thought the evidence should be shown to the police. JA Huddart said he thought more evidence should be gathered. The indicators are currently set at 66mph but P Hanson will turn them down to 40mph but they will still record motorists travelling faster than that.

9. **Water on Main Street** – P Hanson has reported leaks. Northumbrian Water have been out and repaired them and have installed a meter to monitor any further leaks, especially as heavy loads are due to come through the village.

10. **Correspondence**

Local Transport Plan – it was agreed to submit the following requests

- Potholes on the High Steads road
- Resurfacing of the road from the A1 to Black Heddons cross roads
- Surface improvements to the footpath from Barmoor Corner to the vicarage
- Footpaths in the village

NALC subscription agreed

Surprise was expressed at receipt of a letter stating that the clothing bin is not well used as it appears well used and often clothing is left beside it
11. **Any other business**

Community Fund – Mrs A Worlock expressed concern that the Chairman of the panel might be from outside the community. The Community Foundation are going to produce job descriptions for the Chairman and panel members but a Chairman will be appointed once the panel is chosen. Panel membership will change over the 20 year existence of the fund.

Windfarm Liaison Group – P Hanson attended a recent meeting. He reported there had been a trial run to see if the trailer could navigate Barmoor Corner. The run had been expected at 2.00pm but came at 12 noon. RJD Watkin said that it had been pointed out at the liaison meeting that no one had been told when the convoy was expected and it was dependent on the availability of the police escort. It was thought that when the full loads came through all would be more organised.

SA Mather questioned whether there should be a No Smoking sign in the bus shelter, he also reported that the fence was damaged in the play park and children could get into the field.

Mrs A Worlock said Mrs Y Cryar had contacted her regarding the fact that her parents live next door to the former Church of Scotland building and are having problems with rodent infestation – probably from the rubble near the building which is also causing a footpath hazard. Mrs Worlock to contact the Enforcement Officer.

12. Date of next meeting – 16th October 2014

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.45pm

16th October 2014