LOWICK PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Lowick Parish Council was held on 21st September 2017 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present: JA Huddart, Mrs A Worlock, SA Mather, Mrs L Bradbury, S Hanson, Mrs MA Bell, Mrs S Graham, Mrs F Burn, W Perks Curtis Ritchie and Sean Riley (Wooler Police), R O’Rourke (Chairman, Lowick First School Governors)

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting

2. There were no apologies for absence

3. There were no declarations of interest

4. PCs Ritchie and Curtis were welcomed in the absence of the Lowick Community Police Officer (Will Munro). Parish Councillors expressed their concerns about the lack of a police presence when traffic is diverted from the A1. It was explained that the County Council have signs which should be in place in case of diversions – County Council to be contacted. Concerns were also expressed about the speed of vehicles through the village – although P Hanson sends the information to the police every month, PCs Ritchie and Curtis were not aware of this. They were thanked for their attendance and left the meeting

5. The Chairman welcomed Rob O’Rourke, Chairman of Lowick First School Governors who updated Parish Councillors on changes at the school.
   • Mrs Vanson had resigned as Head teacher in Spring 2017 and a full time head is to be recruited, the job to be advertised soon
   • Executive Head Mrs Elsey who is in school 3 days a week will remain until the new head takes up his/her post (early April).
   • The new changes made by Mrs Elsey have been good, the OFSTED inspection in 2010 rated the school as outstanding, R O’Rourke thought that if an inspection had been carried out in Spring 2017 if would have resulted in a “requires improvement” rating, it would now be rated as “good”. He went on to say that the chances of being “Outstanding” again as it is very difficult to achieve. An inspection is due at any time
   • Mrs Fieldhouse was suspended and won’t be returning
   • There is to be a change with the link to Holy Island School to make it a hard federation. Holy Island only has one pupil, Lowick 26. The schools will have separate budgets but one governing body, there is to be a consultation soon
   • The Early Years Unit is to be privatised, Kerry Bone will run this, probably from Christmas. If the unit is run by the school a qualified teacher and one assistant is required, if it is privately run it is not necessary to have a qualified teacher. The unit will always be part of the school and children will still come into school for lunch. Kerry Bone to be invited to a meeting to see where the Parish Council could help. The school will provide the building and fuel costs plus resources.
   • R O’Rourke commented that the school had concerns about the speed of vehicles passing the school. The clerk to contact our County Councillor R. Lawrie for an update on his investigation into the possibility of 20mph through the village and also to ask about the possibility of flashing school warning lights to be installed

JA Huddart thanked R O’Rourke for attending the meeting and said the Parish Council is looking forward to again working closely with the school. R O’Rourke left the meeting

6. Minutes of previous meeting – these were agreed as being correct
7. **Matters Arising** – concerns were expressed with regard to the repair of the church wall, mattresses are on graves and the wall is not being built to its original height – PCC to be contacted. JA Huddart will ask the PCC if there is anything the Parish Council can do.

No updates had been received from County Councillor R Lawrie with regard to the matters he was looking into.

8. **Planning Application** : Ref: 17/01571/FUL : Proposal to use existing shepherd’s hut on land at top of garden for holiday let : 87B Main Street, Lowick
   - The Parish Council had not been consulted on original application
   - Parish Councillors are aware that the hut is already in use, services are already installed so it is not moveable

9. **Finance** – it was agreed that the clerk could be registered as a cheque signatory, this would enable her to obtain bank balance details from the bank if necessary

10. **Neighbourhood Plan** – JA Huddart is applying for locality money to be spent by April. The Neighbourhood Plan will also have a presence at the Heritage Group weekend undertaking a building survey

11. **Matters to report on potholes, repairs/maintenance to street lights, highways etc** – mud and gravel on the road towards Holburn, the hedges have not yet been cut back on this road

12. **Interactive Speed Signs** - P Hanson had previously circulated the data

13. **Any other business**
   - Parish Councillors agreed JA Huddart’s proposed website article with regard to the Common
   - P Hanson to investigate the cost of registering land with the Land Registry
   - Proposed pinfold on the Common – being adjacent to the highway it should be no higher than a metre. It was agreed to pay £30 for planning advice
   - Mrs S Graham reported that a consultation regarding the future of Belford Middle School had started again and that the Middle School will probably close in July 2018
   - Planning permission granted for Holburn Mill Cottage

14. **Date of next meeting** – 19th October 2017

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10pm

____________________

19th October 2017