A meeting of Lowick Parish Council was held on Thursday 10th January 2019 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall

Present: JA Huddart, S Mather, P Hanson, Mrs S Graham, Mrs F Burn, Mrs L Bradbury, J Daniels (Neighbourhood Plan), A Dean (Community Action Northumberland)

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting

2. Apologies for absence were received from Mrs MA Bell, Mrs A Worlock, Ms R Maitland, Ms J Ludman (Neighbourhood Plan)

3. The first part of the meeting was devoted to the Neighbourhood Plan
JA Huddart welcomed A Dean from CAN who have carried out Housing Needs Assessments on behalf of councils who are preparing Neighbourhood Plans.

4. JA Huddart outlined the current housing planning permissions within the parish. He also said he had been in discussions with landowners who owned land around the village. The Parish Council doesn’t see signs of decline in the village, but P Hanson commented that young people are leaving the village because of the lack of affordable housing, and young families are needed to keep the school vibrant.

A Dean explained that CAN had been involved in community led housing funded by Northumberland County Council and one project they are involved with is housing needs surveys. 4 surveys have been carried out around the county which the County Council have been happy with, this is important.

A Dean then outlined the process for the Housing Needs Assessment which CAN is involved with
- A questionnaire is distributed to all households by post or by hand to be returned, anonymously, by post, preference was expressed for an sae to be provided for returning forms. These returns are then analysed
- He said there had been a decent response to the surveys done so far, Lesbury 55%, Wooler 35% with Embleton lower at 30%
- J Daniels asked about homelessness – A Dean said this was much hidden in the countryside but was definitely there but very unreported.
- The suggested questionnaire was talked through and A Dean will provide a draft questionnaire to incorporate the points raised
- JA Huddart asked Parish Councillors if they thought there was a need to undertake this survey and received a unanimous positive response
- A Dean will send a quote for the work and it was decided that the questionnaire would be distributed by Parish Councillors so that any concerns raised could be discussed
- JA Huddart agreed to write a covering letter from the Parish Council to accompany the questionnaire which will be sent to CAN

5. Discussion then followed on the green spaces to be included in the plan and J Daniels agreed to progress biodiversity. JA Huddart circulated a plan of the historic core of the village

J Daniels and A Dean were thanked for their attendance and left the meeting
6. Minutes of previous meeting – these were agreed as being correct

7. Matters Arising  P Hanson reported that he’s still chasing Barry Wilson regarding the trees at the Village Hall. P Hanson also said that he’s chasing up the possibility of 20mph through the village. JA Huddart commented that there had been a very successful service at the War Memorial on Armistes Day

8. Planning Application – Ref: 18/04391/FUL : Single storey extension, 5 Laverock Law, Lowick S Mather commented that it was a fine example of what fits into the countryside and it blends with other dwellings and surrounding area. There were no objections to this application.

9. Bus Shelter – Ms R Maitland is working on improvements and plans to involve Lowick First School pupils. It’s hoped that the roof sheets can be taken off whole and then replaced

10. Finance – after much discussion it was decided to set the precept for 2019/20 at £4000.

11. Play Park – it was agreed that Northumberland County Council continue to carry out inspections

12. Pinfold – JA Huddart reported that J Lamb had offered to donate all the stone needed to build it. JA Huddart has been in touch with Ivor Scott re building the Pinfold

13. Tree on the Common – Mrs F Burn said she would ask her son if it was possible for him to cut down the overhanging limbs.

14. Interactive speed signs – P Hanson said the sign at the Vicarage is not showing the speeds but still recording them – he would try to reduce the humidity in the control box to see if that helped

15. Matters to report on potholes, repairs/maintenance to highways/street lights etc – light at Green Close. JA Huddart said that it was very dark in the area and wondered it another street light would be possible. Mrs L Bradbury also commented that it was also very dark along Cheviot View

16. Correspondence – launch of advice hub at Hospice Care

17. Any other business – Film night – JA Huddart said this has been moved to the last Tuesday of the month, and asked if P Hanson could help out with the showing of the film at the end of January

18. Date of next meeting – Thursday 21st January 2019

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20pm

21st February 2019