

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 17th June 2014 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.30pm.

Present: Councillors L. Rowland (Chair), A. Blacker, J. Gale, A. Green, R. Grogan, E. Hindmoor, M. Hird, L. Rowland, P. Stokes and C. Umpelby.

Also Present: G. F. Smith (Clerk)

Apologies: Councillor L. Brown, County Councillor J. Hart and PC M. Rutherford (Durham Police)

087/14 Declaration of interest

Councillor Hindmoor – agenda item 18a(1) Clerk’s Report
Councillor Stokes - agenda item 18 a (2) Clerk’s Report
Councillor Hird - agenda item 18 d Clerk’s Report

088/14 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 20th May 2014

Minute AGM 07/14 Unaudited Expenditure
Admin/Gen should read £636.58
Allotment should read £1276.75
Vat should read £804.97
Total remains the same £32037.51
Minute AGM 10/14 Register of Assets
Copy circulated at the meeting; total £6935.00
Minute AGM 11/14 Risk Assessment Statement
Copy circulated at the meeting
Subject to the above amendments the minutes were agreed as a true record and should be signed by the Chair.

089/14 Minutes of a the Ordinary meeting held on 20th May 2014

The minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

09014 Matters arising

None

091/14 Police Report

No report received.

092/14 County Councillor Report

No report received

093/14 Representation by Residents

None

094/14 Planning matters

A) Planning Application - None
B) Neighbourhood Plan – No further update

095/14 Accounts for payment
Members gave approval for the payment of vouchers 15 to 21 in the sum of £2512.50. Copy of report attached to these minutes

096/14 Annual Return for year ended 31st March 2014
A) Section 1 – Accounting Statement for 2013/14
B) Section 2 – Annual Governance Statement for 2013/14 answering **yes** to questions 1 to 9
C) Section 4 – Annual Internal Audit Report for 2013/14
D) Statement of Accounts from 1st April to 31st March 2014

Details	(£.p)
Balance as at 1st April 2013	£8,490.81
Precept	£32,567.00
Other Income	£7,742.46
Less Expenditure	£32,038.11
Balance as at 31st March 2014	<u>£16,762.16</u>
Bank Statement as at 31st March 2014	£17,199.96
Less 5 unpresented cheques	£437.80
Balance as at 31 st March 2014	£16,762.16

097/14 Tow Law Town Plan
A) Car Park
Details of Head of Terms for Lease of Land received from DCC
Members were not happy with some of the details and requested the Clerk to contact the County Councillor (John Hart) to re –negotiate the Terms.
B) Play Areas
Councillor Rowland updated the meeting, work on funding application forms to commence in July/August. Members agreed to review the present arrangements for the Council’s Web Site at their next meeting. This would benefit the consultation events for the proposed Play areas.
c) Item to be removed from the agenda (updates in Clerk’s Report).

098/14 Area Action Partnership
Meeting dates for 2014/15 previously circulated.
Item to be removed from the Agenda (Updates in Chair’s/Clerk’s Report).

099/14 Millennium Green Trust
Members agreed the following:-

- Nominate the Millennium Green Volunteer Group for the County Durham Environment Award.
- Item to be removed from the Agenda (Update in Members Report)

100/14 Commemorating Centenary of 1st World War
No further update

- 101/14 Tow Law War Memorial**
 The Clerk circulated a letter received from Colin Hayton, 44 Atlee Estate regarding damage to the structure which is in need of urgent attention. Damage to the structure due to heavy traffic passing close by (Vibrations). Damage to the Inscriptions (renaming required). Need for a heavy wire around the base to accommodate the tying on of the wreaths. The letter had been copied to Durham County Council and County Councillor John Hart.
 Members agreed that the above repairs were essential and would await the response from the County Council (responsible Authority) and to discuss this matter at the next Town Council meeting.
- 102/14 Chairman's report**
 Priorities for the next few months:-
- Funding applications
 - Council Web Site
- 103/14 Clerk's Report**
- A) Funding Application forms for RWE Innogy UK Ltd Community Fund (previously N-Power Community Fund)
- Application from Tommy Spencer Hindmoor
Councillor Hindmoor left the meeting while this item was discussed
 Members agreed to invite him to the next Town Council meeting
 - Application from Paul Robert George Stokes
Councillor Stokes left the meeting while this item was discussed
 Members agreed not to support this application
 - Application from St. Josephs Tow Law Organ Restoration Committee
 Members agreed to invite a committee member to the next Town Council meeting.
- B) Banner for Tow Law
 Members agreed to invite Janine Ross Blakey to the next Town Council meeting to bring along the replica of the original Black Prince Banner and reserve a cheque for £100 (£50 from the Town Council and £50 from County Councillor John Hart) towards the costs of the Banners (minute 022/14 dated 18th February 2014).
- C) Land at Tow Law
 Clerk reported that he had received an e-mail from Jill Angus (DCC) regarding the land near Millennium Green "with regard to the land that the Town Council was in the process of purchasing from the County Council, shown on the attached plan. I have checked our records and the sale file was closed in 2008 due to lack of progress".
- D) Tow Law Millennium Primary School Fundraising Committee
 Application for funding to erect a climbing structure in the foundation stage playground.
 Members voted (7 for 2 against) to support this application subject to receiving satisfactory Health & Safety (risk assessment) statements. This Item is to be discussed at the next Town Council meeting.

104/14

Members Reports

A) Membership to DCC Scrutiny Committee (Councillor Grogan)
Councillor Grogan was unsuccessful with his application. He did recommend that the Town Council write to the County Council asking for further information/data on a report dated May 2014 on “children in low – income families local measure (previously know as child poverty)”, with particular reference to Tow Law. Also asking who provided the Official figures for the report (no references) and also figures for 2012/13 and 2013/14 (missing)
Members agreed for the Clerk to write to DCC regarding the above mentioned matter of concern.

B) Planning event (CDALC) 30th July 2014 (Councillor Stokes)
Councillor Stokes requested to attend the above training event, Members agreed for the Clerk to make the necessary arrangements.

C) Millennium Green (Councillor Hird)
Beavers Group have planted wild flowers on the green.

D) Bus services to/from Tow Law (Councillor Blacker)
Item to be referred to DCC and County Councillor John Hart.

E) CCTV System – Tow Law (Councillor Blacker)
Police not at the meeting but it is understood that the system is fully operational

F) Bee-Hive Coke Ovens – strimming (Councillor Gale)
Members agreed for the area to be cut 3 times a year and for the Clerk/Councillors to obtain quotations from local contractors to carry out this work as a matter of urgency and report any actions to the next Town Council meeting

105/14

Date of next meeting

Date of the next ordinary meeting will be Tuesday 15th July 2014 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.30pm.

The meeting finished at 8.45pm

Signed by the Chairman.....page 4