

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 21st February 2017 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.30pm.

Present: Councillors J. Gale (Chair), A. Blacker, M. Hird, A. Lamb, T. McFadden and P. Stokes.

Also Present: C. Batson (Resident) and G. F. Smith (Clerk)

020/17 Apologies

Councillor J. Fowler
Councillor R. Grogan (unwell)
Councillor F. Nichol
County Councillor J. Hart

021/17 Declaration of interest

Councillor **Hird** declared an interest in item **5** – Community Fund (application)

022/17 Minutes of a the Ordinary meeting held on 17th January 2017

Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman

023/17 Matters Arising

- **Tow Law Play Area**
Still awaiting response from Natural England
- **CCTV in Tow Law** - Order placed - (lead-in 2 months)
- **Land at Tow Law** - No further progress

024/17 Neighbourhood planning – setting up a workshop

Clerk to arrange a suitable meeting date with the two Officers from Durham County Council (Mr Lowe and Mr Carter)

025/17 Millennium Green (Special Report)

The Clerk raised a number of Incidents that had recently happened on Millennium Green: -

- Damage/vandalism/ graffiti to “Peacock” seat
- Litter in the trees (alcohol cans/bottles)
- Damage/ replacing dog bins by Durham County Council

Members agreed to continue with the project to install play equipment on Millennium Green and to report to the next PACT meeting for the Police to increase presence in Tow Law.

026/17 Police/PACT Report – No further updates

027/17 County Councillor Report

The Clerk read out an email from County Councillor Hart: -

- Setting the budget/precept for the forthcoming year
- Investment in play area, Pennine View (funding agreed)
- New lighting at Trex Gym (funding agreed)

- 028/17 N- Power Community Fund (New Applications)**
The following applications were read out by the Clerk: -
- Tow Law Lunch Club – Trip to Beamish for Members of the Lunch Club In April/May to subsidise transport, admissions and Lunch. Members agreed to donate £250 towards this application from the fund.
 - Tow Law Community Association – Family Trip to South Shields during the summer Holidays (2nd August). Members agreed to donate £250 towards this application from the fund.
 - Castle Bank Care Home – Day Trip for Residents (care home) to Beamish in June catering for the elderly and disabled. Members agreed to donate £250 towards this application from the fund.
Tow law Community Choir – Funds for the running costs of this organisation.
Members agreed to donate £250 towards this application from the fund.
- 029/17 Representation by Residents – None**
- 030/17 The Council Newsletter**
Mr Rider not available, Clerk to arrange another suitable date.
Newsletter to be published in March.
- 031/17 Chairman’s Report**
- Thank you to Brian and Cllr J. Fowler for installing the New Council notice boards (free of charge)
 - Letter received from Christine A. Wilson confirming her resignation from the Town Council.
 - Replacement leaflet holder in Greggs (now in the shop).
- 032/17 Planning matters - None**
- 033/17 Accounts for payment**
Members gave approval for the payment of vouchers 76 to 80 in the sum of £1692.40
- 034/17 Christmas Activities 2017**
The Friends of Tow Law are working with the Clerk and County Council regarding electricity supply for tree/motifs for lampposts in High Street, further updates at the next meeting.
- 035/17 Planting trees in Tow Law**
Councillor Lamb requested that this matter be deferred to the next Town Council meeting.
- 036/17 Repairs to Play Areas in Tow Law**
Councillor Lamb requested information on ownership of play areas in Tow Law. The Clerk agreed to produce a report on this ongoing matter with Durham County Council for the next Town Council meeting.

037/17

Tow Law Millennium Green

Councillor Hird reported on concerns with drainage on Millennium Green. Members agreed for the following action: -

- Clerk to report again to National Coal Board to revisit the site and report to the Town Council
- Clerk to report again to Northumbrian Water to revisit the site and report to the Town Council
- Councillor Hird to obtain further quotations from drainage contractors and report to the Town Council.

038/17

Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on the following: -

- Copy of "Purdah – a short guide to publicity during the pre-election period produced by Local Government Association (February 2017) available from the Clerk.

039/17

Members Reports

Councillor Lamb: -

- Use of Millennium Green on 20th August 2017 for the 30th Anniversary Celebrations by Community Association (Jenny Flynn and C. A. Committee).
Members agreed for Millennium Green to be used for this event
- Use of Council's notice board for local organisations

Councillor Stokes: -

- Beehive Coke Ovens – sign disappeared
- Ongoing discussions with DCC regarding 81A High Street (legal issues)

Councillor McFadden: -

- New Council Notice Boards (problems with locks)
- Slow down/bends road signs at High Street (DCC issue)

Councillor Blacker: -

- Fly Tipping at Inkerman
- Light off at entrance to Community Centre

040/17

Date of next meeting

The next Ordinary meeting will be held on Tuesday 21st March 2017 commencing at 6.30pm in the Community Centre, Tow Law.

The meeting finished at 8.05pm

Signed by the Chairman.....page 3