

## TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2016 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.30pm.**

**Present:** Councillors J. Gale (Chairman), T. Batson, A. Blacker, J. Fowler, M. Hird T. McFadden, P. Stokes and C Wilson

**Also Present:** County Councillor J. Hart, G. Batson, (Resident) and G F Smith (Clerk),

- 062/16 Apologies**  
Councillor Grogan (Unwell)
- 063/16 Declaration of interest**  
Councillor Stokes declared an interest in agenda item 15 – telephone kiosk, Inkerman Road, Tow Law  
Councillor Fowler declared an interest in agenda item 14 – Trex Gymnasium  
Councillor Hird declared an interest in agenda item 16 – Millennium Green
- 064/16 Community Fund**  
(Applications/Preservations)  
The Clerk read out an application for N Power Community Funding from Jenny Mountain on behalf of the Art sessions (held at the Community Centre) to sustain a group of 14 participants who are really keen to carry on as an art group (meeting on a weekly basis).  
Members agreed to donate £250 towards the group activities.  
The Clerk read out an application for N Power Community Funding from Wear Jammin CIC to help advertise the new facility that has recently opened in the Community centre as a learning centre.  
Members agreed to defer any decision on this application and requested further information with regard to the organisation being a commercial enterprise.  
The Clerk read out an application for N Power Community Funding from Friends of Tow Law Community Group towards the cost of a Street Party to celebrate the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2016.  
Members agreed to donate £250 towards this group activity.  
The Clerk read out an application for funding from Citizens Advice County Durham towards the running costs of this organisation.  
Members agreed to defer this application to the next Town Council meeting.  
The Clerk read out an application for funding from County of Durham School Benevolent fund  
Members agreed to defer this application and for Councillor Hird to make further enquiries with the local schools.
- 065/16 Minutes of a the Ordinary meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2016**  
Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman
- 066/16 Minutes of a special meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2016**  
Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman
- 067/16 Matters Arising - None**

- 068/16 Appointment of two New Councillors**  
 A) Miss T. McFadden , 4 Deerness Estate, Tow Law  
 B) B) Miss C. A. Wilson, 65 Dan’s Castle, Tow Law  
 Both Councillors signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Councillor, countersigned by the Clerk and witnessed by those Councillors present at the meeting.  
 Register of Interest form were handed to each Councillor to complete and hand back to the Clerk, as soon as possible.
- 069/16 Police /Pact Report - None**
- 070/16 County Councillor Report**  
 County Councillor Hart reported on the following:-
- Play area funding forms
  - Play areas in Tow Law
  - CCTV (Update)
  - Planning application (Treasure Express)
  - Cattle Mart
  - Speeding motorist/use of matrix
  - Question and answer session:-
  - Sign for Church Lane
  - Double yellow line High Street
  - Bus shelter (Alma Terrace)
  - Play Area Strategy (DCC) - allocation of funding
- 071/16 Representation by Residents - None**
- 072/16 Chairman’s Report**
- Poverty Action Plan
- 073/16 Planning matters**
- 1) Planning Applications
- A) **DM/16/00965/FPA** by Mr S. Ravichandram for alterations to shop front, installation of roller shutter and installation of promotional panel to gable at Treasure Express, 81a High Street, Tow Law  
 The Clerk also read out a letter of objection by Councillor Stokes  
**Decision** – Members agreed to object to this application on points of laws and refer it to the Planning Committee for further consideration (voting 6 for the motion 1 abstention).
- B)DM/16/00798/FPA** by Alternative Energy Contracting Ltd for proposed new build development providing a workshop, storage and offices at land South of Alternative Energy Contracting Ltd, Inkerman Road, Tow Law  
**Decision – No objections to this application**
- C)The Clerk read out an e-mail from Stephen Reed, Development Manager, Durham County Council (Councillor Hart has requested clarification on planning notification and Parishes).  
 “There is nothing to prevent adjacent Parishes picking up on items of wider interest from the weekly list and making representations on borderline applications. The Constitution would allow a Parish Council to call an application to Planning Committee even if the application site area itself is not in the administrative area of the interested Parish Council.” The Members welcomed this latest information.
- 2) Neighbourhood Planning  
 Awaiting result of grant application

**074/16 Accounts for payment**  
Members gave approval for the payment of vouchers 1 to 5 in the sum of £2422.65. Copy of report attached to these minutes.

**075/16 Unaudited Expenditure report 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016**  
**The Members noted the report as follows:-**

<b>Details</b>	<b>£.p</b>
Staff Costs	16159.22
Admin Expenses	348.48
Office Rent	3600.00
Councillor/Staff Training	54.00
Allotments	225.83
Miscellaneous	2203.20
Community Fund	3000.00
Audit Fees	265.00
Donations	1069.25
Christmas Activities	1738.36
Vat	165.97
<b>Total</b>	<b>28829.31</b>

**076/16 Tow Law Trex Gymnasium**  
Councillor Fowler and County Councillor John Hart updated the members on a recent meeting with County Council Officers:-

- Councillor Hart to look at funding improved lighting on the outside of the building to help address the issue of locking the building at night.
- Culture and sport investigate whether it could deliver a children session with the relevant officers helping with locking up one night.
- To investigate reinstating the cctv system
- Provide (DCC) potential and associated costs

Members agreed to await details of the above before making any decision on this matter (but would like to support this project in some way to avoid possible closure).

**077/16 Telephone Kiosk, Inkerman Road**  
The Planning Officer (Mark O’Sullivan) has requested a written request for the use of the kiosk before giving a ruling on possible fees etc. Clerk to write the requested letter of pre-application

**078/16 Tow Law Millennium Green**  
Councillor Hird updated the meeting on the following:-

- Awaiting funding/report on bio-diversity
- Beavers/Cubs recently carried out a litter pick
- “Big Spring Clean” campaign to be arranged

**079/16 Proposed car park area in Tow Law**  
The Clerk reported:-

- AAP Funding Application form completed
- Communication from DCC regarding lease/purchase of land

Members agreed to register an Interest in purchasing the land (cost required). Also to “push –on” with this scheme as it may loose the funding (£20,000) already allocated by the AAP and Bank’s Group .

- 080/16 Councillor Vacancies**  
The Clerk reported:-
- The Public Notice expired 18<sup>th</sup> April, awaiting details from the Returning Officer
  - Application received from Fiona Nichol, 5 Elm Park Terrace, Tow Law DL13 4NH
  - Withdrawal of application by Mr W Lawton, 5 Atlee Court, Tow Law DL13 4NA
- Clerk to advise Members with updates.
- 081/16 New/replacement Council Notice Boards**  
Members agreed to supply new notice boards at:-  
The North Point  
Community Centre  
Dan's Castle  
High Street (opposite Co-op)  
Clerk and Councillor Fowler to make necessary arrangements and keep all Councillors up to date with progress
- 082/16 Clerk's Report**
- Precept 2016/17 (£37497.71) remittance advice received from DCC dated 5<sup>th</sup> April 2016
  - Timetable from External Auditors for the Annual Return for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016:-  
Internal Audit –May 2016  
Approve section one – May 2016  
Approve section two June meeting  
Exercise Public Rights commencing -16<sup>th</sup> June 2016  
Public Rights ends – 27<sup>th</sup> July 2016  
Return to Auditors – 4<sup>th</sup> July 2016  
Approval of accounts – by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016  
Approval of Audited Accounts – by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016
  - The Pension regulator – staging (start ) date 1<sup>st</sup> May 2017, Members noted the date
- 083/16 Members Reports**  
**Councillor Stokes – North East Combined Authority (for information)**
- 084/16 Date of next meeting**  
The next Ordinary meeting will be held after the Meeting of Electors (which commences at 6.30pm) and the Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2016 in the Community Centre

The meeting finished at 8.40pm

Signed by the Chairman.....page 3