

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 17th February 2015 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.30pm.

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

Also Present: County Councillor J. Hart, G. F. Smith (Clerk), Mr G. Batson (Resident) Mr Geoff Barker (Salvation Army), J. Burrrows and Evie (Brownies)

019/15 Apologies – None received

020/15 Declaration of interest
Councillor Hird – Agenda item 12 Chairman’s report (Allotments)

021/15 Request for Funding – Tow law Brownies
The Leader and a Member of Tow Law Guides and Brownies organisation presented a request for financial assistance towards the Insurance costs for the two organisations.
Members agreed to donate £250 from the N-Power Community Fund towards the two organisations (Guides and Brownies). The Councillors thanked them for their presentation and the Chair presented them with two cheques for £250 for each group.

022/15 Request for Funding – N-Power Community Fund
1. Application by St. Josephs R C Church for contribution to repair and maintenance of Church windows and general maintenance of the fabric.
Decision – It was agreed to defer this request until the next financial year, to be discussed in April 2015 meeting.
2. Application by Mr N. Deacon for contribution towards the cost of flowers for a flower festival at St. Philips and St. James Parish Church to raise money for the Organ restoration fund. Festival to be held in September 2015.
Decision – It was agreed to defer this request until the next financial year, to be discussed in April 2015 meeting.

023/15 Presentation of Cheques
The Chair presented a cheque for £50 to the Salvation Army for providing Musical entertainment on the Switch –on of the Civic tree in Tow Law in December 2014

024/15 Minutes of a the Ordinary meeting held on 20th January 2015
Amendment page 2 minute 009/15 Planning Matters; item 2
Exciting porch should read existing porch
Subject to the above amendment the minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

025/15 Matters arising

- Objection to Licensing Application lodged with DCC, Reasons rejected by the Licensing section, No further objections received.
- Poverty report – No further progress
- War Memorial – No further update

026/15

Police Report

Pact priorities for the month of February were:-

- Anti Social Behaviour of groups of youths to the rear of High Street particularly on Friday and Saturday evening. This includes general rowdiness, littering and nuisance behaviour.
- Dog fouling, littering and fly tipping throughout Tow law

Next meeting **27th February** 2015 at 7pm in the Masonic Hall

027/15

County Councillor Report

County Councillor J. Hart reported on the following:-

- Wolsingham Road – details passed onto Police
- Funding from AAP for play area in Tow law (approx £8000)
- 106 Allocation
- Licensing Application – conditions imposed
- Council Tax for 2015/16 + 1.99%
- Budget Cuts
- Winter Gritting – use of snow angels

028/15

Representation by Residents

Mr Batson handed a copy of a plan to the Chair on County Council owned land and property in Tow law.

The Clerk thanked Mr Batson for a copy of the Plan and would record receipt in the Minutes.

029/15

Planning matters

A) Planning Application - None

B) Neighbourhood planning – Funding commences in April 2015

030/15

Accounts for payment

Members gave approval for the payment of vouchers 88 to 97 in the sum of £3508.48. Copy of report attached to these minutes

031/15

Tow Law Web Site

Members agreed the following costs:-

£200 development cost, payable to Mr D Rider

£10.00 per month for updating the site, payable to Mr D. Rider

Feedback/Comments on website

Members were reminded to contact the Chair with any comments etc on the web site pages.

Members raised the issue of parental permission for use of photographs of children at school, presentations and other organised activities. Chair/Clerk to check this out.

032/15

Chair's report

- Still awaiting response from Durham Wildlife Trust
- Completing funding application for the Three Towns AAP
- Millennium Green – damage to trees and grass by subcontractors employed by the Northern Power Grid (photographs were circulated at the meeting).
- Allotment Inspection – Arranged for Monday 23rd February, Meeting at the Community Centre at 2pm (Councillor Gale, Hindmoor, Hird, Rowland and Umpelby)
- AAP/Funding Committee – The Chair attended and updated members

033/15

Clerk's Report

1) Adoption of telephone kiosk in North Road, Tow Law

Members agreed to sign the necessary agreement (two Councillors) with British Telecom PLC and pay the £1.00 purchase price.

2) Application to support the Trustees of the County of Durham School Benevolent Fund. Which provides up to £35 towards the cost of a pair of shoes and £35 towards the cost of a winter coat for each child attending school whose parents are in receipt of benefits entitling their children to receive free school meals.

Members agreed not to support this application

3) Letter from DCC (Senior Allotment Officer) requesting information from Town/Parish Councils on allotment sites that Parish/Town Councils manage, including list of sites and plot numbers.

4) E-mail from DCC regarding street lighting energy reduction programme – consultation on proposal to remove street lights in Tow law area. Members requested for the Clerk to contact Mr Tony Ward, Senior Project Manager (DCC) to attend the next Town Council meeting to discuss the proposals with all Councillors.

034/15

Members Reports

1) Windfarm Site on Tow Law Fell (outstanding funds available) - (Cllr Gale)

A new committee structure is being proposed to decide on funding applications for the above mentioned site, one member from Tow Law Town Council and one member from another community group in Tow law. The Committee system will be based on the procedure arranged by County Durham Foundation.

Member's agreed to appoint Councillor Jeff Gale to sit on the Committee representing Tow Law Town Council and suggest that a member of the Community Association represent the Community Group on the Committee.

2) Fly Tipping/Rubbish by the British Telecom Exchange building Cllr Hird– reported to Civic Pride Officer (DCC)

3) Wayleaves on Millennium Green – Cllr Stokes

Clerk to check this matter out with Northern Electric and report to the next appropriate Town Council meeting.

035/15

Date of next meeting

Date of the next ordinary meeting will be Tuesday 17th March 2015 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.30pm.

The meeting finished at 8.10pm

Signed by the Chairman.....4