

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 16th February 2016 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.30pm.

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

Also Present: County Councillor J. Hart, Mr Peter Samson, (Durham RCC), G. Batson (Resident) and G F Smith (Clerk),

- 021/16 Apologies**
Councillor Grogan (Unwell)
- 022/16 Declaration of interest**
Councillor Hird declared an Interest in Agenda item 4 – Presentation by Mr Peter Samson RCC.
Councillor Stokes declared an interest in Agenda item 14 – Telephone Kiosk, Inkerman Road, Tow Law.
- 023/16 Community Fund**
(Applications/Presentations) - None
- 024/16 Presentation “Community Growing Project” by Mr Peter Samson Durham RCC.**
Mr Samson thanked Councillors for inviting him to the meeting and he explained how he would be working with various groups in Tow Law to promote/cultivate a “Community Growing Project” and went on to explain the various project he was involved in throughout County Durham
Members agreed to use the Millennium Green Trust for grant applications and to use the Council’s Bank Accounts.
Members thanked Mr Samson for his presentation and pledged to support the Project.
- 025/16 Minutes of a the Ordinary meeting held on 19th January 2016**
Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman
- 026/16 Matters Arising**
Minute 019/16 Cost of Christmas Trees (residents concerns)
December 2013 Small Trees £15 each Large Trees £150
December 2014 Small Trees £15 each Large Trees £150
December 2015 Small Trees £15 each Large Trees £150
- 027/16 Police/Pact Report**
PCSO Hawman had visited the Clerk in the Office regarding damage to trees on Millennium Green – The Offenders had been caught and asked if the Council would be prepared to go down the Restorative Justice route.
Members agreed to this request and some maintenance work to the ditches should be carried out by the Offenders, under supervision.
PACT meetings would commence again in March on the 2nd Thursday in the Mansonic Hall, Tow Law.

- 028/16 County Councillor Report**
County Councillor Hart reported on the following:-
- Consultation on future of Urgent Care Unit, Bishop Auckland
 - Budgets – further cuts
 - Staffing Levels – further cuts
- 029/16 Representation by Residents**
None
- 030/16 Chair’s Report**
None
- 031/16 Planning matters**
- 1) Planning Applications
DM/16/00313/FPA erection of 3 dwellings by Mr D Bowes at land at The North West of Meadow Court, Tow Law.
DECISION – No objections
 - 2) Neighbourhood Planning
The Neighbourhood Planning Technical Support and grant application has passed the first stage and funds have been allocated for the year 2016/17. Subject to receipt of a completed application form (applications to the programme will be considered on a rolling basis, until the available allocation of support and grant has been used).
- 032/16 Accounts for payment**
Members gave approval for the payment of vouchers 79 to 87 in the sum of £1990.95. Copy of report attached to these minutes.
- 033/16 Tow Law Post Office**
Members had concerns with the premises of the new post office (i.e. planning Issues), post box not being re-located outside the proposed shop, parking outside/near the premises is not satisfactory/adequate and this proposed move could have an effect on the local economic issue.
Members would like to consider the present location of the Post Office as a Community Asset and further inquires should be made with the relevant authorities.
- 034/16 Telephone Kiosk, Inkerman Road**
Awaiting response from Planning Officer regarding change of use before making any further progress
- 035/16 Standing Orders**
Members agreed to accept the copy of Standing Orders 2016 as circulated by the Clerk prior to the meeting
- 036/16 Councillor Vacancy**
Miss Rowland had declined the offer of Co-option to the Town Council but may be interested at a later date. The notice for the vacancy of Emma Hindmoor position expires on 16th February 2016. Clerk awaiting confirmation from the Returning Officer, Durham County Council. If no election called then the Council can fill the vacancy by co-option.
This could mean the Council has 2 vacancies and 3 applications for the office of Councillor.
Clerk to confirm details to all Councillors and arrange for interviews to be carried out.

037/16 Civic Identity (Mayor)
Members agreed not to pursue this matter

038/16 New/replacement Council Notice Boards
Members agreed to replace the notice boards at Dan's Castle, Community Centre and North Point and install a new notice board on the area opposite the Co-op. Members preferred a wooden design and Councillor Fowler would contact a local joiner to request designs and costings.

039/16 Clerk's Report

- A) Application for funding – Durham Cathedral
Members agreed not to support this project
- B) Application for funding – The Children's Foundation
Members agreed not to support this project
- C) St Josephs Tow Law Organ Restoration and Community Events Committee – Alternative use of grant for repair to organ.
Members agreed to the utilisation of the grant as part of the altered project.
- D) Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments (Sara)
E-mail from Steve Ragg (CDALC) dated 2nd Feb 2016 was circulated to all Councillors prior the meeting.
Members agreed to "opt in" to the SAA arrangements and continue to receive an Audit from the Auditors appointed by the SAAA.
SAAA indicated that costs for the new Audit procedures will be more than the existing costs.

040/16 Members Reports
Councillor Hird reported on the following:-
Millennium Green Joint working with Laura Tedstone of Durham Wildlife Trust.
She will forward the plan to all Councillors (via e-mail) for their comments/approval.

041/16 Date of next meeting
Tuesday 15th March 2016 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.30pm

The meeting finished at 8.20pm

Signed by the Chairman.....page 3