

## TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

### Minutes of the meeting of Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2015 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.30pm.

**Present:** Councillors L. Rowland (Chair), J. Fowler, J. Gale, R. Grogan,  
E. Hindmoor, P. Stokes and C. Umpelby.

**Also Present:** County Councillor J. Hart, G. F. Smith (Clerk) R. Wright (Observer),  
PCSO Emma Donnelly (Durham Police), Jenny Mountain (Tow Law Community  
Association), Leader and Cubs from 1<sup>st</sup> Tow Law Cub Scouts and Mr B. Batson  
(Resident)

**001/15 Apologies:**

Members accepted the following apologies:-  
Councillor A. Blacker (Family reason)  
Councillor L. Brown (Work commitment)  
Councillor A. Green (Family Reason)  
Councillor M. Hird (Family reason)

**002/15 Declaration of interest**

None given

**003/15 Presentation of Cheques**

The Chair presented cheques to the following:-

- The leader and cubs of 1<sup>st</sup> Tow Law Scout Group presented to the Council on activities they have enjoyed during the year (visit to Crook Fire Station, Light Water Valley, Planting on the Millennium Green Cub Camp and much more). The Councillors congratulated them on their achievements and the Chair presented them with a cheque for £250 towards activities in 2015.
- Jenny Mountain was presented by the Chair a cheque for £250 towards the cost of providing a Pantomime in 2014 by the Community Association.

**004/15 Presentation by Residents**

Mr Batson explained three proposals which he intends to apply for formally to Durham County Council. It was stated that the Council can only act when the planning application is received for comments/observation.

There is still some confusion over ownership of one piece of land (council allotment site) in question which needs to be resolved with DCC.

**005/15 Minutes of a the Ordinary meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

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

**006/15 Matters arising**

- Poverty report – awaiting response from DCC (Social Services)
- War Memorial – lettering outstanding; remove from agenda

007/15

**Police Report**

PCSO Emma Donnelly was present and gave an update report on the following:-

- PC Rutherford had left Tow Law to join CID. A replacement Officer will be appointed which could take up to six months. Meanwhile Police from Crook/Stanhope will provide cover (when required).
- Community bike marking event was held and it was very successful, another will be planned for 2015.
- PACT priority is Fly Tipping and Hot Spot areas have been identified
- Latest crime figures were presented to the meeting.
- Smart water is available to victims of Crime; Police will continue to give Crime prevention advice.

008/15

**County Councillor Report**

County Councillor J. Hart reported on the following:-

- AAP Funding Application form
- Licensing Application for 81A High Strett

009/15

**Planning matters**

A) Planning Application

1) Planning Application DM/14/03690/FPA by the Co-operative Group for new cage store at the Co-op, 47a High Street

Decision – No Objections

2) Planning Application for replacement of exciting porch at Barrack Farm, Bridge Street

Decision – further clarification required (demolition of exciting porch?)

B) Neighbourhood Plan

Awaiting new funding to commence in April 2015

010/15

**Accounts for payment**

Members gave approval for the payment of vouchers 71 to 87 in the sum of £3531.83. Copy of report attached to these minutes

Expenditure report from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014:-

<b>Details</b>	<b>£.p</b>
Staff Costs	11809.17
Admin Expenses	237.37
Office Rent	2700.00
Councillor/Staff	
Training	299.00
Allotments	34.92
Miscellaneous	3462.60
Community Fund	3035.00
Audit Fees	260.00
Donations	1469.25
Christmas Activities	828.31
Vat	251.19
<b>Total</b>	<b>24386.81</b>

- 011/15      Setting the Precept for 2015/16**  
 A report from the Clerk was circulated at the meeting showing suggested Precept for 2015/16 (0%, 2.5%, 5% and 10% increase).  
 Members agreed to increase the Precept from £28005.27 to £32223.53 plus the DDC grant of £4699.00 (reduced from £6424.00); total income £36922.53.  
 Council tax for band D property will rise from £64.81 to £71.29 per year.  
 The reason for the increase will be explained in the newsletter and on the Council's Web Site.
- 012/15      Tow Law Web Site**  
 The Clerk circulated a report from Mr D. Rider regarding a hosting provider for the web site. Members agreed the following:-
- Accept the quotation from 1 and 1 of £0.99 per month for the first 12 months increasing to £4.99 per month plus vat.
  - Use of Domain name of [www.towlawtowncouncil.org.uk](http://www.towlawtowncouncil.org.uk)
- 013/15      Christmas Activities**  
 The Chair wished to thank Richard Batson and Konner Morris for their assistance in erecting the Civic Tree.  
 The Carol service was well attended and music provided by the local Salvation Army Band. Members agreed to donate £50 towards the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal.  
 A site visit is planned to look at the possibility of a permanent electricity supply for the Christmas Tree. Chair to meet representatives from electricity supplier and report to appropriate Town Council meeting.  
 The Chair wished to thank Batsons for storing the Christmas trees.
- 014/15      Chair's report**
- Awaiting response from Durham Wildlife Trust
  - Funding application forms (CCTV) to be completed and forwarded to the Three Towns AAP
  - Thanked volunteers/helpers Tanya McFadden and Helen Snowdon
  - For decorating the tree and providing refreshments.
- 015/15      Clerk's Report**  
 1) Letter from Smith Roddam enclosing a cheque for £440.16 in respect of funds held in client account on behalf of the Tow Law Town Council following the none completion of sale of land from Durham County Council.  
 2) Letter from DCC regarding County Durham Open space needs assessment – 2015 update; Policy Officer in contact shortly.  
 3) E-Mail from DCC (licensing section) regarding a new premises licence application for Mr Sivaguru Ravichandran for "Your Local Store", 81a High Street for the sale of alcohol (off sales only) 6.00 to 23.00 each day. Date of application 16<sup>th</sup> January, date for representations 11<sup>th</sup> February 2015.  
 Members agree to object to this application  
 4) N-Power Community Fund balance £2073.90

**016/15**

**Members Reports**

AAP Board (Councillor Grogan)

Councillor Grogan has been elected onto the AAP Board for another 4 years

Bus Stop on Castle Bank (Councillor Stokes)

Councillor Stokes had met with officers from DCC regarding the raising/location of the Bus Stop on Castle Bank

Wolsingham Road – Parking problems (Councillor Fowler)

Councillor Fowler raised concerns on parking issues on Wolsingham Road,

This needs to be taken to the next Pact meeting by residents.

**017/15**

**Date of next meeting**

Date of the next ordinary meeting will be Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2015 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.30pm.

The meeting finished at 8.20pm

Signed by the Chairman.....4