

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 19th January 2016 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.30pm.

Present: Councillors L. Rowland (Chair), T. Batson, A. Blacker, J. Fowler, J. Gale, A. Green, M. Hird, P. Stokes and C. Umpleby

Also Present: G F Smith (Clerk), E. Scott, Tanya McFadden, R. Orford, B. Batson (Residents), Rachael Conner (Northern Echo)

001/16 Apologies

Councillor Grogan (Unwell)
County Councillor J Hart (Family)

002/16 Declaration of interest

Councillor Rowland declared an Interest in Agenda item 16- Councillor Vacancy

003/16 Community Fund

- 1) Application by Mr R K Orford, 2 Millennium Court
Mr Orford would like to have help from the fund to purchase some assistive software to enable him to be more independent and carry out work for CAB. After training he would like to set up an advice centre in Tow Law. He will be applying for further funding from other organisations (County Durham Community Foundation).
Members agreed to donate £125 from the N Power Community Fund.
- 2) Application by "Growers group" Tow Law (Tow Law Community Association) application to fund help plant the beds in the High Street and Millennium Green with edible plants.
Members agreed to donate £250 towards the scheme.

004/16 Setting the Precept for 2016/17

Members considered the report from the Clerk setting out suggested figures, i.e. 0% increase (on 2015/16), 2% increase and 5% increase.

It was proposed and seconded to increase the Precept by 5% (voting 5 for and 4 against), proposal carried.

Agreed figures:-

Precept £33834.71 plus DCC grant £3663.00 Total income £37497.71; tax base 472.8; council tax D £71.56 per annum.

005/16 Minutes of a the Ordinary meeting held on 17th November 2015

Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman

006/16 Matters Arising

Minute 169/15 Members report (Councillor Hird) – quotes for drainage works at Millennium Green, Clerk to arrange

Minute 152/15 – No map received from Durham Wildlife Trust

007/16 Police/Pact Report – No update

008/16 County Councillor Report

The Clerk reported receipt of e-mail from County Councillor Hart on the following:-

- Council Tax (DCC)
- Proposed move of Post Office
- Mobile Phone reception (improvements)
- Voting on North East combined Authority

009/16 Representation by Residents

A) Miss McFadden raised a number of her concerns regarding the following:-

- Out of date notices on the Council's Notice Boards
- Cost of Christmas Trees (Clerk to supply details)
- Electric supply and meter for Civic tree etc (Chair suggested that the Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk would meet with Members of the group – this was agreed).
- The group had purchased some solar lights for the tree and requested that the Town Council refund them £45.23
Members agreed with the request, cheque to be made payable to Miss Emma Scott.

B) Emma Scott raised concerns on the delay in provision of play area in Tow Law – (details to be provided at the joint meeting)

C) Mr Batson raised his concerns with his planning applications for Wards End, Tow Law which has not been considered by the Town Council (land in Wolsingham Parish Council area).

Member suggested that in future any concerns/complaints should be in writing and sent to the Clerk prior to the meeting.

010/16 Chair's Report

- Website – 988 hits in January 2016
- Three Towns funding forms to be re-submitted
- Letter of resignation from Councillor Emma Hindmoor – Clerk to report details to DCC Elections Officer

011/16 Planning matters

1) Planning Applications

- a) DM/15/03675/FPA by Ms A Lee for access ramp to the front of 25 Deerness Estate, Tow Law.
DECISION – No objections

2) Neighbourhood Planning – No update

012/16 Accounts for payment

Members gave approval for the payment of vouchers 65 to 78 in the sum of £5697.97. Copy of report attached to these minutes.

Members noted the Expenditure costs for the period 1st April to 31st December 2015 totalling £22813.65. Copy of report attached to these minutes.

013/16 Renewing Tow Law Community Partnership

A meeting is scheduled for Friday 29th January 2016 in the Community Centre, commencing at 2.00pm.

It was agreed that the Town Council would be represented by the Chair, Vice-Chair and Councillors Hird and Stokes, the Clerk would also be attending.

014/16 Council Newsletter

The Chair encouraged all Councillors to get involved and try to send scripts etc to be included in the next edition.

015/16 Telephone Kiosk, Inkerman Road

Members agreed for Councillor Stokes to make further investigations/research on the possibility of a miniature Museum and Information Point and report to the next Town Council meeting.

Clerk to check with DCC Planning department regarding possible planning consent for change of use.

016/16 Councillor Vacancy

The Clerk referred to minute 093/13 dated 18th June 2013:-

“Offer Amanda Rowland the opportunity to be elected as a Councillor when The next vacancy arises”. Members agreed for the Clerk to contact her to see if she wished to accept the offer of Councillor on the Town Council. Clerk to report to the next Town Council meeting.

Three applications have been received for the vacancy, as follows:-

Mr B. Batson, 3 Fellside Close, Tow Law

Miss C. A. Wilson, 63 Dan’s Castle, Tow Law

Miss T. McFadden, 4 Deerness Estate, Tow Law

017/16 Civic Identity (Mayor)

Deferred until the next Town Council meeting.

018/16 Clerk’s Report

A) Application for funding – Durham Cathedral
Deferred to the next Town Council meeting.

B) Standing Orders (revised 2016)

Copy to be circulated to all Councillors and to be discussed at the next Town Council meeting.

C) Details circulated on “Colour for Life” (drawing) every Wednesday 1.30pm to 3.30pm in the Community Centre for 10 weeks commencing 20th January 2016 (entry free).

D) Proposed move of Tow Law Post Office to a new location at 81a High Street. Consultation commenced 7th January; ends 18th February and proposed month of change April/May 2016. Clerk to send all Councillors the consultation document for them to make any comments on the proposal.

019/16 Members Reports

Councillor Hird reported on the following:-

- Hole in the footpath on Millennium Green (security fencing erected by British Coal). Chair, Vice-Chair and Clerk agreed to meet with the officer of British Coal and find out what progress was being made to repair the hole.

020/16 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 16th February 2016 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.30pm

The meeting finished at 8.50pm

Signed by the Chairman.....page 4