

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 15th March 2016 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.30pm.

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

Also Present: County Councillor J. Hart, W Lawton, T. McFadden, B. Batson, W. Carpenter
(Residents) and G F Smith (Clerk),

- 042/16 Apologies**
Councillor Grogan (Unwell)
- 043/16 Declaration of interest**
Councillor Stokes declared an interest in agenda item 13 – telephone kiosk,
Inkerman Road, Tow Law
Councillor Fowler declared an interest in agenda item 15 – Council notice
boards
Councillor Batson declared an interest in agenda item 10a – Planning
Application
- 044/16 Community Fund**
(Applications/Presentations)
The Clerk read out an application for N Power Community Fund from Mr
Michael Parker on behalf of a new Scouts group for young people of Tow
Law. There are currently 5 scouts signed up from Tow Law and 1 young
leader from Tow Law, plus the Scout Leader (Mr Parker). The group meet in
the Community Centre on Thursdays from 7.30pm to 9.00pm and charge
£2.50 per member.
They would like £250 towards the set up costs (insurance, badges,
refreshments, activities and support with uniforms/subs).
Members agreed to donate £250 from the N Power Community fund.
- 045/16 Minutes of a the Ordinary meeting held on 16th February 2016**
Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman
- 046/16 Matters Arising**
Minute 040/16 Members Reports (Cllr Hird) – Millennium Green Management
Plan Members received an e-mail from Councillor Hird updating them on the
Millennium Green Management Plan (copy attached to these minutes)
- 047/16 Police /Pact Report**
Members wished to congratulate the Chief Constable and the Police
Commissioners on the recent award for Policing in County Durham, Clerk to
send a letter to each Officer.

048/16

County Councillor Report

County Councillor Hart reported on the following:-

- Street sign, Dan's Castle
- Bus timetables
- Urgent Care Unit, Bishop Auckland
- Licensing Committee
- Play area funding
- "Holiday Hunger Scheme"
- North East Regional Council
- Raising profile of Tow Law at County Hall
- Post Office Consultation

049/16

Representation by Residents

Tanya McFadden raised the following:-

- "The Friends of Tow Law Group"
- Funding Application – to be placed on the agenda for the next Town Council meeting
- 1st Community event Saturday 28th May 2016 – details to follow
- Next meeting 5th April 2016 in the Station Bar at 6.30pm
- Mr B Batson raised the following:-
Planning Application for Walls End

050/16

Chairman's Report

- Details of the Post Office Consultation – unable to make personal contact with Suzanne Richardson, Regional Network Manager, Post Office Ltd, to discuss a number of issues regarding the proposed move of the Post Office in Tow Law.
- AAP Funding (£10,000) for the Car Park area at Tow Law
- Resignation of the following Councillors:-
Cllrs A. Green, Cllr L. Rowland and Cllr C Umpelby

051/16

Planning matters

1) Planning Applications

3/2003/0267 by G & B Batson for outline application for 38 detached dwellings with all matters reserved (revised supporting information received 9th February 2016)

Decision – no objections

2) Neighbourhood Planning

Awaiting result of grant application

052/16

Accounts for payment

Members gave approval for the payment of vouchers 88 to 92 in the sum of £1389.64. Copy of report attached to these minutes.

053/16

Tow Law Post Office

The Clerk read out a letter dated 8th March 2016 from the Post Office Limited confirming that they will be proceeding with the proposal to move the Post Office Branch to Premier, 81a High Street, where it will operate as one of the new local style Post Office branches.

Members still did not support this move and the possible impact it would have on local residents and the wider community

- 054/16 Telephone Kiosk, Inkerman Road**
Update - awaiting response from Planning Officer (Chairman to chase up this matter)
- 055/16 Councillor Vacancies**
Interviews to be arranged for Monday 4th April 2016 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.30pm.
Recent vacancies (3) to be reported to the Returning Officer, DCC, who will produce a notice of vacancies poster.
- 056/16 New/replacement Council Notice Boards**
Members agreed for type A1 size and for Councillor Fowler to obtain further details and prices.
- 057/16 Clerk's Report**
- Next meeting of the Partnership Committee is Friday 15th April 2016 in the Community Centre, commencing at 2.00pm
 - Road closure, Thornley Lane, Tow Law – details of e-mail dated 8th March 2016 from Steven Galloway (DCC)
 - DCC Consultation/review of the Youth service across County Durham to run from 1st February to 27th April 2016 – questionnaire available from the Community Centre
 - Application for funding from Citizens Advice County Durham – item to be placed on the agenda for the next Town Council meeting.
 - DCC – application to purchase open space land at Tow Law Industrial Estate (details as e-mail dated 16th February 2016).
Members raised no objections to this application
- 058/16 Members Reports**
Councillor Hird reported on the ongoing project for re-stocking the planters with shrubs etc.
Councillor Batson updated the meeting on the work of the Scrutiny Committee (DCC) regarding employment/apprenticeship issues in County Durham – Clerk to try to obtain further details for the Tow Law and surrounding areas.
- 059/16 Date of next meeting**
Tuesday 19th April 2016 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.30pm

The meeting finished at 8.17pm

Signed by the Chairman.....page 3