

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 18th November 2014 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.30pm.

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

Also Present: County Councillor J. Hart, G. F. Smith (Clerk) D. Rider (IT Consultant), R. Wright (Observer), B. Batson, J. Henderson, E. Scott, C. Batson and D. Batson (Residents).

156/14 Apologies:

Members accepted the following apologies:-
Councillor L. Brown (work commitment)
Councillor E. Hindmoor (family Commitment)

157/14 Declaration of interest

None given

158/14 Presentation of Cheques

The Chair presented cheques to the following:-

- Trex Gym (£250) from the N Power Community Fund for specialist equipment
- Friends of Weardale Community Hospital (£300) from Council funds.

159/14 Applicants for Community Fund – Archery Club

Mr Graham Tomasko presented to members an application for funding from the N Power Community Fund for running costs/equipment for the Archery Club which holds classes in the Community Centre on a Saturday.

Mr Tomasko left the meeting while Members discussed the application, he was then asked to return to the meeting.

Members agreed to donate £250 towards the Archery Club, The Chair presented the cheque to Mr Tomasko.

160/14 Council's Web site

Mr Rider presented to Members the proposed web site layout, they agreed to the layout, made some minor alterations. Mr Rider agreed to make a further presentation to the Council at their January meeting.

161/14 Presentation by Residents

Mr Batson wished to discuss with members the area of land he wished to purchase from the Durham County Council and his proposals for future developments of the surrounding areas. Members noted the position.

162/14 Minutes of a the Ordinary meeting held on 21st October 2014

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

- 163/14 Matters arising**
- Poverty report – Councillor Grogan proposed that the Town Council invite the Director of Social Services (DCC) to explain the report, Members agreed for the Clerk to make the necessary arrangements.
 - Parking at the entrance of Doctor’s Surgery – details passed to Police. Now part of Pact Priority
 - “Off land dog park” – Clerk obtaining further details.
 - Use of Arriva buses by disabled persons carriages – details from Arriva circulated to all Councillors.
- 164/14 Police Report**
No Police report
PACT Report – Councillor Stokes attended the Pact Meeting (30th October), issues raised:-
- Anti Social use of motor vehicles on Bridge Street
 - Speeding on High Street
- Next meeting 27th November 2014 in the Masonic Hall.
- 165/14 County Councillor Report**
County Councillor J. Hart reported on the following:-
- Cattle Mart site (update)
 - Thornley Road Cemetery – repairs (update)
 - Children’s Centres (update)
- 166/14 Planning matters**
A) Planning Application - None
B) Neighbourhood Plan
The Clerk reported that the new funding stream would be released in April 2015 and he would be re-applying for the £7000.
- 167/14 Accounts for payment**
Members gave approval for the payment of vouchers 61 to 70 in the sum of £3007.82. Copy of report attached to these minutes
- 168/14 Tow Law War Memorial**
Repair works have been completed to the structure.
Lettering to be completed (work stopped due to inclement weather) as soon as possible. Clerk had spoken to Mr Peter Dunn, Principal Technical Officer, at Durham County Council who would advise when the work is completed by the Contractor.
- 169/14 Christmas Activities**
Switching on of lights (Civic Tree) to take place on Friday 12th December. The Clerk had ordered 50 smaller trees for the residents homes. Members agreed not to hold the Christmas Competition this year.
- 170/14 Chair’s report**
- CCTV – Quotation received from ADT, a further quotation is required
 - Car park (Bonds) – item on hold
 - Allotment – Inspection/Allotment Association – details still being collated by the Clerk
 - Meeting with Durham Wildlife Trust (Hedleyhope Fell) – funding etc
 - County Durham Environment Awards – Millennium Green Volunteers received an Awards for Volunteer group of the year.

171/14

Clerk's Report

1) Application for N-Power Community Fund by Tow Law Family Learning Group for £160 towards the cost of hiring a bus to take families of the group to a presentation at the Stadium of Light, Sunderland organised by the Sunderland Foundation.

Members agreed to this request.

2) Application for N-Power Community Fund by Tow Law Community Association (Jenny Mountain) for £250 towards the cost of a pantomime in the Community Centre on 30th November 2014.

Members agreed to this request

3) The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014

This Act provides that a person may not orally report or comment about a meeting as it takes place if he/she present at the meeting of a Parish/Town Council but otherwise may:-

a) Film, photograph or make an audio recording of a meeting.

b) use any other means of enabling persons not present to see or hear proceedings at a meeting as it takes place or later.

c) Report or comment on the proceeding in writing during or after a meeting or orally report or comment after the meeting.

Members agree to amend the Council's Standing Orders and introduce a Chairman's Statement prior to each Town Council meeting.

d) A report was circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting on the New Local Council Award Scheme. Members agreed to register for the new scheme and apply for the Quality Gold Award criteria (demonstrating best practise, excellence in Governance, Community Leadership and Council development).

e) Purchase of land (for a proposed bio-fuel plant) from Durham County Council, land near the Industrial Estate.

Item withdrawn – query with land ownership

172/14

Members Reports

A) Millennium Green (Councillor Hird)

- Grow wild funding from Durham Wildlife
- Replace fencing/hedges on this site
- Separate bank account for Millennium Green – Clerk to make the necessary checks with the Co-operative Bank Plc/Barclays Plc.
- Planting of trees (6th December)

B) Hamsterley Turbines (Councillor Stokes) – item withdrawn

C) Assets service by Local Government (Councillor Batson) – to be included in the Council's Neighbourhood Plan

D) Allotment Association – Roddymoor agreement (Councillor Grogan) – details passed onto the Clerk

E) High Visibility Vest for schoolchildren – Clerk to obtain prices for 20 vests For use during volunteering sessions etc.

173/14

Date of next meeting

Date of the next ordinary meeting will be Tuesday 20th January 2015 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.30pm.

The meeting finished at 8.40pm