

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 20th October 2015 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.30pm.

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

Also Present: G F Smith (Clerk), County Councillor J. Hart and Mr B. Batson, Angela Suddes, Tanya McFadden (residents).

132/15 Apologies

Councillor Grogan raised concern that Councillor Batson had failed to give apologies for absence for the last few meetings. Clerk to write to Councillor Batson reminding him for the need to give reason for apology to the Clerk prior to the meeting commencing.

133/15 Declaration of interest

Councillor Gale and Stokes declared an interest in agenda item 12 – Town Council Office accommodation

134/15 Representation by Residents

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

- Christmas tree
- Supply of electricity
- The Salvation Army
- Switch on ceremony/refreshments
- Donations
- Quality of lights
- Council Income/Expenditure

The Chair and Clerk responded to each of her questions. Members agreed for three Councillors to meet up with Miss McFadden after the meeting and report to the next Town Council meeting.

135/15 Police/Pact Report

The Chair and Councillor Umpelby attended the last PACT meeting (24th September) and reported on the business discussed. Parking issues raised at Atlee Estate, Co-op at High Street damage at the play area rear of Community Centre and anti social behaviour. The next PACT meeting is on the 29th October to be attended by the Chair and Councillor Umpelby.

136/15 County Councillor Report

County Councillor John Hart reported on the following:-

- North East Combined Authority
- Mayor for the North Region
- Play area Strategy

137/15 Minutes of a the Ordinary meeting held on 15th September 2015

Amendments:-

Minute 129/15 Clerk's report D) Nomination for CDALC Vice President should read "Members were asked to nominate Councillor Terry Batson for the position of CDALC Vice President for 2015/16 – agreed"

Minute 130/15 Members Reports 3) Councillor Grogan should read "Three Towns £500,000 funding (ongoing)" subject to the above amendments it was agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

138/15 Matters arising

- Minutes 128/15 Annual Return for year ended 31st March 2015
Members agreed to approve the document by a "virtual meeting" prior to 30th September 2015. Copies of the documents were handed to each Councillor for their records.
- Minute 129/15 Letter of support – Durham Wildlife Trust
Clerk circulated a response from Anne Gladwin, Grants Officer, Durham Wildlife Trust. Members were still unsure of the project proposal they suggested that she should be invited to the next Town Council meeting to further explain the proposed works.

139/15 Chair's Report

- Resignation of Councillor Brown – accepted, Clerk to make the necessary arrangements with DCC Returning Officer
- Attended the AAP Board meeting

140/15 Planning matters

1) None received
2) Neighbourhood Planning
Clerk to chase up funding department and let all Councillors know of any progress

141/15 Accounts for payment

Members gave approval for the payment of vouchers 50 to 57 in the sum of £2901.21. Copy of report attached to these minutes.

142/15 Expenditure report 1st April to 30th September 2015

Details	£.p
Staff Costs	8111.90
Admin Expenses	140.87
Office Rent	1800.00
Community Fund	1875.00
Audit Fees	65.00
Donations	1050.00
Councillor/Staff Training	54.00
Allotments	201.66
Miscellaneous	1907.21
Sub Total	<u>15205.64</u>
Vat	118.50
Total	<u><u>15324.14</u></u>

- 143/15 Christmas Activities 2015**
Members agreed the following:-
 Civic Tree in the High Street (25 to 28 feet)
 Decorating arrangements as last year
 Solar lighting as last year
 Order 60 mini –trees (3 foot to 4 foot) for residents properties fitted with brackets, lighting to be provided by the householder.
 Each resident to contribute £10 per tree
 Switch on Ceremony – music to be provided by Salvation Army band, refreshments to be provided as last year.
- 144/15 Town Council Accommodation**
 No decision has been made by the committee of the Community Association. Item to be placed on the agenda for the next Town Council meeting.
- 145/15 Ownership of Play areas in Tow Law**
 Some files have been located in the archives, item deferred to the next Town Council meeting.
- 146/15 Clerk's Report**
 A) Application form (N Power Community Fund) received from Salamander Tackwando Tow Law which meets in the Community Centre on a Friday evening and Saturday morning for funding towards matting and body armour for club members.
 Members agreed to request the applicant (Scott Abley) to attend the next Town Council meeting to further explain the project.
 B) Letter of thank you from St Joseph's Tow Law Restoration Committee for £500.00 donation recently received from the Town Council.
 C) Licensing Application (new premises) for the Station, 63 High Street, Tow Law. Members agreed to raise no objections to this application.
- 147/15 Members Reports**
 1) Councillor Grogan reported on the following:-
 • Public Works Loan Board – Clerk to prepare a report for the next Town Council meeting.
 2) Councillor Fowler reported on the following:-
 • Parking problems at The Co-op store, High Street – Police matter
 3) Councillor Stokes reported on the following:-
 • Use of telephone box, Inkerman Road – item to be placed on the Agenda for the next Town Council meeting.
 4) Councillor Blacker reported on the following:-
 • Allotment rent for allotment no TT001. Part of the allotment has been used for access to other allotments and Mr Nelson has kept the area tidy (grass cutting) for a number of years without any reflection on the amount of rent payable.
 Members agreed to reduce the rent from £83.81 to £55.87 per annum.
 • Allotment Association – update to a future Town Council meeting
 5) Councillor Hird reported on the following:-
 • Community growing event recently held in Durham
 • Millennium Green fencing repaired/strimmed meadow (part)
 • Butterfly conservation (moth night) – date to be arranged
 • Wild flower survey (spring 2016) – further information

148/15

Date of next meeting

Tuesday 17th November 2015 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.30pm

The meeting finished at 8.45pm

Signed by the Chairman.....page 4