

## TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2017 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.30pm.**

**Present:** Councillors J. Gale (Chair), C. Batson, T. Batson, J. Fowler, K. Geraghty Shewan, R. Grogan, C. Hemingway, F. Nicol, P. Stokes, G. Tyers and H. Wilsher.

**Also Present: County Councillor R. Manchester, Mr Keith Appleton (County Durham Skill Mill) and G. F. Smith (Clerk)**

**152/17 Apologies - None**

**153/17 Declaration of interest - None**

**154/17 Community Fund**

The Clerk readout a letter from The Friends of Tow Law regarding an application for funding from the N-Power Community Fund towards the Christmas Tree switch on event taking place on the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017. Members deferred a decision until the Council had discussed the agenda items "Christmas Activities".

Later in the meeting Members agreed to donate £250.00 towards this event from the Community Fund.

The Clerk readout a letter from The Friends of Tow Law regarding an application for funding from the N-Power Community Fund towards the Community Fireworks display to be held on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

Members agreed to donate £250.00 towards this event from the Community Fund.

**155/17 County Durham Skill Mill – Presentation by Keith Appleton**

Mr Appleton explained "what is the Skill Mill" – It is a not for profit social enterprise aiming to provide training and employment to enable young people aged 16 – 20 with a history of offending to change their lives.

Young people are recruited through the Youth Offending service in a team consist of four young people with a supervisor on site. Risk assessments are carried out prior to the job commencing. Delivery of work on site to an agreed standard. Van, protective clothing and equipment are provided for the young people.

Examples of work that could be undertaken includes:-

- Playground Improvements
- Tree work
- Fence repairs
- Hedge Laying
- Garden maintenance and Landscaping

Members agreed to further discuss this project at the next Town Council meeting. Clerk to placed this item on the Agenda.

Members thanked Mr Appleton for his Presentation.

Mr Appleton then left the meeting.

**156/17 Minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman

- 157/17 Matters Arising**
- Annual Return for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017  
Members agreed to approve the Annual Return and noted the External Auditors comments “ Electors Rights period during the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 – Authority had not complied with the Accounts and Audit Regulation 2015 during the year under Audit”.
  - CDALC Annual General Meeting – 21<sup>st</sup> October 2017 at County Hall, Durham, commencing at 10.00 am.  
Councillors Hemingway and Wilsher to attend.
  - Boundary Review consultation period 17/10 to 11/12 – documents in the Clerk’s Office.
  - Well Being for Life (Mathew Youngman) – He was available during office hours (Monday to Friday). Clerk to contact Mr Youngman to arrange a suitable time and date and to inform all Councillors by email.
- 158/17 Police/Pact Report – No report received**
- 159/17 County Councillor Report**  
County Councillor Manchester reported on the following: -
- Erection of new Bus Shelter (20/10)
  - ASB in Tow Law (increase in number of reports received).
  - Car Park.
  - 106 monies (£24,000) – Item to be placed on the agenda for the next Town Council meeting.
  - 106 monies (resurfacing at Naismith Grove, Sports centre) - Item to be placed on the agenda for the next Town Council meeting.
  - Response to resident questions (last meeting) regarding road crossing
- 160/17 Representation by Residents - None**
- 161/17 Chairman’s Report - none**
- 162/17 Planning Matters**  
A) Planning Application - None  
B) Neighbourhood Planning – Special meeting arranged for 19<sup>th</sup> October 2017 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6pm.
- 163/17 Accounts for payments**  
Vouchers 50 to 58 in the sum of £5293.59 be approved for payment
- 164/17 Remembrance Service (laying of the Wreath)**  
The Clerk reported that the wreath had been ordered with The British Legion organiser. The service to take place on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2017, further details to follow.  
Councillor Nichol to lay the wreath on behalf of the Town Council, Councillor C. Batson will be reserve.
- 165/17 Christmas Activities (Trees)**  
Members agreed that the Council would order 68 miniature trees and arrange for them to be installed and removed by a local contractor.  
Residents receiving a tree are to be asked for a £10.00 donation towards the costs.  
Councillor C. Batson updated the meeting with the work being carried out by The Friends of Tow Law in providing other Christmas Activities.

- 166/17 Bus shelter near Park terrace, Tow Law**  
Work to commence on erection of the shelter (20/10).
- 167/17 Cattle Mart site - No further progress**
- 168/17 Tow Law Millennium Green**  
Grass cutting Contract (DCC) – poor conditions did not allow for a satisfactory cut/service.
- 169/17 Councillor Vacancies**  
One outstanding candidate to interview. Clerk to arrange a suitable time and date
- 170/17 Bee Hive Coke Oven Site**  
No progress with Historic England, Clerk to chase up. Councillor Stokes to join the working party.
- 171/17 Clerk's Report - None**
- 172/17 Members Report**  
Councillor T Batson referred to the social media report by Mr Ron Hogg (Police and Crime Commissioner)  
Councillor Stokes enquired about progress on the telephone box at Inkerman (still awaiting response from DCC)  
Councillor Stokes agreed to draft a response to the Department of Transport – Accessibility Action Plan consultation document.
- 173/17 Date of next meeting**  
The next Ordinary meeting will be held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2017 commencing at 6.30pm in the Community Centre, Tow Law.

The meeting finished at 8.00pm

Signed by the Chairman.....page 3