

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 15th September 2015 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.30pm.

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

Also Present: G F Smith (Clerk), County Councillor J. Hart and Mrs Taylor, Mr B. Batson, Mrs J. Mountain and Master T. Hindmoor (residents).

117/15 **Apologies**

Received from the following:-
Councillor L. Brown (work)
Councillor A. Green (unwell)

118/15 **Declaration of interest**

Councillor E. Hindmoor declared an interest in agenda item 3 – Community Fund Application (Master T. Hindmoor).
Councillor Gale declared an interest in agenda item 10a (1) – Planning Applications.

119/15 **Community Fund**

1. Presentation of cheques to:-

a) Mrs A. Taylor (£50) to Tow Law St. Josephs RC Church as a contribution towards the repairs of stained glass window.

2. Applications

A) Master T. Hindmoor, 45 Bridge Street, Tow Law for some additional fishing equipment. Tommy presented his portfolio including photographs and medal of donation received last year, Members were informed of his plans for the next fishing season. Tommy and his mam (Councillor Hindmoor) left the room whilst Members discussed the application.

Members agreed to donate £125 from the N-Power Community Fund for Tommy to purchase further fishing equipment. Tommy and his mam returned to the room and he was presented with a cheque (£125) by the Chair.

B) Jenny Mountain helped to explain the three applications (Tow Law Community Association, Tow Law Millennium Primary School and Blessed John Duckett RC Primary School) towards a joint school artist led “silk screen banner project” which is part of a joint community project for banners to be exhibited at a community exhibition (15/16 November) and a procession from the Community centre to St. Philips and St. James and St. Josephs churches. County Councillor John Hart will be asked to open proceedings and Town Councillors are invited to all the events over the week-end. Mrs Mountain left the room whilst Members discussed the applications.

Members agreed to donate £250 to the Community Association, Tow Law Millennium Primary School and Blessed John Duckett RC Primary School. Mrs Mountain returned to the room and the Chair presented her with the cheque for the Community Association. The Clerk to make arrangements For the Chair to visit both schools to make the necessary cheque presentations.

120/15 **Minutes of a the Ordinary meeting held on 21st July 2015**

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

- 121/15 Matters arising**
Town Council Office Accommodation – report to October’s Town Council meeting.
Loan from Public Works Loan Board – details received from CDALC, Clerk to produce a report to the next Town Council Meeting.
- 122/15 Police Report**
The Chair updated the Members on a meeting she had with Inspector Tuck, in which he apologised for not having a PC and PCSO in place for Tow Law but was hopeful that this situation would be put right in the near future. Members agreed for the Chair and Councillor Umpelby to attend the next PACT meeting.
- 123/15 County Councillor Report**
County Councillor John Hart reported on the following:-
- Civic Pride event (organised by DCC Neighbourhood Wardens)
 - New Bus service to Tow Law (provided by Arriva)
 - Update on proposed play area strategy by DCC for Tow Law, including the following:-
 - a) Remove equipment from Church Lane site
 - b) Repairs to equipment at Pennine View
 - c) Repair equipment at Deerness Estate (lease expires April 2017)
All the above to be discussed at the next Town Council meeting including funding from DCC towards play area on Millennium Green and transfer of land from Wear Valley District Council to the Town Council (Clerk to check old files)
 - School Transport
 - Community Care Alarm System
- 124/15 Representation by Residents**
Mr Batson informed the Town Council that he has withdrawn the Planning Application for Walls End, near Tow law (Wolsingham Parish Council area). He also asked about dog fouling in the area and Planning procedures adopted by the Town Council.
He asked to see Councillor Hird after the meeting.
- 125/15 Chair’s Report**
Letter regarding resident in Bridge Street (parking issues) handed to the Police.
- Attended the AAP Board meeting
 - AAP Roadshow
 - Letter of thanks from St. Philips and St. James Church regarding Town Council donations
 - Missing fencing from Millennium Green
 - Ongoing projects
 - a) Car Park (update)
 - b) CCTV (update)
 - c) Play area (update)
 - Web site – 581 hits on the site
 - Christmas Lights – place on agenda for the next meeting

- 126/15 Planning matters**
 1) Planning Application DM/15/01591/FPA by the Board of Governors for single storey extension to west elevation at Blessed John Duckett RC Primary School, Smith Street, Tow Law
Decision – No Objections
 2) Neighbourhood Planning
 No further update, waiting details of funding application.
- 127/15 Accounts for payment**
 Members gave approval for the payment of vouchers 37 to 49 in the sum of £3003.61. Copy of report attached to these minutes.
- 128/15 Annual Return for Year ended 31st March 2015**
 The documents had not been received from the External Auditor (BDO) in time for this meeting.
 Members agreed to approve the document by hosting a “virtual meeting” before 30th September 2015 and for the Clerk to place all relevant paperwork on the Council’s web site.
- 129/15 Clerk’s Report**
 A) Letter of support – Durham Wildlife Trust “improve the path and signage around entrance onto Hedleyhope fell from Tow Law”. Members requested further details before making a decision on this request.
 B) Letter from the Co-operative Bank PLC – as from 3rd July 2015 the Town Council will be covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme for up to £75,000.
 C) Letter from BT regarding the adopt a kiosk (01388 730411 at North Road, Tow Law), notice of completion and to be placed in the kiosk as soon as possible.
 D) Nomination for CDALC Vice President – Members were asked to nominate Councillor Terry Batson for the position of CDALC Vice President for 2015/16 – agreed.
 E) Letter from DCC regarding Tow Law (parking and waiting restrictions) order 2011 (amendment no 1) order 2015 – details circulated at the meeting.
 Members agreed to raise no objections.
- 130/15 Members Reports**
 1) Councillor Hird raised the following:-
 - Flower beds (Community Project) opposite the Co-operative shop
 - Attending talk on community growing
 - Millennium Green – cutting meadow by Durham Wildlife Trust Volunteers on 2nd Oct 2015.
 2) Councillor Stokes raised the following:-
 - Use of telephone box – archaeological display; item to be placed on the agenda for the next Town Council meeting.
 3) Councillor Grogan raised the following:-
 - Children in low income families report (ongoing)
 - Three Towns £500,000 funding (ongoing)
 - Budgets at DCC – Council Assets
- 131/15 Date of next meeting**
 Tuesday 20th October 2015 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.30pm
 The meeting finished at 8.10pm
 Signed by the Chairman.....page 3