

## TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2016 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.30pm.**

**Present:** Councillors J. Gale (Chair), A. Blacker, J. Fowler, M. Hird, T. McFadden, F. Nicol, P. Stokes and C. A. Wilson

**Also Present:** County Councillor J. Hart, Leanne Parkin and Jamie Wightman (Residents) and G F Smith (Clerk)

**154/16 Apologies**

Councillor T. Batson (Unwell)  
Councillor R. Grogan (unwell)  
Councillor A. Lamb (family matter)

**155/16 Declaration of interest**

Councillor **Stokes** declared an interest in agenda item 14 – telephone kiosk  
Councillor **Fowler** declared an interest in agenda item 13 – Trex Gymnasium  
Councillor **Hird** declared an interest in item 15 – Millennium Green

**156/16 Minutes of a the Ordinary meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2016**

Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman

**157/16 Matters Arising**

**143/16 (2) Neighbourhood Planning**

Meeting scheduled for 29<sup>th</sup> July was cancelled – see agenda item 10 (B)

**151/16** Clerk's report – play area on Millennium Green (update from Councillor Lamb) see agenda item 19.

**158/16 N- Power Community Fund**

- The Chairman presented a cheque for £250 to M/s Parkin and Wightman towards provision of public access defibrillators in Tow Law (John Parkin Memorial fund). They thanked the Town Council and updated Members of the progress of the fund and the provision of defibrillators. After the presentation they both left the meeting.
- The Chairman presented a cheque for £250 to Cllr T. Mcfadden towards the cost of providing fireworks (4<sup>th</sup> Nov) by the Friends of Tow Law. Cllr Mcfadden thanked the Council and remained in the meeting.
- The Clerk read out an application for funding from Simone Abley of Spennymoor for financial assistance to aid her in her dream of representing Great Britain at Taekwonda. Members agreed that they could not support this request as the applicant does not live in the Council's area and it would not meet the criteria for the N Power Community Fund.  
Members suggested that she may like to contact Spennymoor Town Council.

**159/16 Police /Pact Report**

- Councillor Stokes – awaiting response from the Chief Constable
- Chairman and Councillor Stokes had met with Ron Hogg, Police and Crime Commissioner for Durham.

- 160/16 County Councillor Report**  
County Councillor Hart reported on the following: -
- Play Areas in Tow Law
  - Boundary Review
  - Combined Authority
- After his report County Councillor Hart left the meeting
- 161/16 Representation by Residents - None**
- 162/16 Chairman's Report**
- Meeting with Ron Hogg (update)
- 163/16 Planning matters**
- 1) Planning Applications – None
  - 1a) 81 High Street – Councillor Stokes reported on the ongoing discussion with County Planning Officers (some alterations to be building/shop had been carried out).
  - 2) Neighbourhood Planning  
Councillor Hird requested that the Officer from DCC/Locality to attend the next Town Council meeting to discuss the way forward on Neighbourhood Planning. Clerk to arrange.
- 164/16 Accounts for payment**  
Members gave approval for the payment of vouchers 33 to 46 in the sum of £4898.76.
- 165/16 Annual Return for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016**  
Members agreed to the following:-
- To accept and approve the Annual Return documents (Audited)
  - To note the comments from the External Auditors (BDO) on the following:-
    - A) Accounts approval
    - B) Internal Audit Checks
  - To display the completion of Audit Notice and documents on the Council's web site and notice boards.
- 166/16 Tow Law Trex Gymnasium**  
Councillor Fowler updated the Members on the latest situation (licence fee waived by DCC; Redunancy of the paid worker by DCC – Brian Fowler)  
The Clerk had no further information/update.
- 167/16 Telephone Kiosk, Inkerman Road**  
The Clerk reported no further update (awaiting details from DCC). Clerk to contact County Councillor Hart for assistance to progress this matter.
- 168/16 Tow Law Millennium Green**  
**Councillor Hird reported on the following:-**
- Hole in path been repaired by National coal board
  - Dog bin had been damaged – report to DCC

- 169/16 Proposed car park area in Tow Law**  
 No further progress, Clerk to contact County Councillor Hart for assistance to progress this matter.  
 Members raised concerns regarding parking of vehicles around the Co-op/Gregg's/High Street. Clerk to contact the Landlord of the building regarding possible alternatives for parking/delivery in the car park area.
- 170/16 Council Notice Boards**  
 Councillor Fowler reported that the notice boards had recently been delivered and would be erected as soon as possible.
- 171/16 Councillor Vacancy**  
 The Clerk reported that one vacancy still outstanding for a Councillor on the Town Council and it was important that this vacancy is filled (by co-option) as soon as possible.  
 The Chairman asked Councillors to try and nominate a suitable candidates to the Clerk, before the next Town Council meeting
- 172/16 Clerk's Report**
- A) Play area on the Millennium Green  
 Councillor Lamb had discussed the various options with a number of groups in the Town and the design preferred was the one that included the crawl tunnel (option one). Members agreed that option one should be the equipment ordered for the toddler area.  
 The Clerk raised two items that were still outstanding:-
- Possible planning application
  - Permission from Natural England.
- B) The Clerk reported the receipt of the approval of grant for Tow Law Networked Strategic cctv; amount allocated £21,495.00. Subject to the following conditions: -
- Terms and conditions received signed to DCC by 20<sup>th</sup> September 2016.
  - Confirmation of Landowners permission is in place for installation of cctv equipment.
  - Satisfactory monitoring information received for the Millennium Green pond and meadow is provided to the funding team (information supplied to the Clerk by Councillor Hird)
  - Future funding of maintenance etc (no expectation of funding from the AAP).
  - If the project ceases in the four year period the grant and unused funds will be returned to Durham County Council. Clerk to keep members updated with progress on the above outstanding conditions.
- B) Change of Company Name (for information) as from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016 RWE INNOGY UK LTD will change its name to INNOGY RENEWABLE UK LIMITED
- C) Medium Term Financial Planning and 2017/18 Budget Setting (for information)  
 Clerk circulated a letter received from Durham County Council dated 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2016 regarding the revenue support grant, council tax base for 2017/18 and LCTRS Grant for 2017/18. further details to follow by the end of this year (December 2016)

**173/16**

**Members Reports**

Councillor McFadden – Christmas activities (tree, lights etc)

It was agreed to place this item on the agenda for the next Town Council meeting (October 2016)

**174/16**

**Date of next meeting**

The next Ordinary meeting will be held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2016 commencing at 6.30pm in the Community Centre, Tow Law.

The meeting finished at 7.45pm

Signed by the Chairman.....page 3