

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 21st October 2014 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.30pm.

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

Also Present: G. F. Smith (Clerk) and R. Wright (Observer)

Apologies: Councillor J. Fowler, P. Stokes and County Councillor J. Hart

139/14 Declaration of interest

Councillor Umpelby – agenda item 9a (1) Planning Applications
Councillor Rowland – agenda item 9a (2) Planning Application
Councillor Hird – agenda item 16 (4) Clerk’s Report
Councillor Hindmoor - agenda item 16 (4) Chair’s report

140/14 Applicants for Community Fund – Archery Club

Representatives did not turn up to meeting.

141/14 Minutes of a the Ordinary meeting held on 17th September 2014

Amendments:-

Page 3 minute 120/14 should read “136/14”
Page 4 minute 122/14 should read “138/14”

142/14 Matters arising

- Poverty report (CDALC) – awaiting details from Steve Ragg (ongoing investigation)
- Land at Tow Law Industrial Estate – responses raised with DCC, awaiting reply.

143/14 Police Report

No Police report
PACT Report – No representative at the meeting

144/14 County Councillor Report

- No report received from County Councillor J. Hart

145/14 Representation by Residents - None

No residents present
Letter read out at meeting regarding parking (white van) at the entrance of Doctors Surgery – pass onto Durham Police
A Councillor raised the following concerns regarding funding received by Durham Wildlife Trust – Clerk to obtain details and report to the next appropriate TC meeting.
Petition received for a “off lead dog park” on the Millennium Green – Clerk to obtain more details (legal implications etc) and report to the next appropriate TC meeting.

- 146/14 Planning matters**
A) Planning Application
1) DM/14/02903/FPA by Mr D Ridley to rebuild shop at 25 High Street, Tow Law
Decision – No objections
2) DM/14/02695//OU by Mr Faulkner and Miss Graham for outline planning application for erection of 1no dwelling at land rear of 2a and 2b, Smith Street, Tow Law
Decision – No objections
3) DM/14/02437/FPA by Mr M Batson siting of temporary building (retrospective) and associated hard standing at Colliery House, 1 Princes Court, Tow Law
Decision – No objections
4) DM/13/0464 by Mr A Nicholson (Council objection) – referred to area planning Committee on Thursday 23rd October 2014
B) Neighbourhood Plan
No further details
- 147/14 Accounts for payment**
Members gave approval for the payment of vouchers 54 to 60 in the sum of £2362.13. Copy of report attached to these minutes
- 148/14 External Auditor’s comments on Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2014**
The Clerk had circulated the report prior to the meeting.
He mater raised was the inclusion of grant money received in the precept figure and should be shown as other receipts.
Members agreed the following:-
a) Adjust the figures in next year Return
b) Re- appoints Mr G Richards as Internal Auditor for the year ending 31st March 2015.
- 149/14 Commemorating Centenary of 1st World War**
This Item is to be removed from the agenda. Updates by Members Reports
- 150/14 Tow Law War Memorial**
Work has commenced on site and should be finished before the Remembrance Day Service (Sunday 9th November 2014).
Clerk to check with DCC staff regarding the renewal of the lettering on the monument and report to the next TC meeting.
- 151/14 Christmas Activities**
Members agreed the following:-
- Provision of Civic tree (tree to be taller/bushier than last year)
 - More solar lights (stronger/coloured)
 - Arrangement with Richard Batson to help with erection of tree
 - Work with Salvation Army/Greggs bakery for switch on ceremony on Friday evening in December
 - Provide small tress (approx 65) for fixing into brackets attached to residents properties (£10 donation)
 - Christmas Competition (to be further discussed at the next TC meeting)

152/14

Chair's report

- CCTV – Awaiting response from ADT
- Car park (Bonds) – item on hold
- Council Web Site –Presented to the next meeting.
- Allotment – Inspection/Allotment Association – Awaiting further details from Tenants. Clerk to chase up and let relevant Councillors know details so they can make contact with tenants.

153/14

Clerk's Report

- 1) Letter received from Christine Emerson reporting on the Blackpool trip sponsored by the Town Council (34 people attended)
- 2) Copy of article I Weardale gazette – family activities in Tow Law organised by Fliss Chesters, sponsored by the Town Council.
- 3) Application for Community Funding – Tow Law Community Association (Christie Emerson/Jenny Mountain) contribution towards bus costs for Community trip to Leeds on 29th November 2014. Members agreed not to support this application.
- 4) Application for Community Fund – Beavers and Cubs for contribution towards running costs of two organisations meeting in the Community Centre (including fund raising event in November). Members agreed to donate £250 towards the fund raising event for Beavers and Cubs from the N-Power Community Fund.
- 5) Application for Funding – Great North Air Ambulance to support the Charity to ensure that this vital service is maintained. Members agreed to donate £50 each financial year (to be reviewed yearly).
- 6) Tow Law Millennium Green Bank Account (Barclays) Balance as at 23rd September 2014 £81.28
- 7) BT payphone box, North Road, Inkerman, Tow Law – letter from DCC informing the Town Council that BT payphone is no longer required and therefore could be removed. BT have therefore offering the facility to adopt the kiosk for just £1.
Members agreed for the Clerk to write to DCC offering to take ownership of the kiosk for a £1 and discuss the future at an appropriate Tow Council meeting.

154/14

Members Reports

A) Millennium Green (Councillor Hird)

- County Durham Environmental Award at the Raddison Hotel, Durham on 13th November 2014. Councillors Hird and Rowland to attend the event.
- Ordered tree packs from the Woodland Trust – delivery 3rd to 7th November
- Joint Working with Wildlife Trust (stick n flick scheme)
- DCC Tree week (further details)

B) Children's Centres (Councillor Stokes)

Raised concerns regarding the possible relocation of the service to Willington (cost of Bus Service)

C) Use of Arriva Buses by Disabled person allowed on one bus per journey. Clerk to check with Bus Company on policy etc.

155/14

Date of next meeting

Date of the next ordinary meeting will be Tuesday 18th November 2014 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.30pm.

The meeting finished at 7.45pm