

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Tow Law Town Council held on Wednesday 17th September 2014 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.30pm.

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

Also Present: P. C. Mike Rutherford, PCSO Emma Donnely (Durham Police), County Councillor J. Hart and G. F. Smith (Clerk)

Apologies: Councillor L. Brown, J. Fowler, J. Gale, A. Green,

123/14 Declaration of interest

Councillor Rowland – agenda item 9a(i) Planning Application
Councillor Batson – agenda item 15 (5) Clerk’s report
Councillor Batson – agenda item 15 (b) Clerk’s report
Councillor Hird - agenda item 14 (4) Chair’s report

124/14 Police Report

PC Rutherford presented the incidents and crime figures for the months of May, June, July and August 2014. Followed by a question and answer session.
He also introduced PCSO Donnely who would be working in the Tow Law area.
PACT report – It was agreed for Councillor Green/Batson to represent the Town Council at this meeting and provide an update at the following Town Council meeting.
The Police supported the Town’s Councils approach of obtaining funding to replace the existing CCTV system in the town, including additional cameras and resiting of existing cameras.

125/14 Applicants for Community Fund – Archery Club

The representatives of the above club were unable to attend the meeting but would be available for the October Town Council meeting.

126/14 Minutes of a the Ordinary meeting held on 15th July 2014

Amendments:-

Include Councillor Brown on the apologies
Date of next meeting should read “Wednesday 17th September 2014” Subject to the above amendments the minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

127/14 Matters arising

Poverty report (Councillor Grogan) – to be referred to the meeting of the Executive Committee of CDALC on 3rd November 2014, copy also passed to Councillor Batson.

128/14 County Councillor Report

County Councillor J. Hart reported on the following:-

- Repairing pot holes in Tow Law
- Repair works at the Cemetery
- Building works at Nisa on the High Street
- Tow Law War Memorial – Inspected and is in need of repair/cleaning, work to be carried out by a specialist contractor
- AAP funding – staff to work with local groups in the various areas
- Meeting with Economic Development Staff (DCC) arranged for 7th October 2014
- New Members Initiative (geocaching); attract people to the area, including Bee Hive Coke Ovens, Millennium Green and the Football Club

129/14 Representation by Residents - None

130/14 Planning matters

A) Planning Application

1) DM/14/02253/FPA by Mr S Sadler to provide a ramp to the front of 22 Deerness Estate, Tow Law

Decision – No objections

2) DM/14/02609/FPA by Mr D Lee for a proposed pitched roof over garage at Land East of Campbell Street, Tow Law

Decision – No objections

B) Neighbourhood Plan

Awaiting further details on possible withdrawal of funding for this scheme.

131/14 Accounts for payment

Members gave approval for the payment of vouchers 29 to 53 in the sum of £7674.74. Copy of report attached to these minutes

Expenditure report 1st April to 30th September 2014, Members agreed to accept the following report:-

Details	£.p
Staff Costs	7872.78
Admin Expenses	148.42
Office Rent	2700.00
Councillor/Staff Training	299.00
Allotments	23.71
Miscellaneous	3274.79
Community Fund	1625.00
Audit Fees	60.00
Donations	1100.00
Vat	166.34
Total	17270.04

- 132/14 Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2014**
 The Clerk reported that the documents had not been received from the External Auditor.
 Members agreed to:-
 a) The Clerk e-mailing the documents to all Councillors when they are received from the External Auditor and for members to respond (i.e. approval) to the Clerk before 30th September 2014.
 b) The Chair to write to the External Auditor registering the disappointment of the Council in the delay to returning the Audited documents to the Council by the External Auditor in order to approve by the required date.
- 133/14 Commemorating Centenary of 1st World War**
 Councillor Grogan provided a verbal report on the very successful event held by The History Society in the Community Centre on 2nd/3rd August 2014, including 100 hits of the Society Web Site. He also passed on the thank you of the Society for the financial contribution from the Town Council (N-Power Community Fund)
- 134/14 Tow Law War Memorial**
 Updated in County Councillors report (Specialist firm to repair the structure etc).
- 135/14 Chair's report**
- CCTV – Members agreed for quotes for a new system and for the Police, County Councillor J. Hart Chair and Vice Chair of the Council to meet to discuss funding/costs.
 - Meeting with Jill Angus DCC agreed to review Lease terms for the land to be used for the car park. The Clerk to arrange a meeting with Bond's
 - Council Web Site – Members agreed to employ D. Rider to set up and maintain the site at a cost to be reported to the next meeting.
 - Allotment – Inspection/Allotment Association Councillor's Blacker, Batson Chair & Vice Chair to meet with the allotment holder to carry out individual site inspections and discuss the possibility of setting up an Allotment Association.
- 120/14 Clerk's Report**
- 1) Letter received from Christine Emerson, organiser of the family trip to South Shields on the 11th August 2014. It was a great success, Thank you to the Town Council for the donation from the N-Power Community Fund.
 - 2) Letter received from St Joseph's Organ Restoration and Community events committee thanking the Town Council for the £1000 donation and future funding arrangements, also enclosing a poster for an event at St. Josephs on Saturday 18th October 2014 commencing at 7.30pm
 Complementary tickets available for up to 10 Councillors to attend (circulated at the meeting)
 - 3) Application for Community Funding – Family trip to Blackpool on the 11th October 2014 organised by Tow Law Community Association.
 Members agreed to donate £250 towards the cost of hiring a bus (from the N-Power Community Fund)
 - 4) Application for Community Funding – additional equipment at the Trex Gym, Sports and Recreation centre (for use as part of the G P referral system etc). Members agreed to donate £250 towards the equipment.

5) Application for a donation to support a group of local residents who attempted the coast to coast route on the 5th to 7th September 2014 to raise funds for the Friends of Weardale Community Hospital at Stanhope (Charity number 1133650).

Members agreed to donate £300 towards the future expansion of facilities and services for rehabilitation, Mental Health Day Care and a Neurological Day Hospice at the hospital.

6) Land at Tow Law Industrial Estate

E-mail received from DCC, Asset strategy team regarding the possible sale of land which is surplus to County Councils requirements.

Members raised concerns regarding this application and instructed the Clerk to obtain more details and to circulate the response to all Councillors, for their comments.

7) Certificate of Training

Copies of Certificate of Training to carry out brushcutters/trimmers maintenance and operation for Councillors Hird and Rowland dated 22nd July 2014.

137/14

Members Reports

A) Millennium Green (Councillor Hird)

- Tidying up the area (i.e. litter picks)
- Free tree packs from the Woodland Trust (cost of tree guards) – Councillor Batson volunteered to provide expert advise to the volunteer group
- Fencing at the Green – responsibilities (check the legal documents)

B) Patient care in Tow Law (Councillor Grogan)

Members agreed to invite a representative from the Doctors Surgery to attend a Town Council meeting to discuss some joint working initiatives. (Any personal complaints should be made to the Quality Care Commission)

C) Garden Maintenance at Atlee Estate (Councillor Batson)

Complaints received from residents of the above estate regarding a letter from Home Housing Group (maintenance charges).

Members noted the situation.

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Date of next meeting

Date of the next ordinary meeting will be Tuesday 21st October 2014 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.30pm.

The meeting finished at 9.00pm

Signed by the Chairman.....page 4