

8. TRAFFIC SPEEDS – HIGH STREET/DAN’S CASTLE :

The Clerk reported having spoken to the Traffic Management Officer dealing with the High Profile Speed Campaign which was now under way, and due to last for four weeks. In the light of the work being carried out by Northumbrian Water and the recent inclement weather, it had been agreed that the campaign would be extended to eight weeks. The report was Noted

9. YOUNG PEOPLES’ ATTENDANCE AT COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP MEETINGS

Following the suggestion at the February meeting of the Partnership, the meeting considered the practicalities of the proposal, which would offer the opportunity for the young people to have some input into the affairs of the town, and put forward their own ideas as to what facilities they would like for recreation after school hours. It was noted that both Blessed John Duckett and Millennium Primary Schools had their own School Councils, and both Head Teachers were in favour of sending two representatives to future meetings.

Agreed : a) **That the two schools be represented at meetings of the Community Partnership, commencing with the May meeting.**

b) **That following an experimental period, the facility be extended to selected Tow Law youngsters at Wolsingham and Bishop Auckland St. John’s Comprehensive Schools.**

10. “HOME FRONT RECALL” SCHEME :

The Clerk reported receipt from the Durham Association of details of this programme, funded by the Big Lottery, designed to encourage groups to become involved in projects to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Second World War. Councillor Day undertook investigate ways in which this might be possible.

11. DURHAM ASSOCIATION OF TOWN & PARISH COUNCILS – AGM :

The Clerk reported that the Association’s Annual Meeting would be held in October, and invited the submission of a Notice of Motion for debate and possible transmission to the National Association. It was further reported that nominations were invited for the posts of President, Vice Presidents (3), Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Auditor.

Agreed : a) **That a Notice of Motion be submitted urging a review in the rates of audit fees for exceptional one-off income and expenditure, especially for smaller Town and Parish Councils.**

b) **That the 6 holders of the posts to become vacant at the Annual Meeting be nominated for re-election.**

12. SECTION 137 – FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE :

The meeting considered an application by the Great North Air Ambulance Service for assistance to help allow them to keep their three helicopters in the air.

Agreed : **That in accordance with the provisions of Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended, the sum of £50 be paid to this body.**

13. PLANNING MATTERS :

The following new applications were Noted without comment :

- a) Proposed erection of 13 no. wind turbines, control room and associated access tracks on land at South Shields, West Carr and Stonefoot farms, Inkerman for H.J.Banks & Co.
- b) Proposed new dwelling house at 1 North Road, Tow Law for Mr.Alan Rose.
- c) Proposed single storey extension at 4a Railway Street for Mr.D.W.Graham.
- d) Proposed conversion of garage to study/utility room/W.C. at 4 Moordale for Mr.&Mrs.Smith.

14. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT :

Agreed : That Approval be given for the payment of Invoices Nos. 062 – 065 in the sum of £ 883.33

15. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT :

The Chairman reported as follows :

- a) That efforts were being made to re-introduce the Tow Law web-site.
- b) That funding was available for a feasibility study to be undertaken in connection with the proposed extensions to the Recreation Centre.
- c) That finance was available to the Millennium Green Trust to provide a public seat, and a number of small environmental projects.
- d) That modest amounts of finance was available from the final tranche of SRB funding, and that this would be claimed before the deadline date of 31st March.

16. CLERK'S REPORT :

The Clerk had no reports to bring to the meeting's attention.

17. MEMBERS' REPORTS :

- a) Concern was expressed at the amount of fly-tipping which was taking place at High Stoop, and the Clerk was instructed to send a letter to Derwentside District Council pointing out the extent of this nuisance, and requesting the provision of skip facilities in an attempt to alleviate the problem.
- b) Concern was expressed at the proliferation of wheely bins on High Street, and it was pointed out that this was not the image which should be presented on the main road through the town. The Clerk was instructed to seek the District Council's views on the situation, with particular reference to commercial premises.

- c) Members felt that more action should be taken to alleviate the growing problem of dog fouling in and around the High Street and on grass verges generally, It was Agreed that the assistance of "Pride in Wear Valley" be enlisted in an effort to eradicate the problem.
- d) It was Noted that the Durham Wildlife Trust had appointed a warden to manage the fell, and it was Agreed to arrange a meeting at an early date to emphasise the Town Council's wishes in respect of the future use of the area.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING :

It was Noted that the next meeting of the Council would be held on Tuesday 19th April 2005 at 7 p.m.