

The Police officer in attendance corroborated the details, and expressed frustration that little could be done to tackle the problem, which was a matter for the staff.

Councillor Grogan reported that as a Governor of the Millennium School, he had been involved in the issue, and advised that a meeting of interested parties was to be held imminently. He had arranged for a copy of the Minutes of the meeting to be sent to the Clerk so that the Town Council could be appraised of the position and kept up to date with progress.

Agreed : That the report be Noted with concern, and that further details be awaited.

4. POLICE REPORT :

P.C.Frank Hewison opened his report by advising that Sergeant George Lyall had taken up his post on the Community Beat Team at the Stanhope Police office. Crime and incident statistics for the month of June revealed that 84 calls relating to Tow Law had been received, although it was important to note that a considerable number of these related to relatively mundane matters. Rowdy/nuisance behaviour was now spread across the community and not just in the usual "hot spots" while it was disappointing to note that other offences were not reducing markedly.

Commenting on the current problems at the children's home in Attlee Estate referred to in Item 3 above. P.C.Hewison confirmed that a meeting was to be held in the Community Centre the following day in an attempt to address the problems. At this stage. Councillor Grogan reported having met with the Head Teacher of the Millennium Primary School and with the management of the home, and it had been noted that although the two culprits had initially been reinstated, this decision had been reversed and only one was back in residence. Following discussion, it was

Agreed : That a letter of concern be sent to the Director of Social Services together with a copy of the resident's letter, and that County Councillor Carroll be appraised of the situation.

5. MINUTES :

Agreed : That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 20th June 2006 (a copy of which had been sent previously to each member) be Approved and Signed as a correct record.

6. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT :

County Councillor Carroll was not in attendance

7. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS :

a) Councillor R.Grogan

Councillor Grogan reported that the Wellness on Wheels facility was now on site in the car park, and would operate for a period of 10 weeks. He understood that funding



of around £10,000 might be available for the provision of gymnasium equipment, but that it would be necessary to identify temporary premises to store the equipment so that the funding would not be lost, and he asked members' approval to seek the release of some Section 106 money from the District Council to assist in this. He further reported that Banks had approached another potential developer with a view to a possible arrangement which would release further land for development.

Agreed : That the report be Noted and that Approval be given to seek the release of Section 106 money for the purpose indicated.

b) Councillor J.Gale

Councillor Gale reported that he had recently attended a meeting of the Local Strategic Partnership's Housing Theme Group, and had been elected as Chairman of the group. Home Housing were not as yet involved with the group, but would be invited to participate. He speculated that Section 106 money might be used to induce developers to provide more social housing, and this would be investigated. He advised the meeting that the District Council had finally agreed to remove the stone built bus shelter at the former cattle mart site and that it would be replaced with a new style metal and glass type by a private company, and the possibility of providing a new public toilet facility would be investigated.

8. CASUAL VACANCY :

The Clerk reported having ascertained from the District Council that there had been no demand for a poll to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of former Councillor Christine Rand. Accordingly the Council was at liberty to co-opt a member to fill the vacancy, and following an informal approach to the unsuccessful applicant for a recent vacancy, it was

Agreed : That Mr.G.C.Stevens be co-opted to serve as a member of the Town Council.

9. RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE :

The meeting considered as Appendix 1 the preliminary report of consultants as part of the exercise to establish the recreational needs of the community. The findings would be assessed, and a further report published as a feasibility study, which would include the possible future use of the recreation area at the Millennium Green. The report was Noted.

10. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR – PROGRESS REPORT :

Members considered as Appendix 2 an information document setting out a summary of the proposals which were put informally to the June meeting of the Council, together with the subsequent suggestions for furthering a reduction in the incidence of nuisance in the community. Following discussion, and at the suggestion of the Chairman_ it was

Agreed : a) That Councillor Blacker be appointed as "lead" member in dealing with this matter, and



b) That the Clerk investigate the procedure for establishing a Youth Council in an effort to give young people a better stake in community affairs.

11. PUBLIC SEATS :

The Clerk reported having received suggestions as follows for three roadside seats in addition to that to be sited at Road Ends as previously agreed :

- a) At the point where Public Footpath No.2 (Tow Law) and Footpath No.38 (Wolsingham) crosses Wolsingham Road
- b) At an appropriate location near the junction of the A68 and Inkerman Road
- c) On the south side of Iron works Road opposite the entrance to Tow Law F.C.

It was noted that location (a) was situated within Wolsingham Parish and that location (c) was sited on the footpath abutting Bonds Foundry, and that if agreed, the appropriate permission would be required.

Agreed ; That the three locations indicated be Approved subject to the necessary permission being granted, and the views of the Highway Authority being taken into account.

12. COMMUNITY FUND :

- a) The following new application was considered :

Tow Law Tapestry Adults' Basic Skills Class

This application was for financial support to enable the course, organised by Durham County Council to continue and complete work on the Tow Law Banner. Finance had previously been forthcoming from the n-Power Community Fund, and it was estimated that some £500 was still required to complete the work. In the light of the Town Council's policy to impose a ceiling of £250 on applications to the Fund, it was felt that the required funding might be spread over a period, and that matching funding might be sought from the County Council. Accordingly, it was

Agreed : That payment of the sum of £150 be Approved at this time and that the group be encouraged to seek further assistance from the County Council.

b) Tow Law Teen Club

The Clerk reminded members of the approval of a grant of a maximum sum of £150 to this group in order to assist with a charity event to raise funds for breast cancer care. The amount was subject to the group raising funds from the community in cash or in kind, and this had been achieved. In view of the fact that the group did not have a bank account, the cheque had been made payable to a relative of one of the young people involved, who had paid over the corresponding sum in cash

Agreed : That the decision of the Clerk in this matter be Confirmed and Approved.

13. PLANNING MATTERS :

The following new applications were Noted without comment :

- a) Proposed 4 bedroom detached house and double garage with single track access road on land between 2 & 3 Smith Street for R.A.& K. Smith
- b) Proposed residential development on garden land adjoining 34 Campbell Street

The following planning approvals were Noted :

- a) Single storey extension to rear of 99 High Street for Mrs.L.Gray
- b) 3 storey private dwelling at Plot 1 Millennium Court for Mr.S.T.Wilkie

14. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT :

Agreed : That Approval be given to the payment of Invoices Nos. 010 to 016 in the sum of £1767.86

15. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT :

The Chairnan reported as follows :

- a) Having enrolled on a training course on Chairmanship Skills arranged through the Durham County Association's Training Programme.
- b) Having arranged for a programme of watering of plants in the planters and floral tubs during the current spell of hot weather.

The reports were Noted and Approved.

16. MEMBERS' REPORTS :

- a) Councillor Gale reported for members' information that Derwentside District Council was to inspect Wear Valley's system of refuse collection.. He further reported that he had undergone a period of training in the work of a district council which he had found most informative and helpful.
- b) Councillor Grogan expressed concern at remarks passed at the June meeting which had been reported in the press as being attributable to a member of the Town Council, and which had been referred to earlier in the meeting. He wished to stress that the comments had not been made on behalf of the Town Council, and the Clerk was instructed to write to the resident who had made reference to them to explain the situation so as to avoid any misunderstanding.

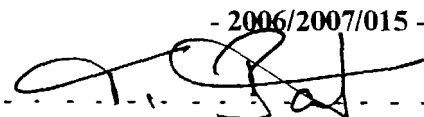
17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING :

It was Noted that because of the Summer recess, the next scheduled meeting of the Town Council would be held on Tuesday 19th September at 6 p.m.

Agreed : That Approval be given to the Chairman, Vice Chairman and the Clerk to deal with items of an urgent nature which might arise during the recess.

- 2006/2007/015 -

Sit r,e,d



Chairman.,