

Tow Law Town Council

Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2007 in the Community Centre commencing at 6.30pm.

Present councillors: Councillor T Batson (Chair), A Blacker, J Day, J Flynn, P Graham, A Green, E Morris, G Stevens, and J Stevens.

Also in attendance: PC Jeff Blair and G F Smith (Clerk).

Apologies: Councillor J Gale, R Grogan and District Councillor C Hayton.

051/07 Declaration of Interest

No declaration of interest.

052/07 Police Report

PC Jeff Blair circulated a copy of the police report (copy attached to the minutes), followed by a question and answer session. Members raised concerns around the sale of alcohol to young people (18+ buying for under the age young people), use of surveillance cameras (funding issues) and the general awareness of the police presence in the town. Members thanked PC Blair for his report and attendance at the meeting. PC Blair left the meeting.

053/07 Representation by Residents

No residents present.

054/07 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2007

Minute 034/07 Declaration of Interest — remove Councillor Greens name. Subject to the above alteration it was agreed as true record and signed by the Chairman.

055/07 Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2007

Agreed as true record and signed by the Chairman.

056/07 Report of the County Councillor

No report.

057/07 Report of the District Councillor

Councillor Hayton and Gale no report.

Councillor Grogan. (Clerk read out notes from Councillor Grogan).

- a. Recreational facilities at the new gymnasium, membership around 80, funding for CCTV and security lightening (still further work required).
- b. All weather pitch, work to commence beginning May 2007.

- c. Football pitch, drainage problems have appeared to be resolved, further meeting with technical staff at Wear Valley District Council to move forward with this project.
- d. A letter has been sent to Mr Cudderson regarding the old Barclays Bank premises in High Street (letter dated 6<sup>th</sup> March 2007).

058/07 Planning Matters

- 1. Minor elevation change in connection with sub division of food retail unit consent under application No. 3/2005/0725 and 3/2005/0171 at 47a High Street for Replay Associates Ltd. Members agreed to raise no objection.

059/07 Accounts for Payment

Members agreed that the following payments for voucher No's 53 — 57 in the sum of £1164.75.

060/07 Chairman's Report

- a. Anti-social behaviour meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2007.  
The Chairman thought that this was a good meeting, well attended and a good response from all those present. M.P. will be pleased to attend should there be a need to hold another meeting (subject to her commitments).
- b. White Paper of Local Government.  
Announcement by the Government by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007.

061/07 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on correspondence received:

- a) Durham County Council — Highway trees at Tow Law.  
Members agreed:-
  - 1. They are not happy with the response from Alan Hodgson, Arboricultural Officer, Durham County Council. Clerk to send a further letter to Mr Hodgson relating to the conditions and unacceptable standard of work carried out to the trees.
  - 2. For the Clerk to write to NEDL (CE Electrical) stating the unacceptable work carried out by Bethells and suggest possible replacement trees in a more suitable location.
- b) Wear Valley District Council — request for contribution to LSP Administrative Support Post.  
Members agreed that this item should be referred to the next meeting of the District Council's Parish/Town Council Forum.
- c) Wear Valley District Council — Overview and Scrutiny Committee, request to interview the Clerk.  
Members agreed to the request.
- d) Smith Roddam Solicitors — land at Tow Law, signatures on the transfer deed.  
Members agreed for the Chairman and the Vice Chairman to sign the transfer deed on behalf of the Tow Law Town Council.

- e) Mr Ian Johnson, Vacation Travel, Crook — request to advertise in the Tatler.  
Members agreed for advertising space to be made available in the Tatler (Clerk to discuss costs with Mr Johnson).
- f) Iversley Equestrian Centre — application for a funding a 2 day event at the centre on 21/22 April 2007, amount applied for £100 or £200 from N Power Community fund. Members agreed to decline the application as the event was not in Tow Law.
- g) Mr John Abbot — letter of thanks.  
The Chairman read out the letter to Council members.  
Members agreed for the Clerk to write a letter to Mr Abbot thanking him for his work as Town Clerk to the Town Council and to wish him health and happiness in his retirement.

062/07 Members Reports

- a) Visit by some members to the exhibition recently organised by H.J. Banks on the proposed new development.
- b) Development day Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2007 10am — 3pm.
- c) Tidy Garden Competition to be sponsored by the Town Council. Clerk to discuss the event with the Councillor J Stevens and report back to the next appropriate Town Council meeting.
- d) Clerk to write to the Divisional Highway engineer, Durham County Council regarding the unsatisfactory state of the roads on Deerness Estate.
- e) Christmas lanterns and Christmas window competition, subject to a funding application from N Power Community fund by 2007 Community Festival Committee.

063/07 Date and Time of the next meeting

The next ordinary meeting will be held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2007 at 6.30pm.

The meeting finished at 7.30pm.

