

Minutes of the Tow Law Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 17th April 2007 in the Community Centre commencing at 6.30pm.

Present councillors: Councillors T Batson (Chair), A Blacker, J Day, J Flynn, J Gale, P Graham, A Green, R Grogan and J Stevens.

Also in attendance: County Councillor T Carroll, Sgt David Lyle (Durham Police) and G F Smith (Clerk).

Apologies: Councillors E Morris, G Stevens and District Councillor C Hayton.

064/07 Declaration of Interest
No declaration of interest.

065/07 Police Report
Sgt David Lyle circulated a copy of the police report (copy attached to the minutes) followed by a question and answer session. Members thanked Sgt Lyle for his report and attendance at the meeting. Sgt Lyle left the meeting.

066/07 Representation by Residents
No residents present.

067/07 Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting held on 20th March 2007
Agreed as true record and signed by the Chairman.

068/07 Matters Arising

Page 2

061/07 Clerks Report

a) Trees at Tow Law; Durham County Council/NEDL

Clerk reported that he had sent a letter of complaint to Durham County Council and NEDL.

No response from Durham County Council.

NEDL had offered to supply/replace six trees.

Members agreed for the Clerk to write to NEDL thanking them for their offer of six trees and asked if they would be prepared to increase the number and for the Council to agree the position/types of the new trees.

Page 3

061/07 Clerks Report

e) Vacation Travel.

Clerk had written to Vacation Travel, Crook. The owner would like to pay for advertising space in the Tattler.

Members agreed the charge of £15 to £20 per issue subject to the size of the advert.

069/07 Minutes of the Finance and General Purpose Committee held on 27th March 2007

Members agreed to accept the report but not the recommendation it was proposed that the Town Council to accept responsibility of Millennium Green as of 1st April 2008' Voting by eligible Councillors took place, two votes for, two votes against. The Chairman recommended that this item be placed on the agenda for the next Town Council meeting (15th May 2007), for further discussion and to look at the costing figures (forecast), this was agreed.

070/07 Report of the County Councillor

No report.

071/07 Report of the District Councillors

Councillor Hayton, no report.

Councillor Grogan reported:-

- a) Funds for CCTV, received £999 from Wear Valley District Council and £1500 from the Community Safety Fund. Once installed the police will monitor the outputs and equipment will be owned by the Town Council.
- b) All weather pitch, work to commence in May 2007.
- c) Football pitch, drainage problems have been resolved, further work required to the pitch (re: top soil and seeding).

The Chairman thanked Councillor Grogan for his actions in the above matters.

Councillor Gale reported:-

- a) Fabrication and installation of twin gates to the Multi Use Games Area will cost £1285.00 this will be funded by Wear Valley District Council.
- b) Extension of fitness suite, membership now stands at 110.
- c) Wear Valley District Council, housing service has recently been awarded two star rating.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Gale for his actions in the above matters.

072/07 Planning Matters

- a) Demolish grade 2 listed cattle mart auction building, Tow Law auction ring, Church Lane Ref; 3/2007/0183 for McInemey Homes.

Members agreed to raise no objections.

- b) Formation of screened compound, construction of hard surface area for parking and widening of access onto A68. Ref; 3/2007/0184 for Mark Watson.

Members raised concerns regarding the appropriate screening and the possible effect on adjoining land (particularly the effect it may have on the proposed residential; development). Clerk to write to the Planning Officer at Wear Valley District Council.

- c) Replacements of windows at the rear of 3 Attwood Place, Ref; 3/2007/0211 for Mrs J Lintern.

Members agreed to raise no objection.

- d) 2 no detached dwellings to the rear of 1 North Road. Ref 3/2007/0239 for Mr D Gaines.

Members agreed to raise no objection.

- e) New roof profile to rear extension and garage at 9 Campbell Street. Ref 3/2007/0293 (re-submission) for Mr G Craggs.

Members agreed to raise no objection.

073/07 Accounts for Payment

Members approved the payment for vouchers No's 01 to 05 in the sum of £1385.45.

074/07 Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported:-

- a) Meeting with Deputy Chief Executive, Durham County Council regarding the Unitary Authority for County Durham and joint working with Town and Parish Councils.
- b) Possible Beacon Status for the Town Council.
- c) Development Day with the Community Association and community Partnership and the members of the Town Council.

075/07 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on the correspondence received:-

- a) Appointment of Internal Auditor – Members agreed to the appointment of Mr Mike Ackroyd, Long Garth, Whitesmocks, Durham City for the year ended 31st March 2007 the estimated cost was £50 plus travelling costs based on 2 inspections of the books and a report.
- b) Durham County Council – Unitary Local Government Stakeholders Consultation comments to Government by 22nd June 2007.
- c) BDO Stoy Harward, External Auditors. Members noted the audit date (17th August 2007) for the year ended 31st March 2007.
- d) Durham Wildlife Trust – Hedley Hope Fell and Cornsay Common; proposal for a visitor's car park and surfaced path.
- e) Chief Constable, Durham Police – briefing March 2007.
- f) Anonymous letter – Old Barclays Bank premises, High Street.
- g) North East War Memorials Project; Newsletter No 5; spring 2007.
- h) County Durham Tourist Partnership Newsletter; issue 2.
- i) Headleyhope Herald; issue 2.
- j) Letter from C Wilkinson, 4 Pennine View – complaint reseat at Pennine View/Fellside Close. Members agreed for the Clerk to write to Mr Wilkinson informing him that the matters raised in his letter would be investigated.
- k) Minerals Valley Project Newsletter; spring 2007; issue 7.

076/07 Members Reports

Durham Rural Community Council – Spring meeting Thursday 17th May 2007 at Greenhouse, Annfield Plain loam – 1pm to discuss 'Parish Planning'. Town Clerk to attend (if available).

Old Barclay's Bank premises, High Street. Members agreed for the Clerk to write to the legal section of Wear Valley District Council supporting the police in classing the premises as a dangerous building.

077/07 Date and Time of the next meeting

The next meeting will be the Annual Council meeting to be held on Tuesday 15th May 2007 following the Meeting of Electors which commences at 6.30pm in the Community Centre.