

**TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL**

**Minutes of a Meeting of Tow Law Town Council held Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2007  
in the Community Centre at 6.30pm**

**Present Councillors: J. Gale ( Chairman), T. Batson, A. Blacker, J. Day, P. Graham, A. Green, H. Hail, L. Rowland, G. Stevens, J. Stevens and L. Taylor.**

**Also Present: County Councillor T. Carrol,  
District Councillor C. Hayton  
Mrs Diane Pearson ( Tow Law Community Partnership)  
Cath Nichels, Peter Nichols and Robert Plews (Residents)**

**Apologies: Councillor R. Grogan**  
Only one Councillor raised the subject with the Clerk for clarification on the absence of Councillor Grogan and the rules regarding failure to attend the Council Meeting. Councillor Grogan last attended a Town Council Meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2007. Persistent Absence “If a member fails throughout six consecutive months to attend any meeting of the Council or sub-committees of which he is a member, or of a joint committee, joint board or other body to which any of the Council’s Powers have been transferred or delegated, He ceases automatically to be a member of the Council unless either he has a “Statutory Excuse” or his failure is due to a reason approved by the Council or he attended as a representative of the Council at a Meeting of any body of persons (such as a County Association of Local Councils). The period begins with the last Meeting attended”.

**147/07 Declaration of Interest**  
No declaration received.

**148/07 Declaration of Office of Councillor**  
Members agreed to accept the declaration of office of Councillor from Harry Hail, 8A High Street, Tow Law and Lyn Taylor, 25 Alpine Way, Tow Law following the Election on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2007. The Clerk and proper officer of the Council has signed the forms in the presence of the Councillors.

**149/07 Police Report**  
No report received

**150/07 Update from the Community Partnership by Diane Pearson**  
Mrs Pearson updated members on the work that is/will be carried out:-  
a) Partnership next Meeting 8<sup>th</sup> November 2007  
b) Copies of draft Business Plan for the Tow Law Community Association (copies obtainable on request)  
c) Macmillan Coffee Morning raised £325.80  
d) Courses  
e) Recreation Ground  
f) Draft Sustainable Community Strategy (LSP) , being discussed at a meeting on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October.

g) Events list for the October school half term

Members thanks Mrs Pearson for her report (copy attached to the minutes)

151/07 Representation by residents

Mr Plews raised concerns about dog bins at AlpineWay and also bins being full and not being emptied, Councillor Gale agreed to discuss the situation with District Council Officers.

152/07 Minutes of the meeting held 18<sup>th</sup> September 2007

Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

153/07 Matters Arising

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127/07 Tow Law Football Club

Clerk to arrange a Meeting with Football Club Officers, and to report to the next appropriate Town Council Meeting.

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117/07 Statement of Accounts

b) Banking Arrangements

Clerk to report to the next Town Council Meeting

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154/07 Minutes of the Finance and General purpose committee held 10<sup>th</sup> October 2007

It was agreed:-

- a) To accept the draft Standing Orders
- b) To accept the draft Financial Regulations
- c) To accept the Contract of Employment for the Clerk to the Council
- d) For the Finance & General Purposes Committee to set up a sub-committee to deal with the issues for the allotment gardens, Councillor Graham to discuss with the Clerk a date to hold the first meeting
- e) To accept the Income & Expenditure Account as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2007 and for each Council Member to prepare a “things to do list” before the precept is agreed for the Financial Year 2008/09.
- f) To continue with the present arrangements for supplying christmas trees to be fitted into brackets on residents properties. Clerk to check with tree supplier that the trunk is around 50mm so that it will fit into the bracket.

155/07 County Councillor Report

Councillor Carrol reported:-

- a) Meetings on Climate Change
- b) Direct Services now an Arms Length Company with a Board of Directors
- c) Unitary Council

**156/07 District Councillors Report**

**Councillor Hayton reported:-**

- a) Unitary Authority and links with Hill Top Villages

**Councillor Gale reported:-**

- a) Unitary Authority
- b) Peer review in November which is part of the Audit procedure (due March 2008)

**157/07 Planning Matters**

- a) Application 3/2007/0700 at 82 High Street, Members agreed to raise no objections.
- b) Application 3/2007/0683 at garden land adjoining 34 Campbell Street, Members agreed to raise no objections.
- c) Application 3/2007/0745 at the New Market, Castle Bank, Members agreed to raise no objections.

**158/07 Accounts for payments**

That approval be given for the payment of voucher numbers 27 to 33 in the sum of £2308.40. Members raised concerns that the Tattler was not being delivered to all areas of the Town. Clerk to report to the next Town Council Meeting.

**159/07 Statement of Accounts as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2007**

Members agreed to accept the statement

**160/07 Chairman's Report**

The Chairman reported on the cost of providing a bus shelter at the Road Ends by Wear Valley District Council, The estimate is £1972. Members agreed to release £850 from the general account and £250 from the N-Power Community Fund as part funding towards the scheme. The Chairman to report back to the next Town Council Meeting.

**161/07 Clerk's Report**

The following Correspondence were received:-

- a) Members agreed to donate £250.00 (from the N-Power Community Fund) to Tow Law Millennium Tots to purchase new safety equipment and playpen for babies and small children also help towards a Christmas trip.
- b) Request for a donation from Mr Russell Bell for a contribution towards the cost of Mini Bus transport – item deferred until the next meeting, further information required.
- c) Members agreed to accept the completed Annual Return for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007 from BDO Stoy Hayward LLP, Chartered Accountants (Auditors) and for the Clerk to make arrangements to display the Notice of conclusion of Audit.

**Item**

- d) Wear Valley District Council – National Non Domestic Rate changes to empty Business property Rates.**
- e) Banks Developments – Inkerman Road development, proposed presentation to Town Council. Item deferred until the next Town Council Meeting, Members requested further guidance regarding Meeting developers i.e. Code of Conduct / Standing Orders / Pecuniary Interests.**
- f) County Durham + Cleveland Training Partnership –Training sessions “How to be a good Councillor”. Members agreed for the training to be arranged for all Members and to be held at Tow Law. Clerk to report to the next Meeting.**
- g) County Durham & Cleveland Training Partnership – training session “Meeting Agenda & Minutes – The Law & Best Practice” 7<sup>th</sup> November 2007.**
- h) County Durham & Cleveland Training Partnership – training session “Community Engagement” 14<sup>th</sup> February 2008**
- i) County Durham Association of Locals Councils – AGM Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2007 10.30 to 12.00 at County Hall, Durham. Councillor Batson and Day to attend.**
- j)Wear Valley Community Network – Climate change event 20<sup>th</sup> October 2007 9.30 to 4.30 Bishop Auckland Town Hall.**
- k) County Durham Association of Local Councils – Newsletter October 2007, Issue 15.**
- l) County Durham Learning Disabilities Partnership Board – Newsletter September 2007; Issue 17**
- m) County Durham Local 21 Newsletter, Autumn 2007; Issue 35**
- n) 2D Autumn Magazine 2007**
- o) Tow Law Community Association – Cost of advertising space in 2008 calendar £40.00 Members agreed to contribute £40.00 towards the advertising costs.**
- p) Hillary Armstrong MP – surgery Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2007 at the Community Centre 10.30 to 12.00**

**162//07 Members Reports**

**Councillor Batson suggested a possible name change for the Town Council to “Tow Law Local Council” item to be discussed at the next Town Council Meeting.**

**Councillor Blacker was completing a grant for repairs to Tow Law War Memorial and required permission to use the Town Council’s Bank account details to receive the grant payments. Members agreed to the request. Councillor Hail raised concerns regarding the Old Barclays Bank building in High Street.**

**163/07 Date and Time of Next Meeting**

**The next ordinary Meeting of the Town Council will be held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2007 commencing 6.30pm.**

**The Meeting finished at 8.10pm**