

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 15th January 2008 in the Community Centre at 6.30pm.

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

Also Present: Pc Blair, Pcs0 Strong (Durham Police) , G Wigley, Cath Nicholls, and Robert Plews (Residents) Mrs D. Pearson (Tow Law Community Partnership) Mr Steve Thomas (Wear Valley District Council, County Councillor T. Carroll, District Councillor C. Hayton and G F Smith (Clerk)

Apologies: Councillor G. Stevens

001/08 Declaration of Interest

Councillor Green declared an Interest in item 16b – Planning Matters; she left the meeting whilst this item was discussed.

Councillor Batson declared an Interest in item 19c – Clerk’s Report he left the meeting whilst this item was discussed.

002/08 Police Report

Pc Blair circulated a copy of the monthly statistics (copy attached to the minutes), followed by a question and answer session. He also updated the meeting on the cctv bid for Tow Law.

003/08 County Councillor’s Report

Councillor Carroll Reported:-

- a) Budget proposals for 2008/09
 - b) Deselected for the election being held in May 2008 for the new Unitary Authority. The Chairman and members thanked Councillor Carroll for his service to the Community.
- Councillor Carroll left the Meeting.

004/08 Representation by residents

Mr Plews raised concerns about Dog Bins not being installed by Wear Valley District Council. The Chairman informed Mr Plews that the Bins were on order waiting to be installed.

005/08 Presentation by Mr Steve Thomas Neighbourhood Arrangements Officer, Wear Valley District Council

Mr Thomas updated members on the work of the Neighbourhood Arrangements Team and the Funding that was available to local Groups and Organisations (copy of Presentation slides attached to the minutes). The Members thanked Mr Thomas for the presentation, He remained in the Meeting.

Signed by the Chairman.....Page 1

006/08 Update from the Community partnership

Mrs Pearson presented her Report (copy attached to the Minutes) on the work of the Community partnership, which included:-

The Recreation Ground (TREX)

BMX Track

Community Carol Service

007/08 Minutes of the Town Council meeting held 20th November 2007

ADD Page 4 Minute 175/07 Clerk's report

"h) Wear Valley District Council – Review of the Polling District/Places Final Draft proposals.

Subject to the above amendment the Minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Councillor Batson wished to record his disappointment that the Council would not agree to forming a special sub-committee to work on the CCTV bid by the Police.

008/08 Matters Arising

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127/07 Tow Law Football Club

Meeting arranged for 24th January 2008, Clerk to Report to the next Town Council Meeting.

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161/07 Clerk's Report

f) County Durham & Cleveland Training Partnership

Councillors Training Sessions – awaiting confirmation of dates, Clerk to report to the next Town Council Meeting.

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175/07 Clerk's Report

d) Mrs Grayson, 20 Harrison Street

The Clerk had sent letters to the Police and the Street Warden at Wear Valley District Council.

i) DCC – National Tree Week

The closing date had passed before an application had been made.

o) Quality Town and Parish Council Status

Item to be placed on the Agenda each month. Possible article in the Northern Echo (Bessie Robinson to contact the Chairman).

p) Hilltop Community Partnership outstanding item regarding a possible informal Meeting between all parties it was agreed to defer this item until further developments take place regarding Local Government Reorganisation.

009/08 Minutes of the Special Town Council Meeting held 10th December 2007

The Minutes were agreed as a true record.

010/08 Minutes of the Finance and General Purpose Committee held 9th January 2008

Councillor Graham presented the Report to Council Members. It was agreed:-

- A) For the Finance & General Purpose Committee to look at the possible charging for the supply of Christmas Trees.
- B) For the Clerk to look at the cost of delivering the Tattler and to report to the next appropriate Town Council meeting.
- C) To a 5% increase on the Precept figure for 2007/08, therefore the Precept for 2008/09 will be £18536.
- D) To set up an allotments sub – committee (Chairman Councillor P. Graham plus Councillors Batson, Blacker, Hail and Rowland).
- E) To increase the Clerk’s hours by 3 hours per week to enable him to complete the portfolio to obtain Quality Town Council Status. Clerk to report the additional hours worked to each Town Council Meeting.
- F) To hold regular surgeries for Local Residents on a Monthly basis with two Councillors per surgery. The Chairman agreed to work out a rota and report to the next Town Council Meeting.

011/08 Statements of Accounts for the period 1st April 2007 to 31st December 2007

Members agreed to accept the Statement.

012/08 District Councillors Report

Councillor Hayton Reported:-

- a) Unitary Authority Election to be held 1st May 2008 b) Hill Top Villages

Councillor Grogan Reported:-

- c) Work on the old Barclays Bank, High Street
- d) Gym extension at the Recreation Ground
- e) Letter received from Mrs Hobson Re: Framed Memorial

Councillor Gale Reported:-

- f) Further update on the Unitary Authority for County Durham.

013/08 Planning Matters

- a) Application 3/2007/0850 at field adjacent to Wolsingham Road, Members agreed to raise no objections.

Councillor Green left the Meeting

- b) Application 3/2007/0893 at 76 High Street, Members agreed to raise no objections.

Councillor Green returned to the Meeting.

014/08 Accounts for payment

That approval be given for the payment of voucher numbers 38 to 55 in the sum of £3928.40. This included payments made on 10th December 2007, 20th December 2007 and to pay 15th January 2008.

015/08 Chairman’s Report

No Report

016/08 Clerk's Report

a) Councillor Judith Stevens – letter of resignation

Members agreed to accept the resignation of Councillor Stevens and for the Clerk to inform Wear Valley District Council regarding the vacancy.

b) Wear Valley District Council – Declaration of Interest Form; to be completed by each Council Member.

Councillor Batson left the Meeting

c) Wear Valley District Council – Appeal by Mr T Batson to the Secretary of State following the refusal of Planning Permission for a temporary Office unit for a minimum period of two years at land adjacent to 5 Inkerman Road.

Councillor Batson returned to the Meeting

d) Durham County Council – Local Transport plan 2 (2006-2011).

e) Durham County Council – Parish Paths Partnership Application 2008, closing date 1st March 2008.

f) County Durham and Darlington Fire & Rescue Service – Integrated Risk Management; Draft year 5 Improvement Plan; response by 9th March 2008.

g) Society of Local Council Clerks – Regional conference on Thursday 13th March 2008 at Shotton Hall, Peterlee. Cost £45 + VAT (split with Esh Parish Council £22.50 each + VAT £3.94 = £26.44).

It was agreed to pay £22.50 + VAT £3.94 = £26.44 towards the cost

h) Institute of Local Council Management – application for Associate Membership for Mr G F Smith, cost £55 (split with Esh Parish Council £30.22 and Tow Law Town Council £24.78).

It was agreed to pay £24.78 towards the cost

i) Blessed John Duckett RC Primary School – letter of thanks for donations.

j) Tow Law Community Partnership – report from the development day held on 28th March 2007

Item to be discussed at the next Town Council Meeting

k) Pensioners Party held on 14th December 2007 – feedback.

l) Christmas Lights competition – report.

m) County Durham Association of Local Councils Newsletter; December 2007.

n) County Durham Learning Disabilities Partnership Board Newsletter; November 2007.

o) Durham Rural Community Council Newsletter; December 2007.

p) County Durham Associations of Local Councils – Post Office Closure Programme.

q) CDALC – Training Event (Free) “The Planning Portal” on Wednesday 30th January 2008 at Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham 2pm to 3.30pm

It was agreed for the Clerk to attend this training event.

r) CDALC – update Parish and Town Council

s) CDALC – training event (Free) “Village Green”, Committee Room 1B, County Hall, Durham 10am to 1.30pm

It was agreed for the Clerk to attend this training event.

t) County Durham & Cleveland County Training Partnership training Event “Community Engagement” at County Hall, Durham on Thursday 14th February 2008, 10am to 12pm cost £27 + vat (split with Esh Parish Council £15.86 each)

It was agreed for the Clerk to attend this training course and to pay £13.50 + vat £2.36 = £15.86 towards the cost.

017/08 Members Reports

Councillor Blacker – Millennium Green and street Lighting

Councillor Graham – Meeting with Officers of DCC re the new Unitary Authority. Chairman to arrange

- update reports on Trex, number of membership/visits to be Reported to the Town Council. Mrs Pearson to contact Natalie Drew to obtain the information and report back to the next Town Council Meeting.

Councillor Hail - Fly tipping behind “Bond’s” Councillor Gale would contact Officers at Wear Valley District Council.

Councillor Gale - Pit fall opened up west of football field

018/08 Date and time of next Meeting

The next meeting of the Town Council will be held on Tuesday 19th February commencing at 6.30pm

The Meeting finished at 8.35pm

Signed by the Chairman.....Page 5