

Tow Law Town Council

Minutes of a meeting of Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2008 in the Community Centre commencing at 6.30pm.

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

Also present: Patricia Jopling (Crook), Laura Drew, Cath Nicholls, Gail Wigley (Residents) and G F Smith(Clerk).

Apologies: Mrs D Pearson (Tow Law Community Partnership)

053/08 Declaration of Interest

Councillor Rowland declared an interest in item 12 (voucher 05)- Accounts for payment, she took no part in the debate.

Councillor Stevens declared an interest in item 11 (A) – Planning Matters; he took no part in the debate.

Councillor Hail declared an interest in item 11 (B) – Planning Matters; he took no part in the debate.

054/08 Police Report

No report received.

055/08 Representations by residents

Alleged change of housing plans by the Developer. Councillor Grogan would make inquiries of Officers at the District Council and report back to the resident.

Concerns raised over the alleged sale of houses to private lettings company.

Concerns raised regarding the lack of police presence in the Town. Councillor Batson to raise this at the next Police Liaison meeting.

056/08 Update from the Community Partnership

No report received.

057/08 Minutes of the Tow Law Town Council meeting held 18<sup>th</sup> March 2008

Members agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

058/08 Matters arising

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039/08 Update from the Community Partnership

BMX Track

Members raised concerns regarding the lack of consultation with the Town Council.

The Chairman reported on a meeting with the Contractor, Groundwork West Durham and residents regarding the size and positioning of ramps near to local residents properties.

Signed by the Chairman.....Page 1

Item

A compromise had been reached and the work was allowed to continue with the minimum amount of delay. Members hoped that in future any development in the area should be brought to the attention of the Town Council to allow the correct method of consultation to take place.

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127/07 Tow Law Football Club

The Clerk was awaiting confirmation from the Society of Local Council Clerk's regarding the position of the Football Club and charitable status. Clerk to report on the response from the SLCC to an appropriate Town Council meeting.

010/08 Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held 9<sup>th</sup> January 2008

E) Clerk's additional hours

The Clerk reported that he had worked an additional 12 hours work on the preparation of the Portfolio. Members agreed to pay the additional hours.

F) Councillors Surgeries

List of proposed dates had been circulated to all Council Members.

Further update on Agenda Item No 10.

016/08 Clerk's Report

Council Vacancy

Members agreed for the full Town Council to interview the four candidates in week commencing Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2008 (Chairman/Clerk to confirm date).

In the absence of the Clerk it was proposed/seconded that Councillor Rowland would take the minutes of the meeting.

Clerk to suggest appropriate questions to be asked of the candidates.

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042/08 Report of the Allotments Sub-Committee held 12<sup>th</sup> March 2008

Clerk to meet with the Chairman of the Sub-Committee (Councillor Graham) and to arrange a date for the next visit (Ridley Terrace) and for a meeting of the Joint Working Party with allotment holders. Clerk to report to the next Town Council meeting.

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043/08 Report of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held 12<sup>th</sup> March 2008

A) Millennium Green

Clerk arranging a site meeting with local Contractors. Clerk to report to an appropriate Town Council meeting.

B) Beehive Coke Ovens

Clerk arranging a site meeting with approved Specialist Contractor. Clerk to report to an appropriate Town Council meeting.

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D) Web-site for the Town Council

No progress to report, Clerk to report to an appropriate Town Council meeting.

E) Town Council News

Awaiting schools returning from holiday to arrange meetings with the Head Teachers.

Clerk to report to an appropriate Town Council meeting.

Signed by the Chairman.....Page 2

G)Pantomime 2008

Clerk is awaiting cost/production details. Clerk to report to an appropriate Town Council meeting.

046/08 Planning Matters

A)Application 3/2008/0084 –Land rear of 9/10 Campbell Street

Application remains invalid (forms incomplete)

C) Application 3/2008 0131 – 34 Alpine Way

Application considered to large for the size of the site. Planning Officer is recommending refusal.

D) Application 3/2008/0171 – Former Village Hall, Campbell Street Planning Officer/residents have concerns regarding the positioning of properties on the site.

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059/08 County Councillor's Report

No report received

060/08 District Councillors' report

A) Councillor Hayton – No Report received

B) Councillor Grogan Reported:-

- 1) Cattle Mart Redevelopment
- 2) Wind Farms – Funding to Communities
- 3) Banks Developments – Eco Village Approval
- 4) Section 106 Funding
- 5) Old Barclays Bank Premises - ongoing
- 6) Gymnasium Extension – work progressing
- 7) Supermarket Development
- 8) Police Operations in Tow Law

C) Councillor Gale Reported:-

- 1) Banks Wind Farm Development – Allocation of Funding, excluding Tow Law

061/08 Report from Councillors Surgery held 12<sup>th</sup> April 2008

Councillors Batson and Blacker reported to the meeting that no members of the public turned up at the Community Centre. However they felt that the Surgeries should continue and more publicity should be used to make residents more aware of when the Surgeries are on. Members agreed to continue with the Surgeries and to also be more proactive in promoting the events with additional promotional materials.

062/08 Planning Matters

A) Application 3/2008/0046 – Land opposite 59 Bridge Street. Members agreed to raise no objections to this application.

B) Application 3/2008/0184 – 10 Bridge Street. Members agreed to raise no objections to this application.

C) Application 3/2008/0213 – 43 Highfields. Members agreed to raise no objections to this application.

Signed by the Chairman.....Page 3

063/08 Accounts for payment

That approval be given for the payment of voucher numbers 01 to 08 in the sum of £1879.41.

064/08 Chairman's Report

No report

065/08 Clerk's Report

Correspondence Received:-

- a) Wilsons Solicitors – Trustees Training on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2008 at the Community Centre 6pm to 8pm.
- b) Durham County Council, Social Inclusion Service – Post Office Closures in South Durham.
- c) DCC, Children & Young Peoples' Services – Primary Strategy for Change; response by 28<sup>th</sup> April 2008.

Clerk to copy the Strategy document and the report by Jenny Mountain to all Council Members and for this matter to be discussed at the next Town Council meeting.

- d) Banks Developments – Inkerman Eco-Development proposals.

- e) Banks Developments – West Durham Wind Farm Liaison Committee.

Clerk to copy the minutes of the Liaison Committee and the Funding agreement to all Council Members for their consideration. Any comment to be passed onto the Town Clerk who will report to Banks Development before the next Liaison Meeting which is expected to be Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2008 (before the next Town Council meeting).

- f) Wear Valley District Council – Standardisation of Planning Applications forms – Local validation criteria.

- g) Audit Commission – Confirmation of External Auditor (BDO Stoy Hayward).

- h) BDO Stoy Hayward – Local Council Briefing Spring 2008.

Clerk to arrange with the Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes

Committee a meeting to discuss some of the items within the briefing (ie timetable for approval of annual return by 31<sup>st</sup> July 2008, review of the effectiveness of the Internal Audit, Section 137 limit to increase to £5.86 per elector for 2008/09, key issues arising from the Audit).

- i) North East Regional Employers' Organisation – Change of address and telephone number.

- j) Zurich Insurance – Enhanced cover in light of Corporate Homicide and Corporate Manslaughter Act 2007.

- k) Wear Valley Community Network AGM – Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2008 at 6.00pm at 2D Conference Room, Crook.

- l) 2D Magazine; Spring 2008.

- m) County Durham Learning Disabilities Partnership Board Newsletter; Issue 20; March 2008

- n) Building Schools for the Future Newsletter; Issue 5; March 2008.

066/08 Update on Quality Town Council Status

The Clerk presented to Members the updated Portfolio which he has/and will be working on during April / May 2008. The Clerk invited Members to look at the Portfolio as a “Critical Friend” and make any observations/amendments to the Clerk prior to the submission date (13<sup>th</sup> June 2008).

067/08 Members Report

Councillor Blacker raised concerns of flooding at the allotment sites near the Millennium Green.

Councillor Taylor raised concerns around the work that is ongoing on land at Inkerman Road.

068/08 Date & Time of the Next Meeting

The Next meeting of the Town Council will be the Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2008 immediately following the Meeting of Electors which commences at 6.30pm

The Meeting finished at 7.55pm