

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 21st October 2008 in the Community Centre at 6.30pm.

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

Also Present: Councillor C Hayton, County Councillor J. Bailey, Stephen Thomas (WVDC) PCSO Strong, Mr R Plews (resident) and G F Smith (Clerk)

Apologies: Councillor **T. Batson, J. Gale and G. Stevens**, Pc Blair,(Durham Police) and County Councillor Jopling.

132/08 Declaration of Interest

Councillors Graham, Grogan and Rowland declared an Interest in item 16 – 1 (i) Clerk’s report; application for Funding by Tow Law Millennium Primary School.

133/08 Police report

Pcso Strong circulated the Report at the meeting (copy attached in the Minutes). Followed by a question and answer session.

134/08 Representation by Residents

Mr Plews raised concerns on Fireworks, dog bins at Alpine Way and allotments.

135/08 Update from the Community Partnership

Copy of the Annual Report was circulated at the meeting. Members agreed that the Partnership should become a Sub-Committee of the Town Council and report to each monthly Town Council Meeting. Members also agreed to arrange a Special Town Council Meeting to discuss the way forward and Membership of the Community Partnership Sub-Committee.

136/08 Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th September 2008

Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

137/08 Matters Arising

Page 1

Page 2

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

e) Town Council News – Millennium School Newspaper (The Tow Law Times) Following the publication of the Newspaper members agreed to donate £150 towards the printing costs (£500) and also to have a page of Town Council News in the next edition (scheduled for December 2008).

AGM/11/08 Cheque Authorisation

A Letter has been sent to the Co-operative Bank requesting changes to Authorised Signatures, to open a “Free Banking” current Account and to open a High Interest Savings Account. Clerk to report to the next appropriate Town Council Meeting.

Signed by the Chairman.....Page 1

AGM/23/08 Clerk's Report

1.Damage to seat at Ironworks Road

Awaiting cost of repairs, Clerk to report to the next Town Council meeting.

J)County Durham & Cleveland County Training Partnership – Councillor Training

A copy of the next schedule of Training courses was sent to all Councillors. Details to be discussed at the Special Meeting to be held on 12th November 2008.

M)Mencap – Application for Funding

Still awaiting further details and Financial Statements. Clerk to report to the next appropriate Town Council Meeting.

085/08 Members Reports

b) North Road/Inkerman Road

No further details received. Clerk to report to the next appropriate Town Council meeting.

107/08 Members Reports

Complaints from Residents in Railway Street/High Street. Commercial waste.

No further details received. Clerk to report to the next appropriate Town Council Meeting.

Page 3

117/08 Minutes of a Special Meeting held 8th September 2008

Joint Working with Local Communities

Members agreed to make an application to Wear Valley District Council for Finance from the Neighbourhood Arrangement Fund to hold a Seminar/Meeting with Representatives of the Hill Top Communities to further explore the possibility of Joint Working Arrangements. It was suggested that the Meeting could be arranged for January 2009 (date and Venue to be arranged). Members also agreed for Mr Thomas to meet with the Clerk and to report progress to the next Town Council Meeting.

118/08 Report of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 10th September 2008.

2) Play Area Funding

Members agreed to defer any decision on the trim trail until details of the inspection of the two play areas equipment had been received and costed. They also agreed to refer the item to the Finance & General Purposes Committee for discussion and to make any recommendation on proposed expenditure.

Page 4

118/08 Report of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 10th September 2008.

3) Councillors Training – 12th November 2008

Clerk suggested that the above date may be subject to change. Clerk to advise all Councillors as soon as possible with relevant details.

121/08 Councillors Surgery 2008/09

Agenda Item No 10

Page 5

127/08 Clerk's Report

1(i) Feedback event 6th November 2008 at St. Catherine's Community Centre, Crook, 6 to 8pm

Agenda Item No 15.

1 (ii) Neighbourhood Arrangements Community Initiatives Funding 2008/09

Application Form available from the Clerk.

2 (a) WVCN – Community Fayre, 15th November 2008 (9.30 to 1.00pm) Clerk to complete Application Form and prepare the Information Board (Councillor Rowland to assist).

Page 6

127/08 Clerk's report

e) CDALC – Financial Services Compensation Scheme

Clerk reported that meetings at the London office of NALC were ongoing. Local Authorities where still not covered for any financial losses. Clerk to update at the next appropriate Town Council meeting.

h) CDALC – access points within Town/Parish Offices

Application form to complete and return to Durham County Council. Clerk to report to the next appropriate Town Council Meeting.

i) CDALC – Councillor's Indemnity; Code of Conduct

Clerk to update at the next appropriate Town Council Meeting.

o) Vitalise – Application for Funding

Still awaiting further details and Financial Statements. Clerk to update at the next appropriate Town Council Meeting.

Page 7

129/08 Members Reports

CCTV at Tow Law

Councillor Rowland updated the meeting following discussion with PC Blair.

Members agreed for cctv to be installed at Tow Law and for the Chairman to sign the consent form. They also agreed to meet the running costs of the scheme (£100 per month) and to be included in the budget for 2009/10 Financial year.

138/08 County Councillors Report

Councillor Bailey Reported:-

- a) Vesting day for new Authority (Durham County Council) will be 1st April 2009.
- b) Area Action Partnerships
- c) Officer appointments at the new Authority (Chief Executive Mr George Garlick)
- d) Councillor Funding for 2009/10 estimated at £50,000
- e) Taxi Policy
- f) Tupe Arrangements
- g) Saving in expenditure for 2009/10 estimated at £21 million

139/09 District Councillors Reports

Councillor Gale – No Report

Councillor Grogan reported:-

- a) Recreation Ground – Official opening early December 2008
- b) New Co-op Store – Official opening 12th November 2008
- c) Cattle Mart – No progress
- d) Eco Village, Tow Law – Developers in discussions with District Planning Officers
- e) EDF Windfarms – Update
- f) Co-op premises, High Street – negotiations ongoing
- g) Banks Windfarm – Commission date September 2009
- h) Conservation project at Burnhill Nature Site – item referred to Clerk's Report item 16

Councillor Hayton Reported:-

- A) Hilltop Villages – update
- B) Closure of Post Office at Stanley (Crook)

140/08 Councillors Surgeries 2008/09

Clerk to issue rota list after discussion with Councillors regarding location of Surgery.

141/08 Annual Return for year ended 31st March 2008

- a) Report of external Auditor

Members agreed to accept the external auditors certificate, noting that the Annual Return was in accordance with the Audit Commissions requirements and no matters gave cause for concern.

- b) Notice of Conclusion of Audit

Members agreed that the notice should be placed on the Council's notice boards for 14 days as from Monday 27th October 2008.

142/08 Statement of Accounts as at 30th September 2008

Members agreed to accept the statement and noted that the balance as at 30th September 2008 was £19,924.99.

143/08 Planning Matters

- a) Application 3/2008/0651 – ATM at the Co-operative Store, Castle Bank.

Members agreed to raise no objections to this application.

144/08 Accounts for payments

That approval be given for payment of voucher numbers 44 to 49 in the sum of £1860.27.

145/08 Chairman's Report

Councillor Graham reported on a future meeting at St. Catherines Community Centre, Crook on Thursday 6th November 2008 at 6pm to 8pm to discuss results from Local Area Partnership Work streams and Crime/disorder priorities.

146/08 Clerk's Report

Councillor Graham, Grogan and Rowland left the meeting whilst the next item was discussed. Councillor Day chaired the meeting.

Application for Funding – items (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv)

Members agreed to defer any decision on granting funding from the N Power Community Fund until they receive a comprehensive report from the Clerk on allocation of resources from this funding stream. In particular the amount allocated to the local primary schools. Also included in this deferment was an application for a contribution towards the conservation project at the Burnhill Nature site. Clerk to prepare a report for the Finance & General Purposes Committee and for the Committee to make recommendation to a Future meeting of the Town Council.

Councillor Graham, Grogan and Rowland returned to the meeting.

Councillor Graham returned to Chair the meeting.

2 Correspondence:-

- a) CDALC – AGM on Saturday 1st November 2008 at 10.30am Spennymoor Town Hall
Councillors Batson, Day and Rowland to attend (Apologies from Councillor Graham).

The Clerk would also be attending the meeting.

- b) CDALC – Quality Councils information and Exhibition on Saturday 1st November 2008 open from 9.30am to 12.30pm.
- c) The Boundary Committee for England – Electoral Review of County Durham.
- d) CDALC – Newsletter September 2008 Issue 21.
- e) CDALC – Annual Report 2007/08.
- f) Building Schools for the Future Newsletter.
- g) Department of Communities and Local Government – the making and enforcement of byelaws; a consultation document.
- h) Town & Parish Standards Newsletter September 2008, issue 3.
- i) Durham mining Heritage Group – letter of thanks.
- j) County Durham Primary Care Trust – Rural ambulance services.
- k) DCC – National Tree Week 26th November to 7th December 2008. Application for grants closing date 21st November 2008.
- l) 2D Newsletter Autumn 2008.
- m) County Durham & Cleveland County Training Partnership – Training Update (copy circulated to all Councillors).
- n) WVDC – feedback on Area Action Partnership workshops – 6th November 2008 at 6pm to 8pm St Catherine’s Community Centre, Crook.
- o) County Durham Primary Care Trust – NHS Constitution – consultation period.
- p) Zurich Insurance – proposed changes to the Zurich Financial Services Group structure.
- q) The Mineral Valleys Project – Community events.
- r) CDALC – new Freedom of information Publication Scheme.
Members agreed to adopt the new freedom of Information Publication Scheme and for the Clerk to report further details at the next Town Council meeting.
- S) County Durham LINK – election of District representatives for the Management.
Members agreed to nominate Marilyn Weerasinghe onto the Link Management Committee for the Wear Valley Area.
- t) NHS County Durham – Seizing the Future a public consultation from 6th October 2008 to 12th January 2009.
- u) County Durham Learning Disabilities Partnership Board Newsletter; September 2008; Issue No. 23

147/08 Area Action Partnerships (AAP)

Members received copies of the “Local Government – results of Public Consultation about AAP” and a letter from Durham County Council dated 17th October 2008 for a meeting on 29th October 2008 at the Community Centre, Tow Law to discuss Tow Law and which AAP it might fit within.

Members agreed:-

- 1) To write the County Council stating “That Tow Law should be an Area Action Partnership and to include the Hilltop Communities of Billy Row, Fir Tree, Roddymoor, Sately, Stanley (Crook), Sunnyside and Thornley Village”. AND “that an option 4 be included and discussed at the local meeting, Tow Law AAP which could include parts of West Durham Rural Area Community”.
- 2) That Councillors Batson and Day represent the Town Council at the meeting to be held on the 29th October 2008 at the Community Centre.

148/08 Tow Law Millennium Green Trust

Members agreed to defer any decision on the suggested takeover as Trustee of the Trust until further information was received from Wear Valley District Council on the continuation of grass cutting on the green after April 2009. It was also agreed to defer any decision on the request for funding from the N-Power Community Fund until the Council receives up to date cost information.

Item to be placed on next month's agenda for further discussion or a Special Meeting to be called if the need arises. The Chairman to meet with the Clerk to progress this matters as soon as possible.

149/08 Members Reports

No Reports.

150/08 Date and Time of next meeting

Tuesday 18th November 2008 commencing at 6.30pm in the Community Centre.

The Meeting finished at 9pm.

Signed by the Chairman.....Page 6

