

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Tow law Town Council held Tuesday 18th November 2008 in the Community Centre commencing at 6.30pm.

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

Also Present: Stephen Thomas (WVDC), Duncan Leatherdale (Wear Valley Mercury), PCSO Strong, PCSO Dorant, PCSO Carey, L. Hodgkinson and M musgrave (Wear Valley Streetwardens) and GF Smith (Clerk)

Apologies: Councillor L. Brown

151/08 Declaration of Interest

Councillor Gale declared an interest in item 17 – Tow Law Millennium Green

152/08 Police Report

Pcso Strong circulated the report at the meeting (copy attached to the minutes). Followed by a question and answer session (concerns were raised on quad bikes on Millennium Green, Youth provision in the Town and Members agreed for the Clerk to write to Durham County Council (Highways) regarding the notice of proposed temporary traffic lights not being sent to the Town Council for information.

153/08 Representation by residents

There were no residents present.

154/08 Minutes of the meeting held on 21st October 2008

Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

155/08 Matters Arising

Page 1

135/08 Community Partnership – Special Town Council Meeting.

Members agreed for the Clerk to write to the Chairman of the Partnership requesting a copy of the up to date statement of accounts, bank balances and other relevant files and paperwork. Following receipt of the paperwork the Chairman will call a Special Meeting of the Town Council to discuss the way forward of the Partnership working within the Town Council's Committee Structure.

Page 2

AGM 23/08 Clerk's Report

1. Damage to seat Ironwork's Road

The seat has now been repaired and should be sited within the next 7/10 days.

Clerk to report to the next Town Council meeting.

J) Councillor Training – 12th November 2008

Members noted that the date has now been changed to Tuesday 25th November 2008 in the Community Centre commencing at 6.30pm.

Signed by the Chairman.....Page 1

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

2) Joint Working with local communities

Members noted that the meeting with the Hill Top Villages would be held on Thursday 20th November 2008 in the Community Centre commencing at 6.30pm.

Members also noted that refreshments would be available prior/during the meeting.

Apologies were received from Councillor Grogan, Stevens and Taylor.

127/08 Clerk's Report

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

The Clerk had completed an application form for funding a half day training session on "Good Partnership Working". The event would be held in January 2009 at a venue to be decided (possibly the Community Centre, Tow Law). The cost of the project would be £750 (£500 provision of course co-ordinator/invidulator, £100 room hire, £100 catering and £50 travelling costs).

Clerk to make necessary arrangements and inform all Councillors should the Funding bid be successful.

Page 3

127/08 Clerk's Report

2(A) WVCN – Community Fayre, 15th November 2008

The Clerk reported that he was unable to attend the event

Page 4

140/08 Councillor Surgeries 2008/09

Agenda item no 10

146/08 Clerk's report – correspondence

2(a) CDALC – AGM 1st November 2008 Councillors Batson, Day and Rowland attended. Councillor Batson voted onto the position of Vice President and Councillor Graham voted onto the Executive Committee.

Page 5

146/08 Clerk's Report – Correspondence

2(b) CDALC – Quality Council Exhibition 1st November 2008 The Clerk and Councillor Rowland hosted the Tow law Exhibition, the items on display were well received.

n)WVDC – AAP workshop 6th November 2008

Councillor Batson and Graham attended the meeting. Councillor Batson updated the members on matters discussed/raised at the meeting. Steve Thomas (WVDC) also updated members on the meeting and included a recommendation that the meeting agreed to go ahead with the work of wvdc partnership meeting and to arrange training sessions on partnership working, there would also be further consultation.

r) CDALC – Freedom of Information publication scheme

Clerk to produce a report for members to consider at the January 2009 meeting.

147/08 Area Action Partnerships

Agenda item no 16.

Page 6

148/08 Tow Law Millennium Green Trust

Agenda item no 17.

156/08 Report of the Allotments sub-committee held 10th November 2008

Councillor Blacker updated members on the working of the sub-committee who had met with the Allotment Tenants (4).

It was agreed:-

- a) For the Clerk to obtain prices for clearing an allotments area at the rear of Dan's Castle.
- b) to encourage the Allotment Tenants to form an association.
- c) To await the plans from WVDC to help determine the areas that were originally allocated as allotment sites.
- d) Create a number of additional allotment plots to help reduce the number of people on the allotments waiting list.
- e) Progress any possible funding to help with the costs of supplying and fixing boundary fencing to all allotment sites.
- f) Allotment tenants to be issued with Tenancy Agreement.

157/08 County Councillors Report – No Report

158/08 District Councillors Report

Councillor Gale Reported:-

- a) Acting Chief Executive leaving authority January 2009
- b) Seat at the BMX Track being moved to outside the fenced area
- c) Local Strategic Partnership (Minutes handed to the Clerk)
- d) Possible lighting for Millennium Green

Councillor Grogan Reported:-

- a) Nature Reserve
- b) EDF Funding
- c) Recreation Ground Extension (New equipment costing £8000)
- d) Co-operative New Store (Now open)
- e) Bullring at the Cattle Mart

Councillor Hayton – No report

159/08 Councillors Surgeries 2008/09

Clerk to issue the list of surgeries, to commence January 2009

160/08 Statement of accounts as 31st October 2008

Members agreed to accept the statement and noted that the balance as at 31st October 2008 was £27,418.64.

161/08 Planning Matters

- a) Application 3/2008/0649 (resubmission) – 32 Campbell Street
Members agreed to raise no objections to this application
- b) Application 3/2008/0645 – 10 Bridge Street
Members agreed to raise no objections to this application
- c) Application 3/2008/0694 – 13a Wolsingham Road
Members agreed to raise no objections to this application
- d) Application 3/2008/0711 – 1 Thornley Terrace
Members agreed to raise no objections to this application

Signed by the Chairman.....Page 3

162/08 Accounts for payment

That approval be given for payment of vouchers 50 to 53 and 56 to 57 in the sum of £1346.32 and also for vouchers 54 and 55 (dated 9th December 2008) in the sum of £1019.34

163/08 Chairman's Report

Councillor Graham reported that he and his wife would be attending the Greater Willington Town Council's Civic Carol Service on Wednesday 10th December 2008.

164/08 Clerk's Report

(1) Application for Funding – Npower Community Fund

- (a) TLCA: Contribution towards Pensioners Christmas Party on Friday 5th December 2008. Members agreed to donate £250.00 from the N-Power Community Fund.
- (b) TLCA: Contribution towards a disco and activities for young people on Friday 5th December 2008 to help raise funds for a young people's achievement night to be held on Wednesday 17th December 2008. Members agreed to defer this item for the Finance & General Purposes Committee to discuss with other deferred applications from the N-Power Community Fund.
- (c) Christmas Trees for Tow Law. Members agreed to continue with the present system of purchasing Christmas Trees (Approx 55) and fit/remove into existing brackets on properties throughout Tow Law.

(2)Correspondence for discussion:-

- a)Banks development –West Durham Wind Farm liaison meeting minutes from a meeting held 2nd October 2008 (copy with the Clerk). Date of next meeting 29th January 2009 (Councillor Gale to attend).
- b)Nepacs – request for Financial assistance. Clerk to obtain financial information (Income/Expenditure or balance sheet) and report to the next appropriate Town Council meeting.
- c) Department of Communities and Local Government (Consultation Document) "Communities in Control, real people, real power, code of conduct for local Authority members and employees". Clerk to copy Executive summary and send to all Council Members.

Correspondence for information (copy with the Clerk, available on request):-

- d)Zurich Insurance – new contact details (correction).
- e) County Durham Sustainability and Environment Partnership Newsletter; Autumn 2008; Issue 38.
- f) Durham County Council – Winter salting routes 2008/09
- g) Clerks & Councils Direct magazine; November 2008; Issue 60.
- h) Local Council review magazine; November 2008; Issue 60, No 4.
- i) The Mineral Valley Project Newsletter; Issue 9
- j) The Mineral Valleys Project Summary of projects that took place in West County Durham from June 2003 to May 2008.

165/08 Area Action Partnership (AAP)

Steve Thomas (WVDC) updated the meeting on recent events held at Crook. Members were presented with a Map from Durham County Council showing the location of the 17 Area Action Partnerships. Following discussion members agreed that Tow Law should be placed in the proposed AAP which included Crook and Willington. It was also agreed to write to Durham County Council suggesting that the AAP administration could be placed in Tow law Community Centre. Councillor Rowland left the meeting whilst the next item was discussed regarding the use of the Community Centre. Members agreed for the Chairman and Clerk to meet with the Officials of the Community Centre to discuss the running costs and present Financial situation and to report to the next meeting of the Town Council. Councillor Rowland returned to the meeting.

166/08 Tow Law Millennium Green Trust

The Clerk had met with a contractor to obtain costings for the maintenance of the area, but had not received them by the meeting date. A number of Councillors had visited the site during the Allotments Inspections. It was agreed to defer any decision on this item until:-

- a) All members had visited the site and reported their comments to the Special Town Council Meeting.
- b) The Clerk to request site plans, Financial Statements and relevant background papers from Jenny Flynn, and to present a report to the Special Town Council meeting.

To call a Special meeting to discuss the transfer of the Trust to the Town Council once a) and b) are complete.

167/08 Members Report

No Reports

168/08 Date & Time of the Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting on Tuesday 20th January 2009 commencing at 6.30pm. The Chairman announced that there are Special Town Council Meetings on Thursday 20th November and Tuesday 25th November 2008 both to commence at 6.30pm. There may be a need to call a meeting of the Town Council for Tuesday 16th December 2008 commencing at 6.30pm in the Community Centre.

Confidential Items

169/08 Pay Award 2008/09

Members agreed to implement the recommendation from the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC circular 2/08 dated 17th October 2008) that the pay offer of 2.45% be paid with effect from 1st April 2008. As no agreement had been reached the failure to agree has been referred to arbitration by the employers and Trade Union sides (Nationally).

Meeting Finished at 8.15pm

Signed by the Chairman.....Page 5

