

Tow Law Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 20th January 2009 in the Community centre commencing at 6.30pm.

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

Also Present: County Councillors J. Bailey and P. Jopling, District Councillor C. Hayton, Duncan Leatherdale (Wear Valley Mercury), Rachael Wearmouth (Northern ECHO), Mrs C. Hurton, Mrs A. Ray, Mrs A Wilkinson, Mrs N, Liddle(residents), Mr G. McCrory and GF Smith (Clerk).

Apologies: Councillors L. Brown, P. Graham and L. Taylor, PC Blair and PSCO Strong (Durham Police).

001/09 Declaration of Interest

Councillors Gale, Green and Rowland declared an interest in item 10 – 178/08 Tow Law Community Centre. Councillor Gale, Grogan and Rowland declared an interest in item 14 – N-Power Community Fund (Millennium School).Councillor Gale and Grogan declared and interest in item 22 – Millennium Green Trust.

Councillor Day declared an interest in item 17b – Planning matters.

002/09 police report -No Report at the meeting (copy attached to these minutes).

003/09 Presentation of Christmas Competition 2008

Mr Gary McCrory (competition Judge) presented the prizes to the following:-
Best Dressed House (winner £50) to Mrs C, Hurton, 14 Deerness esate.
Best Dressed Window (Winner £50.00) to Mrs A Ray, 1 Pennine View
Best Dressed Window (2nd Prize £30) to Mrs A Wilkinson, 73 High Street
Best Dressed Window (3rd Place £20) to Mrs N Liddle, 39 Wolsingham Road

004/09 Representation of Residents

There were no resident's reports.

005/09 Update from Mrs Jenny Mountain, Youth Worker at Tow Law

Mrs Mountain updated Members on the work being carried out with young people at Tow law. Copy of Tow Law Youth Project Document would be circulated to all Councillors (Comments to the Clerk).

006/09 Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th November 2008

Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

007/09 Matters Arising

Page 1

152/08 Police report

Temporary traffic lights – notification by DCC

Councillor Bailey to discuss with Committee Chairman/Officer (Dennis Morgan) DCC and report to the next Town Council Meeting.

Signed by the Chairman.....Page 1

135/08 Community Partnership – Special Town Council Meeting

Clerk to meet with the Chairman to discuss an appropriate date for this meeting.

AGM 23/08 Clerk's report

1. Damage to seat at ironworks Road
Awaiting contractor to fit repaired seat, Clerk to chase up and report to the next Town Council Meeting.

Page 2

127/08 Clerk's Report

- 1) (ii) Neighbourhood Arrangements Community Initiatives Funding 2008/09 a meeting has been arranged for Saturday 24th January 2009 at the Community Centre from 9.30am to 12.30pm. Councillors wishing to attend are to contact the Clerk. Clerk to report to the next Town Council meeting.

146/08 Clerk's Report – Correspondence

r)CDALC Freedom of Information Publication Scheme

Members agreed to accept the report of the Clerk and for the following documents to be published on the Council's Web Site:-

1. Model Publication Scheme
2. Sector Special Manual/Guide to proactively Public Information for the public. The cost of photocopying would be 10 pence per sheet (Black and White) plus any postal costs.

Members also agreed that an article be published in the next edition of the Tattler informing the residents of the adopted Publication Scheme.

Page 3

Page 4

Page 5

165/08 Area Action Partnerships

Agenda item no 20

166/08 Tow Law Millennium Green Trust

Agenda item no 22

008/09 Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 16th December 2008

Clerk to check Page 2 – 175/08 Planning Matters item c application 3/2008/0267 subject to the above the minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

009/09 Matters Arising

Page 1

174/08 Councillors Surgeries

Agenda item no 11

Page 2

175/08 Planning Matters

B) Application 3/2008/0731 – 25 High Street

Councillor Gale reported:-

Address should be 47A High Street

Agenda Item No 17C

176/08 Accounts for payment

Christmas Trees 2008

The Clerk reported the costs (supply/delivery £717.50, fit/remove £600 total cost £1317.50). item to be discussed at the next Finance and General Purposes Committee.

177/08 Area Action Partnerships

Agenda item no 21

Councillors Gale, Green and Rowland left the meeting whilst the following item was discussed.

Page 3

178/08 Tow Law Community Centre

The Clerk read out a letter from the Secretary of the Community Association regarding the financial situation.

Members agreed to accept the rental increase for use of the centre by the Town Council from £2500 per annum to £3250 per annum as from 1st January 2009. The Clerk to issue a cheque For £187 being the additional charge for the first quarter (January to March).

It was also agreed to call a Special Meeting to discuss the grant application of £1000 for this financial year and £2,000 in subsequent years. Clerk to obtain further details on rental income from other organisations using the Community Centre. Clerk to request the Secretary of the Association to attend the Special meeting and to discuss the Council representation on the Committee of the Association. Councillors Gale, Green and Rowland returned to the meeting.

179/08 Tow Law Millennium Green Trust

Agenda item No. 22

010/09 County Councillors Reports

Councillors Bailey and Jopling reported:-

- i) Council Tax 2009/2010
- ii) Dog Fouling Policy
- iii) Area Action Partnership – Budget and Membership (to be discussed at the cabinet meeting 22nd January 2009).
- iv) Bishop Auckland General Hospital
- v) Council meeting 24th March 2009 at County Hall commencing at 10am.

011/09 District Councillor Reports

Councillor Gale Reported:-

- i) LSP Minutes

Councillor Grogan Reported:-

- i) Extension of Gymnasium
- ii) Lack of projects by Town Council
- iii) Requested meeting with Groundwork Trust for Funding from WVDC
- iv) Old Co op premises to be relet.

Councillor Hayton Reported:-

- i) Meeting with Hilltop Community Partnership on Monday 26th January 2009
- ii) Attending meeting (DCC) regarding White Lea Farm Opencast.

012/09 N-Power Community Fund

Members agreed to hold a Special Finance General Purposes Committee as soon as possible to discuss the allocation of funds. (Present balance £1502).

013/09 Councillors Surgery

The surgery scheduled for Friday 16th January 2009 did not take place. The next scheduled surgery is Friday 13th February 2009 at the Community Centre (5 to 6pm). Councillor's Brown and Gale to attend.

014/09 Statement of Accounts as at 31st December 2008

Members agreed to accept the Statement of Accounts as at 31st December 2008 (Balance £22794.66).

015/09 Setting the Budget and Precept for 2009/10

Members discussed the report by the Clerk (copy attached to the Minutes). It was proposed by Councillor Grogan and seconded by Councillor Hail to have no increase on the 2008/09 Precept (£18536), This was defeated by two votes for and five against.

It was proposed by Councillor Green and seconded by Councillor Rowland to increase the precept by 10% (£20390).

This was agreed by Five votes for and two against, therefore the Precept for 2009/10 will be £20390.

Members also agreed to accept the Income and Expenditure Budget for 2009/10 (Income £24772, Expenditure £25620 (subject to potential Savings on some Expenditure Headings). Copy attached to the Minutes.

It was further agreed to publish the Precept Figure and explanation of the Budget in the next edition of the Tattler/Tow Law Times.

016/09 Planning Matters

- a) Application 3/2008/0757 – Boundary Cottage Farm, Inkerman

Members requested further details (Councillor Gale to contact Planning Officer)

- b) Application 3/2008/0772 Tow Law Association Football Club

Members agreed to raise no objections

- c) Application 3/2008/0731 (amendment) – 47a High Street

Members agreed to raise no objections

d) Application 3/95/632cm Durham County Council –WhiteLea Farm, Near Sunnyside
Councillors Bailey and Jopling would be attending the Planning Committee on Wednesday 21st January 2009 at County Hall, Durham.

Members asked the Councillors to take the following concerns to the meeting on behalf of Tow Law Town Council:-

- i) The Company (UK Coal Mining Ltd) be asked to meet representatives of all Communities in the Area to discuss any issues and concerns.
- ii) To increase the amount of money to be received from the sale of Fireclay (Community Benefits), to help fund Local projects and facilities.

017/09 Accounts for payments

That approval be given for the payments of vouchers 63 to 70 in the sum of £1972.78.

018/09 Chairman's Report

Councillor Graham was unable to attend the meeting due to illness. All members wished him a speedy recovery.

019/09 Clerk's Report

Items for discussion

a)NALC Regional Conference "Quality Councils" on Saturday 21st February 2009 at York, cost £64 + Vat per delegate.

Members to contact the Clerk if they wish to attend this event

b) DCC consultation document "Admission arrangements September 2010 and Beyond" (responses by 11th February 2009).

Clerk to send a copy of the document to all Council Members, any responses to the Clerk.

c) Department of Communities and Local Government consultation document "Communities in Control; Real People, Real Power".

Clerk to send a copy of the Executive summary of the document to all members, any responses to the Clerk.

d)Victim Support application for funding, the Clerk had requested financial details (Income/Expenditure Accounts and/or balance sheet). Clerk to report to the next appropriate Town Council meeting once the requested information has been received.

Items for information:-

e)Campaign to Protect Rural England Newsletter Winter 2008.

f)Durham County Council; Chairman – congratulations to the Town Council on achieving Quality Status.

g) Rural Services Community Network – application for membership.

h)Wear Valley Community Network – information on AAP's

i)2D Magazine

j)Northern Rock Foundation Newsletter Winter 2008.

k)NHS County Durham – Annual Operation Plan 2009/10

l)Link County Durham – event report 30th September 2008.

m)County Durham Learning Disabilities Partnership Board Newsletter; No 24.

n) Wear Valley LSP Minutes 17th November 2008.

020/09 Area Action Partnership (AAP)

There was to be a meeting of the County Council to discuss this item on Thursday 22nd January 2009. It was understood that the name of the AAP for the area would be Crook, Tow Law and Willington AAP. The representatives on the Area Board would be one third elected members, one third members of the public and one third representatives of partner organisations. The area budgets (subject to agreement) will be £250,000 of which £100,00 would cover administration and staffing costs, £150,000 would be for local initiatives. Item to be placed on the Agenda for the next Town Council meeting.

021/09 Tow Law Millennium Green Trust

A copy of a letter from Mrs J. Flynn, Trustee was circulated at the meeting. Members agreed to hold a Special Council meeting as soon as possible to discuss the future of the Trust (Mrs Flynn to be invited to the meeting). Clerk to discuss this matter with the Chairman and for a decision on the future of the Millennium Green to be made at that meeting.

022/09 Members Reports

Councillor Hail reported:-

- a) Litter bin at Deerness Estate
- b) Emptying of dog bins on the Millennium Green
- c) Need for a bus shelter (opposite new co-op store in High Street)

Councillor Rowland reported:-

- d) Lack of salt bins for path gritting. Clerk to contact the County Council and report to the next Town Council meeting.

Councillor Blacker reported:-

e) Allotments, lack of progress on the tidying up of the site, Clerk to arrange for the estimate of works (ie clearance and re-instatement) and to call a meeting of the Allotments Sub – Committee. Clerk to discuss with Councillor Blacker (Chairman) an appropriate meeting date.

f) War Memorial (Bayonet). Members requested Councillor Blacker to meet with the supplier of the Bayonet and obtain a price for supplying and fitting the Bayonet on the Statues. The Clerk to discuss this item with Councillor Blacker and report to the next Town Council meeting.

023/09 Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting will be Tuesday 17th February 2009 at the Community Centre, commencing at 6.30pm.

The Meeting Finished at 9.30pm.

Signed by the Chairman.....Page 6