

Tow Law Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 17th February 2009 in the Community Centre commencing at 6.30pm.

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

Also Present: Rachael Wearmouth (Northern Echo), Sgt Dave Lyle (Durham Police), Louis Hodgkinson (WVDC), Joanna Crumpling (Groundwork West Durham)

Apologies: Councillors J. Day, County Councillor P. Jopling, District Councillor C. Hayton and Steve Thomas (AAP)

024/09 Declaration of Interest

Councillor Stevens declared an interest in item 12 a & d Planning Matters. Councillor gale, Green and Rowland declared an interest in item 7 (5) Community Association, Councillor Gale declared an interest in 7 (3) & (4) Millennium Green Trust and the Community Partnership. Councillor Graham declared an interest in item 12d – Planning Matters.

025/09 Police Report

Sgt Dave Lyle circulated the Crime & Incident report to all members followed by a question and answer session. He also reported that we were getting a new beat officer (Dave Turner) replacing PC Blair who would be working in a different area.

026/09 Representation by residents

They was no report at this time but a resident came in late and reported on dog fouling and the lack of CCTV in Alpine Way and the need for snow clearing /gritting on footpaths.

027/09 Minutes of the meeting held on 19th January 2009

Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman

028 09 Matters Arising

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135/08 Community Partnership Special Town Council meeting

Meeting held 5th February 2009. Agenda item no 7.

AGM 23/08 Clerk's report

1Damage to seat at Ironworks Road no progress, Clerk to chase up with Contractor (since meeting the seat was replaced on Friday 20th February 2009).

127/08 Clerk's report

1)(ii)Neighbourhood arrangements community initiatives funding 2008/09

Report of meeting held on 24th January 2009 had been sent to all Council members. Next meeting is 21st march 2009, 10am till 12 midday at the resource centre, High Street, Willington.

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

Item 175/08 c- planning matters 3/2008/0267

Reference number should be 3/2003/0267

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178/08 Tow Law Community Centre

Meeting held 5th February 2009. Agenda Item no 7.

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012/09 N-Power Community Fund

Referred to the next meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

013/09 Councillor Surgeries

Agenda Item no 9.

016/09 Planning Matters

a) application 3/2008/0757-Boundary Cottage Farm, Inkerman.

Approved by Wear Valley District Council on the 4th February 2009.

d) application 3/95/632CM/Durham County Council – White Lea Farm near Sunnyside approved by Durham County Council on 20th January 2009.

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019/09 Clerk's report

d) victim support application for funding

Agenda item no 15 (1c)

020/09 Area Action Partnership

Agenda Item no 16.

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021/09 Tow Law Millennium Green Trust

Special meeting held on 5th February 2009. Agenda Item no 7.

022/09 Members reports

d) Salt bins for path gritting

Clerk to contact DCC and report to the next Town Council meeting.

e) allotments – meeting of the sub committee

Councillor Blacker (Chairman) to meet with the Clerk to arrange a suitable date for a meeting of the subcommittee.

f) War Memorial (bayonet)

Councillor Blacker to make enquiries with the Contractor for the supply of the Bayonet and to report the cost to the next Town Council meeting.

029/09 Minutes of the Special Council meeting held on the 5th February 2009

Correction to the minutes Chairman of the meeting should read:-

“Councillor Hail proposed and seconded by Councillor Green that Councillor G. Stevens should Chair the meeting. It was agreed that Councillor G. Stevens would Chair the meeting”.

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

030/09 Matters Arising

The Chairman asked each Council member to consider joining the Community Association and to sit on the Management committee.

Members asked the Clerk to prepare a report on the proposal to employ an assistant to the Town Clerk. The Post would be part-time and would also assist with some administrative tasks for the Community Association. The hours and rate of pay to be included in the report, funding for this project to be financed from the Council's reserve fund. Item to be discussed at the next Town Council meeting.

031/09 Report of the Councillor Surgeries held on 13th February 2009

No one turn up. (Councillor Gale and the Clerk were in attendance).

It was agreed to continue with the present Councillor Surgery list.

The next Councillor surgery will be Friday the 13th March 2009(Councillors Day and Graham).

032/09 County Councillor reports

No report.

Councillor Mrs Jopling had requested for the County Councillors report to be moved to a place nearer the beginning of the agenda. Members agreed that this report could be placed on the agenda to follow the Police Report.

033/09 District Councillor Reports**Councillor Gale reported:**

Alterations to be carried out to the roof space accessible to allow maintenance to boiler (Boarding out of the loft space)

Councillor Grogan reported:

Extension to Wow Gym (costings)

Referrals are now using the gym from the PCT. That they were fully insured. All equipment is paid for, reviewing the cost of maintenance of the equipment.

Councillor Hayton reported:

No report

034/09 Planning Matters

a)Application 3/2008/0710 (revised) – Rear of 98 Dan's Castle

Members agreed to raise no objections.

b) Application 3/2009/0026 – 33a High Street

Members agreed to raise no objections.

c) Application 3/2009/0036 – 29 Wolsingham Road

Members agreed to raise no objections.

d)Application 3/2009/0045 – Unit 1 Inkerman Road

Members agreed to raise no objections.

035/09 Accounts for payments

That approval be given for the payment of vouchers 71 to 84 in the sum of £2966.94.

036/09 Chairman's Report

No report

037/09 Clerk's Report

Items for discussion:-

a)N-Power Community Fund 2008/09, application for funding from St Philip & St James Parish Church for a contribution (Up to £250) towards the cost of a flower festival (including Christmas tree) in December 2009.

Members agreed to defer this item to the next meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

b) NEPACS – Financial information (Minute 164/08 – 2b). A copy of the organisations balance sheet as at 31st March 2008 was circulated at the meeting.

Members agreed not to financially support this request.

c) Victim Support County Durham (Minutes 019/09 – 1d). A copy of the organisations balance sheet as at 31st January 2008 was circulated at the meeting.

Members agreed not to financially support this request.

d)Local Council Briefing – Spring 2009. A copy of the briefing document was circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting. Members noted that:-

- the approval of the Councils annual return is to be by 30th June 2009,
- review of the effectiveness of internal audit (report to the next meeting)
- appointment of Internal Auditor
- Fee scales fixed until 2011(£135)
- Key issues arising from previous year's audits

e)Groundwork West Durham & Darlington

i)Blooming Families project

Members agreed to support this project and for the Clerk to send a letter to the organisation.

ii)Members also agreed for Councillor Gale and Rowland and the Town Clerk to meet Joanne Crumpling on Friday 20th February 2009 at 11.00am to discuss proposed work at the Millennium Green site. This was to form an application to WVDC for funding. Clerk to report to the next Town Council meeting.

f)Durham Rural Community Council – Capacity Building funded initiative

Members agreed to support this initiative and for the Clerk to inform the DRCC (Lesley Milgate) and report to the next appropriate Town Council meeting.

g)CDALC – double taxation update

Members noted that the Town Council was to receive £52 from Durham County Council for the year 2009/10. The figure had been reached on an initial assessment and methodology to address the issue of double taxation.

h) Durham Dales PBC Cluster – care workshop on Tuesday 24th February 2009 at West Auckland, details with the Town Clerk.

Items for information:-

i)Great North Air Ambulance – application for funding. Financial information has been requested

j)Banks Developments – delivery of 12 Wind Turbines during Feb 2009

k)Wear Valley District Council – training Courses

l)CDALC – section 137 LGA 1972 amount is £6.15 for 2009/10 per electorate

m)NALC – financial update on vat and Local Councils

n)Northeast Neurosciences network meeting on 26th March 2009 at Durham County Cricket Club, Chester-le-street (Free all day event). Details with the Town Clerk.

o)CDALC – Durham Association News; January 2009; Issue no 23

p)County Durham Learning Disabilities Partnership Board newsletter; February 2009; Issue no 25

q)Northern Rock Foundation newsletter; Winter 2008; Issue no 18

r)Durham Rural Community Council magazine; Winter 2009

s)Wear Valley LSP minutes of meetings

038/09 Area Action Partnership

Item to be placed on the agenda for the next Town Council meeting

039/09 Members Report

Councillor Blacker – War memorial (Bayonet) to discuss with supplier and to report costs to the next Town Council meeting, checking with DCC (Highways) regarding road closure / access to memorial/used of machinery & plant, as their permission would be required to carry out this type of work.

Councillor Hail – Use of Community centre by the Cadet forces.

040/09 Date of next meeting

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

The meeting finished at 8.10pm

Signed by the Chairman.....Page 5

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