

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 21st April 2009 in the Community Centre commencing at 6.30pm

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

Also Present: County Councillor Jopling, PcsO Strong, PcsO Fibey, Rachael Wearmouth (Northern Echo) and G.F. Smith (Town Clerk).

Apologies: Councillors T. Batson, J. Day and County Councillor Bailey.

061/09 Declaration of Interest

Councillor Gale declared an Interest in item 7 Matters Arising (Community Association).

062/Police Report

PcsO Strong reported on the Crime and Incident Report for March 2009 (copy attached to the Minutes), followed by a question and answer session. PcsO Strong asked about the availability of an office in the Community Centre for him to complete his paperwork/reports on an ad-hoc basis. Councillor Gale said he would report his request to the Community Association. Following a question from Councillor Grogan regarding the cctv system at the Recreation Ground, PcsO Strong responded that the Police would use the system should the situation arise.

063/09 County Councillor

Councillor Jopling reported:-

- a)AAP Meetings
- b)Scrutiny Committee Meeting

064/09 Representation by Residents

No Residents present.

065/09 Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th March 2009

Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

066/09 Matters Arising

Page 1

Page 2

012/09 N-Power Community Fund

Clerk to discuss with the Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee (Councillor Rowland) to hold a meeting as soon as possible.

022/09 Members Reports

Allotments – meeting of the Sub-Committee

Meeting to be arranged for May 2009, work is ongoing to set up an allotment association.

Signed by the Chairman.....Page 1

037 Clerk's Report

Millennium Green Trust

A number of litter picks have taken place; two more are planned (one by brownies/guides/street wardens/Pcso on 28th April @ 6pm and another one organised by Jenny Mountain on 18th August).

Clerk has been unable to receive a response from Mr Douglas Johnston regarding the field next to the Millennium Green. Members asked the Clerk to write to Mr Johnston (Thornley terrace) and to report to the next Town Council meeting.

Councillor Gale updated the meeting on work that had been carried out by Groundwork Trust and volunteers and he would discuss with Mrs Flynn the situation regarding the transfer of the Millennium Green Trust to the Town Council.

Page 3**048/09 District Councillors Reports**

2a) Opening of the Wow Gym extension.

Councillor Grogan reported that the official opening of the extension to the Wow Gym had taken place on 23rd March and was well attended.

Page 4**051/09 Area Action Partnerships**

Agenda item no.10

054/09 Policies

All policies have now been placed on the Council's Web Site and also into the Audit File (under development).

Page 5**056/09 Clerk's report**

b) CDALC – Power of Well Being

c) Training events

The Clerk reported that the training events would be shared with Esh, Brandon & Byshottles and Lanchester Parish Councils and have been arranged for the 28th April and 5th May at The Village Hall, Quebec commencing at 7.00pm. The Chairman reminded Members of the importance of attending one of these training sessions. The Clerk to contact Members who were absent to remind them of the importance of attending one of the training dates.

d) Statement of Community Engagement

Members agreed to accept the Clerk's Report on the Types of Information that the Council will include in its Statement of Intent.

d) CDALC – Special AGM 4th April 2009. The Clerk reported that the Association would be changing from District representation to align with the 14 Area Action Partnerships.

e) Joint Working with The Hilltop Villages

A meeting had been arranged for 22nd April 2009 in the Community Centre commencing @ 6.30pm. The Clerk to report to the next Town Council meeting.

f)DCC – Parish Paths Partnership Applications 2009.

Clerk was awaiting a meeting date from the Officer (Elaine Field), Clerk to report to the next Town Council meeting.

i)Banks Developments – West Durham Liaison Committee

Councillor Gale updated Members on the meeting which took place on 19th March 2009. A Funding Committee was to be set up (managed by Banks/Durham Foundation) but Tow law may not be included as a benefactor, since the meeting Councillor Gale has received a letter from Banks Developments informing him of a meeting on 16th May to discuss funding allocations (Mark Dowdall, Banks Development would be in attendance), therefore, Councillor Gale would be attending and will report to the next Town Council meeting.

Page 6

057/09 Members Reports

Bayonet at the War Memorial

As Councillor Blacker was not at the meeting there was no update.

Page 7

059/09 Tow Law Community Centre

The Chairman, Councillors Grogan and Rowland and the Clerk had visited the premises to see if it was suitable for the Town Councils use, they felt that the Council should pursue other properties in the Area before making any suggestions. As the Clerk had left a number of messages for the owner of the Ex Library premises in High Street and had received no response. Members agreed for the Clerk to drive to the property at Morpeth and personally deliver a letter informing the owners of the Town Council's wishes to view the premises in High Street and to reimburse the Clerk his travelling expenses. It was further agreed to pursue any possible premises in Tow law (Rent or Buy) for the use of the Town Council. The Clerk to report to the next meeting of the Town Council.

It was further agreed for the Council to produce a Development Plan/Strategy headed "Future Plans up to 2013" and a Future Report headed "Beyond 2013". It was agreed to involve the young people of Tow Law in developing these Plans.

Page 8

067/09 Planning Matters

a)**Application 3/2009/0101** – Land rear of 2 – 4 North Road, members agreed to raise no objections to this Application.

b)**Application 3/2009/0108** – 4 Atlee Estate, members agreed to raise no objections to this Application.

c)**Application 3/2009/0123** – Blackfield Farm, Inkerman, members raised a number of concerns regarding this Application. They requested the Clerk to obtain copies of the Plans and further details before making a decision on this Application.

068/09 Accounts for Payment

That approval be given for the payment of vouchers 90 to 94 (2008/09), in the sum of £760.00 and vouchers 1 – 4 (2009/10) in the sum of £2310.72

069/09 Area Action Partnerships

Members noted the Report on the AAP event held on 16th April 2009 where the following was agreed:-

- a) The name of the AAP would be “Three Towns Partnership”
- b) The priorities (initially) would be:-
 - i) Assisting voluntary organisations
 - ii) Young people
 - iii) Healthy lifestyles
 - iv) Local Environment
- c) Open forum to meet at least twice a year (next meeting September)
- d) Area Board to meet at least six times a year (first meeting end of June)
- e) Area Board make up:-

- i) Seven elected members (1 place for a Town Council Representative)

Members also noted that the Chairman, Councillor Rowland and the Clerk had met with representatives of Greater Willington Town Council and agreed that the Chairman of the Tow Law Town Council would take the place for the first year, Willington’s Chairman to act as the reserve with the reverse happening the following year until a Council has been established in Crook. Members confirmed the agreement.

- ii) Seven Partner Agencies (County Council, Police, Fire, Health, Business, Social Housing Provider and VCS).

Members expressed concerns that some Partner Agencies may be unable to attend the meetings on a regular basis.

- iii) Seven Public Representatives (to complete an expression of Interest form, submit an application form and attend an Interview)

members raised concerns on a number of issues but agreed to “Play their Part” in the AAP, but hoped that the County Council would review the AAP after at least 12 months of operating.

070/09 Chairman’s Report

The Chairman reported on the meeting with Greater Willington Town Council (see minute 051/09 (e(i))).

071/09 Clerk’s report**Items for discussion:-**

- a) Application for N-Power Community Fund 2009/10 – Members agreed to donate £250 to the Tow Law Community Association (Jenny Mountain) for Funding to set up a Fund towards the cost of the Summer Play Schemes.
- b) Durham County Council – Statutory consultation on Fouling of land by dogs (County Durham) Order 2009 – members agreed to support this action.
- c) SLCC – Regional Conference 9th June 2009 at Shotton Hall, Peterlee, cost £49 (member) and £64 (non member). Members agreed for the Clerk and Assistant Clerk to attend this Training Day (cost to be split with Esh Parish Council).

- d) DCC – Non Domestic rate bill for the Recreation ground (wow gym). Members confirmed the action of paying the account by direct debit (1 payment of £33.72 (1/4/09) and 9 payments of £35 on the 1st of each month). Councillor Gale raised a concern around the responsibility of the Town Council to pay this amount, the Clerk agreed to check with an Officer of the County Council and report to the next Town Council Meeting.
- e) The Boundary Committee for England – Electoral review of the New County Durham Unitary Authority, decision on the number of Elected members (126). Consultation period on Electoral Arrangements for Parish/Town Councils, comments to be submitted by 8th June 2009. Members would like to extend the present Boundaries to include the Hilltop Villages but would await the decision of the meeting arranged for Wednesday 22nd April, item to be placed on the Agenda for the next Town Council meeting.

Items for Information

- f) Durham Police Authority – Community Consultative Group next meeting 20th May 2009 at County Hall, Durham commencing at 7pm. Councillors Batson and Hail to attend.
- g) CDALC – Training Updates.
- h) DCC – Business Rates deferral Scheme 2009/10, regulations to be in place by July 2009.
- i) Great North Air Ambulance - letter of thanks for the Council's donation.
- j) Samaritans of Central Durham - letter of thanks for the Council's donation.
- k) DCC – Consultation arrangements for Parish/Town Councils in relation to Planning Applications.
- l) CDALC – Durham Association News; March 2009; issue no. 24.
- m) Campaign to Protect Rural England – Newsletter Spring 2009.
- n) Link County Durham – Newsletter March 2009; issue no. 2.
- o) BDO Stoy Hayward – Annual Audit for year ended 31st March 2009-
Members noted that the return date for the Annual Return was 24th July 2009.
- p) Beaufort Wind Ltd – Community Fund Payment of £2900.62 for 2009. Members asked the Clerk to find out the number of years left on the scheme and to report to the next Town Council meeting.
- q) Kip Arts – Project produced by Children and Young People from the Durham Dales
- r) Tow law Youth Project report (copy available from the Town Clerk)
- s) Tow Law Easter Play Scheme 2009 report (copy available from the Town Clerk)

072/09 Members Reports

a)Councillor Rowland:-

i)Big Lottery Peoples Millions Funding Application

Members agreed to support this Application and hoped that Partner Agencies would pledge a letter of support. Closing Date was 15th May 2009

ii)County Durham Foundation – Member of the Wind Farm Grant Panel, meeting arranged for 13th May 2009.

iii)CiLCA Portfolio – Registration confirmed, started the compiling of the Portfolio and hoped to complete within 12 months

iv)Litter Bins at the Millennium Green – need to check the number of bins on the site

v)Thornley Road Cemetery – concerns raised at the way the plots/headstones had been placed throughout the site. Clerk to send a letter to the County Council asking for an Officer (Crook Office) to meet the Chairman, Councillor Rowland and the Clerk to discuss the situation at the Cemetery.

b)Councillor Hail:-

- i) reported on the recent PACT (Police and Communities Together) meeting and agreed the following priorities:-
 - speeding vehicles (A68), anti social behaviour (Doctors Surgery, Millennium Green/Sports Centre/VK News) and Dog Fouling.
- ii)cctv Camera at VK News (position to be moved).
- iii)Fly Tipping.
- iv)Complaint regarding marks left by Mechanical Sweeper on High Street paths
- v)Next meeting of PACT 21st May 2009 commencing 7pm in the Masonic Hall

073/09 Annual Return for Year Ended 31st March 2009

Members agreed the following dates for the Annual Return for the Year ended 31st March 2009:-

- Approve section 1 at the Town Council meeting 21st July 2009
- Approve section 2 at the Town Council meeting 21st July 2009
- Approve the Internal Audit Report at the Town Council meeting 21st July 2009
- Display Notice of Electors Rights from 8th June 2009 to 21st June 2009
- Make Records available from 22nd June 2009 to 17th July 2009
- Return Annual Return to External Audit 24th July 2009
- Final date for Publication of Audited Accounts 30th September 2009
- External Auditor to complete by 18th September 2009

054/09 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be Annual Council Meeting on Tuesday 19th May 2009 immediately following the Meeting of Electors which commences at 6.30pm.

The meeting finished at 8.30pm

Signed by the Chairman.....Page 6