

## TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Tow law Town Council held on **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2009** in the Community Centre commencing at 6.30pm.

**Present:** Councillors P Graham, (Chairman) T. Batson, A. Blacker, L. Brown, J. Day, J. Gale, A. Green, L. Rowland, G. Stevens and L. Taylor.

**Also Present:** County Councillor J. Bailey, PcsO Strong, S. Moralee (Resident) K. McCormick (Resident) and G. F. Smith (Clerk)

**Apologies:** Councillor R. Grogan and County Councillor P. Jopling

### **119/09 Declaration of Interest**

Councillor Day declared an interest in item 5 – Representation by Residents

Councillor Rowland declared an interest in item 12 vouchers 14 and 18 and item 17F

Councillor Gale declared an interest in agenda item 8 (Minute 115/9)

**Councillor Day left the meeting**

### **120/09 Representation by Residents**

Mr Moralee and Mr McCormick were representing Tow Law Association Football Club and queried the Council on why they had objected to the recent Planning Application for a Wind Turbine at the Football Club premises.

The Chairman and members gave their reasons followed by a lengthy debate on the Planning Application and the procedure for discussing Planning Applications by Town and Parish Councils.

It was agreed that the Clerk would take up the concerns of the Football Club to the next meeting of the Society for Local Council Clerks for their consideration. Members also agreed for Councillor Batson to take the concerns of the Football Club to the next meeting of the Executive Committee of the County Association (CDALC) for their consideration.

Councillor Bailey informed the meeting that the Planning Application was approved by the County Council's Planning Committee held on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2009.

**Mr Moralee and Mr McCormick left the meeting.**

**Councillor Day returned to the meeting.**

### **121/09 Police Report**

PcsO Strong circulated the Crime and Incident figures for June 2009, followed by a question and answer session.

The Clerk raised a matter from a Mrs Hogarth regarding traffic concerns around Station Street/Campbell Street/Railway Street. Recently a child was knocked down in this area and a number of local residents with small children living in this immediate area have concerns that there are no signs or traffic calming in place and were looking for some action (by Police or County Council) before another child is injured or even killed.

PCSO Strong had been looking at past Police statistics for this area and had emailed the Responsible Officer for road safety.

Councillor Bailey suggested that he would discuss this matter with Councillor Jopling to make Funding available to carry out any safety measures for this area and would discuss this matter with the appropriate Officer at the County Council.

**122/09 County Councillor report**

**Councillor Bailey reported on the following:-**

- a) Flooding problems – gully cleaning
- b) Area Action Partnership

**The following matters were raised with Councillor Bailey:-**

- c) Lack of Representation on the AAP Board from the Tow Law Area
- d) Use of the Community Centre for AAP Board Meetings
- e) Work by DCC being carried out in Tow Law and the Town Council not being informed by the DCC prior to the work commencing.

**It was agreed:-**

- 1) For County Councillor Bailey and Councillor Graham to take the concerns of the Town Council on lack of representation on the AAP from the Tow Law Area to the next meeting of the Board (30<sup>th</sup> July)
- 2) For County Councillor Bailey to take the concerns of the Town Council on the use of the Community Centre for future meetings of the AAP to the next meeting of the Board (30<sup>th</sup> July)
- 3) For the Clerk to write to County Councillor Joe Armstrong (Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee) regarding the concerns of the Town Council on the selection process for appointing Public representation to the AAP Board.

**0123/09 Minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2009**

Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**124/09 Matters \Arising**

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**022/09 members Reports**

E) Allotments – meeting of the Sub Committee, Clerk to arrange a meeting as soon as possible.

**037/09 Clerk’s Report**

Millennium Green Area

Clerk is awaiting further details from Jenny Flynn. Clerk to make the necessary arrangements to have the adjoining field valued and report to the next Town Council meeting.

**056/09 Clerk’s Report**

d) Statement of Community Engagement

Report to September meeting

f) DCC – Parish Paths Partnership Application 2009

Awaiting prices from Local Contractors, Clerk to chase up and report to the next Town Council meeting.

**071/09 Clerk’s report**

d) DCC – Non domestic rate bill for the Recreation Ground (Trex gym) awaiting response from DCC, Clerk to chase up and report to the next Town Council meeting.

**072/09 Members report**

a)(i) Big Lottery Peoples Millions

Councillor Rowland reported that the fund bid was unsuccessful

a)(ii) County Durham Foundation – Wind Farm Grant Panel

The Clerk reported no further developments

**Page 3****072/09 members reports**

a)(iv)Litter Bins at the Millennium Green

**Awaiting response from DCC, Clerk to chase up and report to the next Town Council meeting.**

a)(v) Thornley Road Cemetery

**Awaiting response from DCC, Clerk to chase up and report to the next Town Council meeting.**

**092/09 Clerk's report**

a)DCC – Highway maintenance scheme, High Street (Traffic Light System)

**Awaiting response from DCC, Clerk to chase up and report to the next Town Council meeting.**

**093/09 Members Reports**

Job Centre Plus

**Awaiting response from Job Centre Plus, Clerk to chase up and report to the next Town Council meeting.**

**097/09 N-Power Community Fund**

Details to be announced at the next meeting of the Hill Top Communities Sub-Committee, item to be included in the next edition of the Council's Newsletter.

**104 Planning Matters**

B)Application 3/2009/0200 – Tow Law Association Football Club, Ironworks Road

**Agenda item no. 17c**

**Page 4****106/09 Area Action Partnership**

**Agenda item no. 13**

**108/09/09 Chairman Report**

Three Towns Community Games on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2009

The Chairman reported that 90 children turned up on the day, despite the terrible weather (Heavy Rain).

**Page 5****109/09 Clerk's Report**

**e)Annual Report 2008/09**

The Clerk reported that the delivery costs were £50 and he was awaiting the invoice from the printers (Intons, Crook). Clerk to report to the next Town Council meeting.

**f)Tow Law Millennium School – Crossing Patrol Service was going to continue.**

Councillor Rowland reported that the Crossing Patrol Service was going to continue.

**110/09 Members Reports**

**West Durham Wind Farm**

Councillor Gale reported no further developments

**Page 6****125/09 Minutes of the Special meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2009**

Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**126/09 Matters Arising****114/09 Annual Return for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009**

Members noted that the returns had been completed and sent to the External Auditor on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2009.

**115/09 Proposed move to premises in High Street**

Members agreed for a third option to be considered involving the purchase and running costs for the Community Centre. It was further agreed for the Chairman/Clerk to meet with representatives of the Community Association to discuss this possible option. If the Association is in agreement then this item to be included in the options report in the Council's newsletter for the residents of Tow Law to feedback their views to the Council.

**116/09 Allotment Sites**

For the Clerk to make the necessary arrangements with Local Contractors.

**117/09 Health & Safety**

The Clerk reported that he had sent the Policy Documents to the Probation Service, This would allow them to carry out the works under the Community Pay-Back Scheme.

**118/09 Flooding problems in Tow Law**

Clerk to report on the response from Northumbrian Water.

**127/09 Resignation of Councillor H. Hail**

Members agreed to accept the letter of resignation from Councillor Hail and for the Clerk to:-

- a) Send a letter of thanks to Councillor Hail
- b) Inform the County Council of the vacancy and for the procedure to be put in place for the resultant vacancy to be filled.

**128/09 Planning Matters**

a) Planning Application – 3/2009/0123 – Mark Watson, Blackfield Farm, Inkerman

Members raised a number of concerns (access to site/from A68, retention of Business use, contamination of land and the possible effect this development may have on other proposed developments (Banks Development).

Members agreed for the Clerk to obtain further details from the Planning Officer and inform all Councillors when this information has been received.

**129/09 Accounts for Payments**

That approval be given for the payment of vouchers 14 to 18 in the sum of £2242.84

**130/09 Area Action Partnership (AAP)**

The next Meeting of the AAP Board was Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2009 at the Civic Centre, Crook commencing at 6pm.

**131/09 Trex Gymnasium**

A bank statement dated 25<sup>th</sup> June 2009 was circulated prior the meeting, balance was £2154.81. The Clerk reported that Councillor Grogan was in discussion with Committee Members regarding the Business Rates/contribution from Income to the Town Council. Item to be placed on the Agenda for the next Town Council meeting.

**132/09 Statement of Accounts as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009**

Members agreed to accept the Statement and noted that the balance as at 30<sup>th</sup> June was £25,144.68.

**133/09 Chairman's Report**

No Report

**134/09 Clerk’s Report**

**Items for discussion:-**

- a)Mrs Hogarth – refer to minute 121/09
- b)DCC – Tow Law URR1 Scheme; Members noted that the consultation event was planned for Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> August at the Community Centre from 10am to 2pm
- c)Kay Fotheringham and Peter Monk of Grove Villa – regarding a Planning Application for a Wind Turbine at Tow Law Football Club. Members noted the contents.
- d)DCC – Beat the Credit Crunch Programme.  
Members noted that further details on this event would be reported to the next Town Council meeting.
- e)CDALC – Double Taxation

The Clerk reported that the return has been completed and sent to Steve Ragg.

- f)N-Power Community Fund – Application by Tow Law Community Association (Jenny Mountain) for a contribution towards the running costs of a Community Fun Day on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2009.  
Members agreed to allocate £250.00 from the N-Power Community Fund towards the above mentioned event.

**Items for Information:-**

- g)Tow Law Millennium Primary School – Travel Planning Working Party Minutes 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2009.
- h)DCC-Planning Policy Manager-County Durham Local Development Framework preparation of a core strategy and three area action plans for Bishop Auckland, Spennymoor and Peterlee/Easington .
- i)County Durham Sports-physical Activity award 2009 on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2009 at Ramside Hall Hotel.
- j)LINK County Durham-Big Drink debate questionnaire to be completed by 29<sup>th</sup> July 2009
- k)Campaign to Protect Rural England Newsletter Summer 2009;
- l)Northern Rock Foundation Newsletter Summer 2009; issue no. 19
- m)LINK County Durham Newsletter June 2009; issue no. 3
- n)Durham County Council Adult, Wellbeing and Health-Public Consultation of proposed changes through in-house services.

**135/09 Members Reports**

Councillor Batson –reported that he had been appointed (co-opted) to the County Council’s Scrutiny Committee, as a representative of the County Durham Association of Local Councils.

**136/09 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of Tow Law Town Council is Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2009 in the Community Centre commencing at 6.30pm

The meeting finished at 8.55pm

Signed by the Chairman.....Page 5