

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 15th September 2009 in the Community Centre commencing at 6.30pm.

Present: Councillors P. Graham (Chairman), A. Blacker, J. Gale, A. Green, R. Grogan, and L. Rowland

Also Present: County Councillors J Bailey and P. Jopling, Mrs B Robinson (Northern Echo, Mr C Hodgson (DCC) Mr S. Clemenson and Mr N. Holliston (Northumbrian Water) PCSO Strong, Mrs M McCombie (Resident) and GF Smith (Town Clerk)

Apologies: Councillor J. Day, L. Brown and Taylor

137/09 Declaration of Interest

Councillor Gale and Grogan declared an interest in item No.12

Councillor Grogan declared an interest in item No 13.

138/09 Flooding Problems, Tow Law

Discussions with representatives from Durham County Council and Northumbrian Water took place around flooding problems areas in Tow Law (Dan's Castle, New Market Public House, High Street, Highfields, Grove Road and the estate near Blessed John Duckett School. Also discussed was the problem of obtaining sandbags during an emergency situation.

The representative of DCC informed the meeting that he would investigate the number of times the road gully's were cleared out, a location to store sandbags in the Tow Law area and to encourage reporting of any flooding problems to the Highways Action Line ([telephone number 0191 3706000](tel:01913706000)).

The Representatives of NWA informed the Meeting that they would investigate any reports of flooding problems (residents to contact the NWA centre which is open 24hrs per day (Telephone number 0845 7171100) and they also circulated copies of the drainage system for the Tow Law area.

Members thanked the Officers for attending the meeting.

139/09 Police Report

PCSO Strong informed the meeting that the report was not available for this month but would pass a copy onto the Clerk to copy to each Council Member and attach to these Minutes. He also informed the Meeting of a Speed Survey that had been carried out during the period from 28th August to 4th September, at Station Street/Campbell Street area. The Survey concluded that the County Council was unable to accede to the request to install Traffic claming at the present time based in the findings.

Councillors Bailey and Jopling agreed to take this request to a meeting of the Highways Committee with a view for road marking to be carried out in this area.

Members requested PCSO Strong also requested a representative from the Town Council to attend the next PACT Meeting (24th September).

Members requested PcsO Strong to report on the cctv system on a regular basis.

Signed by the Chairman.....Page 1

140/09 County Councillors Report

Councillors Bailey and Jopling reported on:-

- a)Speed Survey Station Street/Campbell Street
- b)Area Action Partnership
- c)City of Culture bid by Durham City (sign up on the County Councils Web Site)

A question was raised (by Councillor Gale) regarding an article in the recently published County Wide Magazine on the proposed Winter Maintenance Programme and the time scale to respond to this proposal. Councillors Bailey and Jopling would discuss this with appropriate County Council Officer.

141/09 Representation by Residents

Mrs McCombie asked the Town Council to support her request for an ATM Machine at the Post Office in High Street. Members agreed for the Clerk to write a letter to Mrs McCombie stating that the Council support the need for an ATM at Tow Law.

142/09 Minutes of the meeting held on 21st Jul 2009

Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman

143/09 Matters Arising

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121/09 Police Report

Traffic concerns around Station/Campbell /Railway Streets

Copy letters had been received from Durham County Council regarding a recent survey carried out in this Area regarding installation of traffic calming. Members raised concerns on the report and agreed for the Clerk to meet with PCSO Strong to discuss the survey and report to the next Town Council meeting.

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022/09 Members Reports

- e) Allotments – meeting of the sub-committee
- Clerk to contact Councillor Blacker (Chairman) to make the necessary arrangements.

037/09 Clerk’s Report

Millennium Green Area

A report has recently been received from Bradley & Coulson regarding the area of land adjacent to Baring Court. Members agreed for the Clerk to present a detailed report to the next Town Council meeting.

056/09 Clerk’s Report

- d)Statement of Community Engagement
- Clerk to prepare a report for the next Town Council meeting.
- f)DCC – Parish Paths Partnership Application 2009
- Clerk to prepare a report for the next Town Council meeting.

071/09 Clerk’s Report

- d)DCC-Non Domestic Rate Bill for the Recreation Ground (Trex Gym)

Agenda item no. 13

Page 3**072/09 Members Reports**

A)(iv) Litter Bins at the Millennium Green

Clerk has received no further information from DCC. Clerk to chase up this matter and report to the next Town Council meeting.

A)(v) Thornley Road Cemetery

The County Council were in discussions with the Monumental Mason regarding the re-siting of headstones at the Cemetery, No further progress had been made by either party. Clerk to report to the next Town Council meeting.

092/09 Clerk's Report

A)DCC- Highway Maintenance Scheme, High Street (Traffic light system)

The Clerk had been informed that all traffic light systems are traffic activated and Members are requested to report any future problems to the DCC Highways Action Line ([Telephone Number 0191 3706000](tel:01913706000))

093/09 Members Reports**Job Centre Plus**

The Clerk had received a telephone call from the Manager of the Crook office apologising for the delay in responding to the request. Clerk to meet with Councillor Blacker, contact Job Centre Plus to report to the next Town Council meeting.

109/09 Clerk's Report

E) Annual Report 2008/09

Final costs (printing £200, delivery £50) £250

110/09 Members Reports**West Durham Wind Farm**

Councillor Gale updated the meeting (new owners ESP to meet with Members of the Town Council in early 2010, all applications for funding to be dealt with by County Durham Foundation, funding arrangements to remain as agreed with Banks Development, recommendations to review the funding areas (extend the radius mileage) and for the Liaison Committee meeting to continue on a quarterly basis.

115/09 Proposed move to premises in High Street

The Clerk was awaiting a meeting date from the Community Association. Clerk to report to the next Town Council meeting.

Page 4**116/09 Allotment Sites**

The Clerk reported that the problem site had now been cleared by the contractor and the adjoining site had been strimmed. Members agreed for the Clerk to meet with the Chairman and Councillor Blacker to determine the number of plots that the area could accommodate and recommend the appropriate allotment charges. Clerk to prepare a report for the next Town Council meeting.

117/09 Health & Safety Policy

Probation Services

Councillor Rowland reported that the Probation Service had visited the Coke Oven Area and had tidied up and strimmed the site.

118/09 Flooding Problems

Agenda item no. 2

127/09 Resignation of Councillor Hail

Clerk reported that he was awaiting a response from the elections Officer at Durham County Council. Clerk to report to the next appropriate Town Council meeting.

128/09 Planning Matters

A)3/2009/0123 – Blackfield Farm

The Clerk was awaiting details from DCC as the application would be determined by officer delegation. Clerk to report to the next Town Council meeting.

131/09 Trex Gymnasium

Agenda item no. 13

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134/09 Clerk's Report

B)DCC – Tow Law URRI Scheme

Agenda item no. 15 (u)

D)DCC – Beat the Credit Crunch programme

Clerk to contact Officers of DCC regarding the proposed event in October. Clerk to report to the next Town Council meeting

144/09 Planning Matters

1. Items dealt with during the August Recess

A) 3/2009/0312 – Heatherside, 1 Fellside Close. Members agreed to raise no objections

B) 3/2009/0330 – 25/27 High Street, members agreed to raise no objections.

2. Items to be discussed

C) 3/2009/0387 – 43 High Street. Members agreed to raise no objections.

145/09 Accounts for Payment

That approval be given for the payment of Vouchers 19 to 30 in the sum of £4719.38.

146/09 Area Action Partnership

Members discussed the situation regarding the lack of representation of Tow Law on the AAP Board, It was agreed for the Clerk to write to the Leader and Portfolio holder of Durham County Council to a Special meeting of the Town Council to discuss this matter. It was also agreed for County Councillors Bailey and Jopling to be invited to this meeting.

The Clerk informed the members of the dates for the Three Towns Partnership Board meeting:-

22nd September 2009 at Tow Law Community Centre

12th November 2009 venue to be arranged

21st January 2010 venue to be arranged

18th March 2010 venue to be arranged

147/09 Millennium Green Trust

Members agreed to confirm their previous decision (Minute No. 029/09 dated 17th February 2009) to go ahead with the transfer of the Millennium Green from the present Trustees to the Town Council as a corporate Sole Trustee. Members noted that the AGM of the Trust was to be held on 1st October 2009 and copies of the documents are available for inspection at the Community Centre.

Members also agreed to appoint Mr Ken Robinson, Solicitor, Hodgson & Angus to act on behalf of the Town Council to provide legal advice on the proposed transfer.

148/09 Trex Gymnasium

A copy of a recent Bank Statement dated August 2009 for the Trex Gymnasium was circulated to all Council Members.

Councillor Grogan updated the meeting on the latest developments (ie funding application to Home Housing for general maintenance costs, Assistant Town Clerk helping complete the necessary funding documents). The Clerk raised concerns regarding the payment of Non Domestic Rates for the Gymnasium and the need for a contribution from the Committee to the Town Council to cover this payment (£348.72). Members felt there was a need for more publicity regarding the opening times and the need for more volunteers for this project.

149/09 Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that a Meeting had been arranged with Greater Willington Town Council to discuss:-

- a) Representation on the Three Towns Partnership AAP
- b) Representation on the County Durham Association of Local Councils
- c) Future meeting dates of The Joint Working Committee

Items to be placed on the Agenda for the next Town Council meeting.

150/09 Clerk's Report

1.Items for discussion:-

A)Mrs Gowland, 47 Wolsingham Road – Letter regarding Bottle Bins at Baring Court. Members agreed for the Clerk to respond to this letter informing Mrs Gowland that the Council would look into her request for moving the site and for the Clerk to contact the appropriate Officer at DCC to discuss the situation.

Clerk to report to the next Town Council meeting.

B)CDALC – Nominations for Executive Committee

Members agreed to nominate Councillor Terry Batson as Vice President of the Association, Clerk to arrange to confirm this decision.

C)DCC – Youth Offending Service (CDYES). Members asked for the Clerk to contact the Youth Engagement Team Officer to discuss projects in Tow Law.

D)CDALC – New Mapping opportunities for Local Councils (Ordnance Survey).

Members agreed to pay the licence fee (around £55 per year) to cover the copying of Ordnance Survey Mapping in either paper or electronic form.

- E) CDALC – Planning training sessions for Parish/Town Council,(3 delegates per Council, no charge). Members to contact the Clerk.
- F) County Durham & Cleveland County Training Partnership – Training Sessions for Councillors commencing 29th September. Members to contact Clerk
- G) CDALC – More Powers for Parish/Town Councils – amendment to the Sustainable Communities Act.
Members agreed for the Clerk to write to the MP asking for her to sign the early Day Motion no. 1545 in support of the Sustainable Communities Act Amendment Bill.
- H) Samaritans of Central Durham notice of AGM. Members noted that the AGM was to be held 8th October 2009 at 7.30pm in Durham City Rugby Club.
- I) Golder Associates/DCC – details required for the County Durham Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2009). Members agreed for the Clerk to Indicate the Areas of concern which were discussed in (Minute 138/09) this Meeting.
- J) Durham County Council, Regeneration and Economic Development Unit – request for data for Input into the Green Infrastructure Strategy. Members agreed for the Clerk to complete the relevant documents.

2. Items for Information:-

- K) Durham County Council Chairman offer of support at any Town Council event.
- L) The Co-operative Financial Services merger with Britannia on 1st August 2009.
- M) Durham County Council Children & Young Peoples Services adjudicators decision regarding Communities Secondary School admission criteria for 2010 and beyond.
- N) Durham County Council Adults, Wellbeing and Health Unit shaping the Future of care together consultation period closes 13th November 2009.
- O) CDALC - Section 106 agreement
- P) CDALC - Durham Police Authority list of Community consultative group meetings
- Q) CDALC –Durham County strategies for Bus information second edition consultation to be completed by 1st October 2009.
- R) CDALC – Electoral review of County Durham next stage commences 15th September 2009.
- S) DCC – Regeneration and economical regeneration unit views on the provision of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the Tow Law Area.
- T) CDALC – Co-ordination group LGR update Aug 2009 (AAP, charter arrangements devolution of services, environment and sustainable communities scrutiny committee, double taxation and the County Councils remuneration (allowance rates for local Councils).
- U) DCC – Urban and Rural renaissance notes of meeting held 18th August 2009.
- V) Link County Durham – notice of AGM to be held 22nd October 2009 at Consett Civic Centre.
- W) Clerk’s & Councils direct magazine September 2009; issue no. 65
- X)Link County Durham Annual Report.

151/09 Members Reports

The Clerk recommended a change to this item on the agenda and it was agreed that the Clerk would discuss the proposed changes with each Council Members with the hope of agreement at the next Town Council meeting.

152/09 Date and Time of the next meeting

Next meeting of the Town Council will be Tuesday 20th October 2009 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.30pm

The Meeting finished at 8.50pm

Signed by the Chairman.....Page 7