

**TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the meeting of **Tow Law Town Council** held on Tuesday **17<sup>th</sup> November 2009** in the Community Centre commencing at 6.30pm

**Present:** Councillors P Graham (Chairman), L. Brown, J. Day, J. Gale and A. Green

**Also Present:** County Councillor J. Bailey and P. Jopling, D. Leatherdale (Wear Valley Mercury) PC Dave Turner (Durham Police) Rachel Wearmouth (Northern Echo) and G. F. Smith (Town Clerk).

**Apologies:** Councillors T. Batson, R. Grogan, L. Rowland, G. Stevens and L. Taylor

**175/09 Declaration of Interest**

None received.

**176/09 Police Report**

PC Turner presented the report to the meeting followed by a question and answer session. County Councillor Bailey would report to the next Town Council meeting on the contribution towards the costs of the speed watch scheme from the AAP/Highways Budget.

**177/09 County Councillor's Report**

**Councillor Jopling reported on the following:**

- a) Meeting of the Hilltop Villages Community
- b) AAP funding (£117,000 pledged to local organisations, balance of £33,000 to be discussed at the forum meeting in December.

**Councillor Bailey reported on the following:**

- a) DCC meeting on the Boundary Review (recommendations of 3 member ward to include Crook North, Tow Law and the Hilltop Villages, Satley, East Hedleyhope and Cornsay (part)
- b) Meeting with Councillor Brian Stevens and Gordon Elliot regarding the lack of representation of Tow Law on the Board of the Three Towns Partnership (AAP)

**178/09 Representation by Residents**

There were no residents present

**179/09 Minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2009**

Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman

**180/09 Matters arising**

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**154/09 Police Report**

Community Speed Watch Scheme

Item discussed in Police Report (minute 176/09)

**Signed by the Chairman.....Page 1**

**Page 2****139/09 Police Report**

Residents concerns at Campbell/Station Street road junction. County Councillor Bailey had still not made progress with an Officer at DCC but would try again and report to the next Town Council meeting.

**056/09 Clerk's Report**

d) Statement of Community Engagement

Draft report circulated at the meeting. Members agreed that as the document was the basis to obtaining the Power of Well Being that this item be placed on the agenda for the next Town Council meeting.

f) DCC – Parish Paths Partnership Applications 2009

Discussions are ongoing with the Probation service and Youth Offending Service regarding clearing of footpaths routes. Clerk to report to the next appropriate Town Council meeting.

**Page 3****127/09 Councillor Vacancy**

The Clerk reported that the notice of vacancy for a Councillor would be placed on the Council's notice board from Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2009 for 14 days. If no election is called then the Council may co-opt. Item to be placed on the agenda for the next Town Council meeting.

**134/09 Clerk's Report**

a)DCC – Beat the Credit Crunch Programme

No progress. Clerk to chase this up with DCC and report to the next Town Council meeting.

**150/09 Clerk's Report**

a) Bottle Bank at Baring Court

No progress. Clerk to chase this up with DCC and report to the next Town Council meeting.

c) Youth Offending Service

Chairman, Clerk and Assistant Clerk had met with an officer from the Youth Offending Service. It was agreed to develop an action plan for work that could be carried out by the YOS (this service could not use strimmers) and to report to the next appropriate Town Council meeting.

d) CDALC – New mapping Opportunities

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

**160/09 Matter Arising**

1) Electoral review of County Durham by the Boundary Committee

The Clerk updated the members on a meeting with the Hilltop Villages representatives in which it was agreed that they would write to the Boundary Committee to support the recommendation of merging with Tow Law and the creation of a three member ward covering North Crook, Tow Law and the Hilltop Villages. They also agreed to write to Durham County Council (Michael Turnbull) to support the suggestion of Tow Law Town Council boundaries to be extended to include Stanley (Crook), Sunnyside and Billy Row.

Members agreed for the Clerk to write to DCC (Michael Turnbull) requesting them to carry out a Community Governance Review for Tow Law, Stanley(Crook), Sunnyside and Billy Row in time for elections to be held in 2013.

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**163/09 Accounts**

Purchase of Laptops and projection equipment

It was agreed to defer the equipment until January 2010 and for the Clerk to report any progress at the next Town Council meeting.

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**165/09 Area Action Partnership**

Agenda item no. 10

**166/09 Millennium Green Trust**

Agenda item no. 11

**167/09 Trex Gymnasium**

Agenda item no. 12

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**169/09 Clerk's Report**

f) Enterprise plc/CE Electric UK and Durham County Council

Trees in Tow Law

Clerk had written to the two organisations asking for the Tow Law Town Council to be involved in any meetings that were discussing trees in Tow Law. Clerk to update at the next Town Council meeting.

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**169/09 Clerk's Report**

**2) Tow Law War Memorial**

The Clerk reported that the Bayonet had been fixed onto the Statue at the War Memorial on the 5<sup>th</sup> November 2009 (prior to the Remembrance Service).

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**181/09 Planning Matters**

a) 3/2009/0458 – 2 Thornley Terrace; retention of Conservatory  
DECISION: NO OBJECTIONS.

**182/09 Accounts for payments**

That approval be given for the payment of vouchers 37 to 48 in the sum of £4234.66

**183/09 Area Action Partnership**

Members agreed to discuss representation on the 4 tasks groups of the AAP (local environment, health, young people and community safety). Clerk to obtain meeting dates from the co-ordinator (Sandy Denny).

**184/09 Millennium Green Trust**

Awaiting response from the Council's Solicitor

**185/09 Trex Gymnasium**

The Clerk reported that he had received a cheque for £348.72 for the business rates for the gymnasium from the Trex committee. The Clerk reported that he and the Assistant Clerk would be working voluntary with the committee members to improve administration/financial schemes (County Durham Foundation) and the Area Action Partnership for boxing apparatus/general maintenance costs and footpath works.

**Signed by the Chairman.....Page3**

**187/09 Chairman's Report**

Item discussed in minute 160/09 (1) – Electoral Review of County Durham and the joint meeting with the Hilltop Communities.

**187/09 Clerk's Report**

**The following Correspondence had been received:-**

a) Christmas lights competition 2009. Members agreed for the competition to be run similar to last year. Councillor Green to contact Mr Deakin and Mr Donague to act as judges, and for her to make arrangements with the Clerk for notices and posters for the event. Prize money to be the same as last year.

£50 for best dressed window display

£50 1<sup>st</sup> prize for best dressed house

£30 2<sup>nd</sup> prize best dressed house

£20 3<sup>rd</sup> prize best dressed house

£150 to be allocated from the N-power Community Fund.

b) Application for funding N-Power Community Fund for a contribution towards the cost of the Pensioners Christmas Party on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2009. By Tow Law Community Association

**Decision** – Members agreed to donate £250.00

c) Application for funding N-Power Community Fund for a contribution towards the cost of fishing rods and trips for the angling club by Tow Law Community Association.

**Decision** – Members agreed to donate £250.00

d) Application for funding N-Power Community Fund for a contribution towards the cost of a Christmas party, craft paper and other stationery for the Tow Law Tots by Tow Law Community Association.

**Decision** – Members agreed to donate £250.00

e) DCC – Regeneration & Economic Development, consultation on the development of travel schemes and alternatives to bus services across County Durham. Completed questionnaires by 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2009.

**Decision** – Clerk to copy the document to all Councillors.

f) Application for funding from County of Durham School Benevolent fund

**Decision** – for the Clerk to obtain further information and financial reports from the organisation and report to the next appropriate Town Council meeting.

**2. Items for information:-**

Link County Durham – Membership details

**Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Tow Law Town Council will be Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2010 in the Community Centre commencing at 6.30pm.

The meeting finished at 7.20pm

Signed by the Chairman.....Page 4

