

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of **Tow Law Town Council** held on Tuesday **19th January 2010** in the Community Centre commencing at **6.30pm**

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

Also Present: County Councillor J. Bailey and P Jopling, D. Leatherdale (Wear Valley Mercury) PC Dave Turner (Durham Police), R Plews (Resident) and G F Smith (Clerk)

Apologies: Councillors L. Brown and R. Grogan,

001/10 Declaration of Interest

Councillor **Gale** declared an interest in item no. **12 – Millennium Green Trust**

Councillor **Batson** declared an interest in item no. **15 (A) – Clerk's Report on Allotments.**

002/10 Police Report

PC Turner presented the report to the meeting (copy attached to these minutes) followed by a question and answer session. Mr Plews asked if the cctv camera at V K News could be relocated, PC Turner would look at the request but was happy with the present arrangement and felt the relocation costs would be extremely high.

003/10 County Councillor's Report

Councillors Bailey and Jopling reported on the following:

- a) Refuse collection
- b) Winter Maintenance Scheme
- c) Drop kerb near Doctors Surgery
- d) Lighting Column (near Bond's Foundry)
- e) Removal of graffiti on Millennium Green
- f) Highway issue at Campbell Street/Railway Street
- g) Gritting Policy after 4pm

Councillor Blacker raised the issue of collection of domestic wheelie bins on Deerness Estate. Mr Plews raised concerns of snow clearance/gritting to estates roads (i.e. Alpine Way parking area). Members agreed to place Winter Maintenance for Tow Law on the agenda for the next Town Council meeting with the view to send proposals/details to the County Council's Scrutiny Committee (which is scheduled to meet in May).

Members agreed to invite Dave Wilcox (DCC) to the next meeting of the Town Council to discuss the Highways issues (i.e. Painting/Safety Signs on the Roads) at the junction Campbell Street/Station Street.

004/10 Representation by Residents

Mr Plews raised the following concerns:-

- 1) Relocation of cctv camera at High Street.
- 2) Winter Gritting on estates & roads.

005/10 Minutes of the meeting held on 17th November 2009

Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman

006/10Matters arising**Page 1****176/09 Police Report****Costs of Speed Watch Scheme**

Councillor Bailey reported that the Police now have 3 Speed Visors and do not need finance from the Town Council.

Page 2**139/09 Police Report**

Residents concerns at Campbell/Station Street
Item discussed in minute 003/10 County Councillor report.

056/09 Clerk's Report**d) Statement of Community Engagement**

Members agreed to approve the document and for the Clerk to arrange to place the Statement on the Council's Website, notice boards and in the next edition of the Tattler. Training on the Power of Wellbeing for Councillors should take place in January or February. Clerk to inform the relevant Councillors (Day and Grogan).

f) DCC – Parish Paths Partnership Applications 2009

The Town Council have been meeting with representatives of the school and Community Association for pupils/young people to develop a paths report as part of their curriculum/activities (Duke of Edinburgh Awards) and to use these reports for the AAP Application for funding (as discussed with Elaine Fields, DCC) any repairs etc and for use on the new notice boards approved in the Tow Law Town Plan (DCC Urban Renaissance Scheme).

127/09 Councillor Vacancy

The notice of vacancy had been placed on the Council's notice boards and no one had made a request for holding an election. Members agreed for the Clerk to write to the three previous candidates for the last vacant position of Councillor and to ask if they were prepared to stand again. If more than one candidate was to seek election The Chairman would call a special meeting to interview each candidate and for Members to make an appointment.

134/09 Clerk's Report**d) DCC – Beat the Credit Crunch programme**

The Clerk reported that the vacant post for the above job had not yet been appointed. Clerk to report to the next appropriate Town Council meeting.

150/09 Clerk's Report**a) Bottle Bank at Baring Court**

Following a complaint from a local resident regarding the positioning of the bottle bank at Tow Law the Clerk had written to Durham County Council. The Officer was of the opinion that the present position of the bottle bank was the preferred area and welcomed any further suggestions as to other appropriate sites.

Members agreed that the present site was the most appropriate/accessible and should not be relocated in Tow Law.

d) CDLC – New Mapping Opportunities

Clerk was awaiting further details from CDALC (Steve Ragg). Members agreed for the Clerk to report to the next appropriate Town Council meeting.

160/09 Matters Arising**Community Governance Review**

The Clerk reported that he had received a letter from DCC informing him that they were awaiting the findings of the Boundary Committee (due February) before commencing any Community Governance Reviews. Members agreed for the Clerk to write a letter to the Hill Top Communities informing them of the present situation on Community Governance Reviews.

Page 3**163/09 Account****Purchase of Laptop and Projection Equipment**

Members agreed for the Clerk to order 2 Laptops and 1 Projector as a matter of **urgency** and to pay the account out of this year balances.

169/09 Clerk's Report

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

The Clerk had received no response to the letters sent to two parties. It was agreed for the Clerk to write a further letter requesting some sort of response and for County Councillors Bailey/Jopling to contact the relevant Officer at the Durham County Council to progress the Council's concerns.

183/09 Area Action Partnership

Agenda Item no. 11

184/09 Millennium Green Trust

Agenda Item No. 12

185/09 Trex Gymnasium

Agenda Item No. 13

Page 4**187/09 Clerk's Report****f)County Durham School Benevolent Fund**

The Clerk reported that he had received no further detail. Members agreed for the Clerk to chase this matter up with the relevant Council Officer and report to the next appropriate Town Council meeting.

007/10 Setting the Precept 2010/2011

Members agreed to accept the report of the Clerk showing the precept for 2009/10 and examples of suggested increases for 2010/2011 by 0%, 1%, 2%, 5% and 10%. Members also agreed to accept the Statement of Account as at 31st December 2009 (Balance £18,546.61).Members further agreed to set the Precept for 2010/11 at £22,429.00. This was 10% increase (£2039.00) on the 2009/10 figure (£20390.00), The tax base for 2010/11was 583.2 compared to 573.0 for 2009/10. The band D tax for 2010/11 would be £38.45, which is an increase of £2.87 which equates to a 8.21% increase on the 2009/10 figures.

Members agreed to hold a Special meeting to discuss setting the budget, Income and Expenditure for 2010/11. **Date &Time to be confirmed.**

008/10 Planning Matters

a) Application **3/2009/0513** by McInerney Homes for a change of house type at 9 Church Lane.

DECISION - NO OBJECTION

b)Application **3/2009/0533** by Jones Replay Associates for a glazed Entrance at 47a High Street.

DECISION - Members agreed for the Clerk to obtain further details on the proposed development and to inform all Council Members as soon as possible.

009/10 Accounts for payment

That approval be given for the payment of vouchers 49 to 64 in the sum of £5633.04

010/10 Area Action Partnership

The next meeting of the board will be on Thursday 21st January 2010 in the Civic Centre Crook, commencing at 6.00pm.The Chairman and Clerk were still meeting representatives of Greater Willington Town Council and the AAP Co-ordinator (Sandy Denny) prior to each AAP Board Meeting. Councillor Gale raised concerns regarding an information booklet produced by the AAP.Members agreed for the Clerk to contact the AAP Co-ordinator and report to the next Town Council meeting.

Signed by the Chairman.....Page 3

011/10 Millennium Green Trust

Item deferred to the Special Town Council meeting.

012/10 Trex Gymnasium

Item deferred to the Special Town Council meeting.

013/10 Chairman's Report

The Chairman and Councillor Batson updated Members on the signing of the Charter Document between Town/Parish Councils and Durham County Council. Members looked forward to working with the County Council on delivering services to a local level.

014/10 Clerk's Report

a) Allotment Site rear of Dan's Castle

Members agreed to confirm the Chairman/Clerk's action in placing an order for the supply and installation of a 3 metre wide double leaf steel palisade gate, 1.8 metres high galvanised and single pointed for the Allotment site rear of Dan's Castle with Batson Environmental & Leisure Ltd at a cost of £993.75 + vat.

b) N-Power Community Fund – Application for Funding

Members agreed for £250.00 to be paid to the Tow Law and District History Society for the purchase of IT equipment including a projector, external hard drive and updates to current IT equipment.

015/10 Members Report

Councillor Batson explained his role in Batson Environment & Leisure ltd therefore declared an interest in Agenda item 15A – Clerk's Report (Minute 14/10(A)).

016/10 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Tow Law Town Council will be Tuesday 16th February 2010 in the Community Centre commencing at 6.30pm.

The Meeting finished at 8.05pm

Signed by the Chairman.....Page 4