

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of **Tow Law Town Council** held on Tuesday **16th February 2010** in the Community Centre commencing at **6.30pm**

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

Also Present: County Councillor P Jopling, C. Hayton PcsO Richard Strong and G F Smith (Clerk)

Apologies: Councillor R. Grogan

017/10 Declaration of Interest

None were received.

018/10 Police Report

PcsO Richard Strong presented the report to the meeting followed by a question and answer session.

019/10 County Councillor's Report

Councillors Jopling reported on the following:

- a) Meeting with Highways Department
- b) Winter Maintenance
- c) Drop kerb near Doctors Surgery has been ordered
- d) Lighting Column (near Bond's Foundry) now in place
- e) Removal of graffiti on Millennium Green
- f) Highway issue at Campbell Street/Railway Street
- g) Gritting Policy
- h) Tree Cutting Policy

020/10 Representation by Residents

None

021/10 Minutes of the meeting held on 19th January 2010

Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman

022/10 Matters arising

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County Councillors Report (003/10)

Junction at Campbell Street/Station Street

E-mail received from Keith Jameson (Area Traffic Engineer –South) regarding the above situation.

Councillor Jopling agreed to contact the Officer for him to visit Tow Law and meet with Chairman/Clerk to discuss a way forward.

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Clerk's Report 056/09

d) Statement of Community Engagement

Training on the Power of Wellbeing for Councillors should take place in February or March.

Clerk to inform the relevant Councillors.

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 PPP 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).

Councillor Vacancy127/09

The Clerk had contacted the three previous candidates. Colin Hayton wished to stand as a Councillor the other two declined due to other commitments.

Members agreed to co-opt Colin Hayton, 44 Atlee Estate, Tow Law and to invite him to the next Town Council meeting (16th March 2010) to take his place as Councillor.

Matters Arising 160/09

Community Governance Review

See item 15q – Boundary Committee Report

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Account163/09

Purchase of Laptop and Projection Equipment

The Clerk was obtaining quotations for the equipment

Clerk's Report 169/09

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 to continue contacting Enterprise Plc regarding the possible provision of funds to correct what had gone wrong in the recent past.

Setting the Precept 2010/2011 (007/10)

Budget/Income & Expenditure for 2010/11 agenda item no.18

Planning Matters (008/10)

b)Application **3/2009/0533** 47a High Street.

The Clerk reported that the Planning Application was to change one unit into two units. Members agreed for the Clerk to speak to the agents handling the property with a view to converting the space into office and meeting room for the Town Council

Area Action Partnership (010/10)

Information booklet produced by AAP

Copies of the information booklet were circulated at the meeting. Members agreed to invite Sandy Denny (AAP Co-ordinator) to the next Town Council meeting (16th March 2010)

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Chairman's Report (013/10)

Charter Document between Town & Parish Councils and Durham County Council.

Members agreed to publish the document on the Council's website, notice boards and to produce a Town Council newsletter (by the end of March 2010)

Clerk's Report 014/10

a) Allotment Site rear of Dan's Castle

The Clerk reported that the gate had now been placed in position. Quotations for the supply and erection of fencing was being obtained from local contractors. Councillor Blacker was to discuss with the Clerk the date of the next meeting of the Allotment Sub Committee

023/10 Winter Maintenance/Footpath Clearance

The Chairman/Clerk briefed members on a meeting they had with three Officers from Durham County Council on 8th February 2010. The Officers would only discuss winter treatment to footpaths not roads.

The following was discussed:-

Salt bins – salt bins would continue to be filled by DCC. A map was on display showing the location of bins in the Tow Law Area. Members were encouraged to go along to the Clerk's Office to view the map and make recommendations on possibly any more salt bins, location etc.

Footpath priorities – A list of the current footpath priorities carried out by DCC was available from the Clerk. Members were encouraged to discuss the priorities with the Clerk and make some amendments.

Workforce – As the Town Council did not employ any staff (other than the Clerk) they could not take part in any mutual aid agreement.

Members agreed for the Clerk to contact the appropriate County Council Officer regarding a further meeting to discuss snow clearance from estate/street roads.

024/Planning Matters

a) Application 3/2010/0012 – plots 1&2 rear of North Road

DECISION – NO OBJECTION

b) Application CMA/3/32 – Temporary coal disposal point at Wolsingham by Weardale Railway. Regarding leading coal from Park Wall North Open Cast Site.

DECISION – NO OBJECTION

025/10 Accounts for Payments

That approval be given for the payment of vouchers 65 to 69 in the sum of £2716.85

026/10 Area Action Partnership

Next meeting of the AAP Board is Thursday 18th March 2010 at the Civic Centre, Crook commencing at 6.00pm

027/10 Tow Law Town Plan

The Clerk read out a number of e-mails from Michele MacCallum (Urban Design Officer) DCC.

E-mail one – New sign/notice board to be erected in High Street (Funding from AAP). Members agreed to maintain and insure the sign once it has been installed.

E-mail two – costs of providing power supply and tree pit with socket. The estimated cost was £5450 (NEDL connection fee £850, kiosk £1100 and tree pit and socket £3500). Members agreed to look at other costs from local contractors and to discuss further the need for a live or cut Christmas Tree or to continue with the present system of supplying 65 4ft trees fixed into brackets onto houses in Tow Law.

E-mail three – cost of providing a Car Park adjacent to the Doctor Surgery was estimated at £47,000. The Urban Renaissance Initiative maybe able to contribute £10,000. leaving a balance of £37,000 for the Town Council to Fund. Members agreed to look at the project and possibly look at the AAP Funding and others to cover the additional costs.

Members agreed for Councillor Gale to attend the Tow Law Town Centre Improvement Scheme Committee (next meeting 1st March 2010 at the Community Centre commencing at 4pm).

028/10 Trex Gymnasium

No report/update

029/10 Chairman's Report

No report

030/10 Members Report

Councillor Green reported on the AAP Board meeting held on 21st January 2010

031/10 Clerk's Report

N-Power Community Fund – Members noted that the balance in this fund was £732.62

A) Application from the N-Power Community Fund for North East Truth (Dean Rose) to start up a local newsletter. Members agreed not to support this application.

B) Application from the N-Power Community Fund for Lucie Spence for a contribution towards dance fees. Members agreed to donate £125 subject to a presentation to the Finance Committee by Lucie on her achievements so far and her future expectations.

C) Application from the N-Power Community Fund for Tom Wilkinson for a contribution towards his final year dissertation in Indonesia with a Conservation group.

Members agreed not to support this Application.

D) Application from the N-Power Community Fund for Marnie Stephenson for a contribution towards a student trip to Peru to build a multifunctional facility in the deprived areas on the outskirts of Lima.

Members agreed not to support this Application.

E)DCC - Sustainable Design Supplementary Planning Document – Consultation period ends 1st April 2010.

Members agreed for the Clerk to copy relevant parts of the document and send copies to all Councillors.

F)DCC - Contaminated Land Strategy – Consultation period ends 1st March 2010. Members agreed for the Clerk to copy relevant parts of the document and send copies to all Councillors.

G) Standard Board for England – Notifications to Parish & Town Councils concerning complaints about their Members and the Standard Committee (England) Regulations 2008.

Members agreed to wait further details from the County Durham Associations of Local Councils.

H) Standard Board for England – The Role and appointment of Parish and Town Council representatives to the Standards Committee and the Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008.

Members agreed to wait further details from CDALC.

I) Great North Air Ambulance – Application for funding. Clerk had requested further financial information. This item to be reported to the next appropriate Town Council meeting.

J) Learning Library – Application for funding. Clerk has requested further information on the service provider and further financial information. This item to be reported to the next appropriate Town Council meeting.

K) SG Baker Ltd – Provision of sand – less sandbags. Clerk to make further inquiries of other suppliers and report to the next appropriate Town Council meeting.

Items for Information:-

L) Link County Durham – copy of AGM Report

M) DCC – County Durham Environment Award 2009

N) Guiding for Adults – Letter of Thanks (flower beds arranged for Durham City)

O) David Craggs – Thank you letter for donation

P) Durham Association Newsletter; December 2009; issue no.28.

Q) Land Registry – Registering your land; a guide for Town & Parish Councils

Additional Items:-

R) The Boundary Committee for England – further clarification on Electoral Division Boundaries for Tow Law and Crook. A copy of the report was circulated at the meeting, There were two options to choose from:-

Option One – Places the majority of Crook in a two member division. The Western section of Crook is combined with Tow Law, The Hill Top Villages and the Rural Area in a two – member division. Hunwick would have a one-member division.

Option Two – The western part of Crook becomes a single-member division, while the remainder of Crook is combined with Tow Law, The Hilltop villages and the Rural Area in a three member division. Hunwick would have a one member division.

Members noted that the feedback form was incorrect by showing the options in reverse. The Clerk would contact the Boundary Committee and re-issue any amended feedback form.

Members agreed to the following:-

1) To vote for option one (each Councillor completing a feedback form)

2) To arrange a meeting with the Hilltop villages with Satley, East Hedley Hope and Cornsay Parish Councils to discuss the options.

032/10 Date of Next Meeting

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

THAT PURSUANT TO SECTION 100A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 THAT THE PUBLIC BE EXCLUDED FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE MEETING DURING CONSIDERATION OF THE ITEMS LISTED BELOW ON THE GROUNDS THAT IF THEY ARE PRESENT DURING DISCUSSION OF THESE ITEMS THERE COULD BE DISCLOSURE OF THEM OF EXEMPT INFORMATION AS DEFINED IN SECTION 100. Confidential Items.

The Meeting finished at 8.50pm

Signed by the Chairman.....Page 4