

## TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of **Tow Law Town Council** held on Tuesday **20<sup>th</sup> April 2010** in the Community Centre commencing at **6.30pm**

**Present:** Councillors P Graham (Chairman), A. Blacker, L. Brown, J. Day, J. Gale, C Hayton, L. Rowland

**Also Present:** County Councillor P Jopling, PCSO Stephen Urch and G F Smith (Clerk)

**Apologies:** Councillors T. Batson, A. Green, R Grogan, G Stevens and L. Taylor  
County Councillor J Bailey,

### **051/10 Declaration of Interest**

None were received.

### **052/10 Police Report**

PCSO Stephen Urch presented the report to the meeting followed by a question and answer session.

### **053/10 County Councillor's Report**

**Councillor Jopling reported on the following:**

- A) Meeting with Keith Jameson regarding Campbell/Station Streets She will chase this matter up and report back to the Clerk.
- B) Drop kerb at Doctors Surgery. Order has been placed with Service Direct, three months waiting list.
- C) Elite Hall, Crook. Will keep Members updated on this scheme, which may not go ahead, therefore there may be funding available in the ex Wear Valley area.
- D) Councillor Brown asked the question of maintenance/keeping tidy by DCC of the picnic areas near Tow Law Colliery Wood and High Stoop heading towards Salter's Gate Councillor Jopling would report back to Members at the next Town Council meeting.

### **054/10 Representation by Residents**

None

### **055/10 Minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2010**

Minutes agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman

### **056/10 Matters arising**

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#### **County Councillors Report (038/10)**

Road Traffic concerns at Station/Campbell Street  
Councillor Jopling to report back to Council Members

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#### **Clerk's Report 056/09**

Power of Wellbeing training  
Arranged for 28<sup>th</sup> April 2010 (Councillor Day, Grogan and Hayton)

#### **Accounts (163/09)**

#### **Purchase of Laptop and Projection Equipment**

Clerk is in the process of setting up an account with dabs.com. once set up the equipment will be ordered.

#### **Clerk's Report (169/09)**

f) Enterprise PLC/CE Electric - Trees at Tow Law

No further progress, Clerk to report any changes in the circumstances to the next appropriate Town Council meeting.

#### **Planning Matters (008/10)**

47a High Street.

The Clerk reported the rental costs for the premises as £10 per square foot(948 f2)=£9480 annual rent. Also the premises know as Nells shop was available to purchase.

Members agreed that the above two proposals were to expensive. It was fair to say that the Council had looked at all available options (value for money/best balue) and members agreed to remain in the Community Centre but look at other alternatives when and if they become available.

**Clerk's Report (014/10)**

a) Allotment Site rear of Dan's Castle

Members agreed to the following:-

- i) To employ a local contractor to assist with the measuring of existing plots and to set out the newly created plot on this site in time for this season.
- ii) Site measurements to be reported to the Allotment Sub Committee to discuss the setting of Allotments rents.
- iii) Two quotations have been received for supplying and installing 1.8m high steel palisade fence galvanised and single pointed (46 metres). Price A = £2973.09; Price B = £3294.09 the third contractor did not return a quotation. Therefore it was agreed to award the contract to Batson Environment & Leisure Ltd, Chairman/Clerk to negotiate a start date.

**Clerk's Report (031/10)**

i) Great North Air Ambulance, the Clerk updated members on the financial situation of this organisation (annual income/expenditure/current bank balances).

Members agreed to donate £500 towards the running costs of this organisation (Power under section 137 LGA 1972).

j) Learning Library, the Clerk updated members on the financial situation of this organisation (annual income/expenditure/current bank balances).

Members agreed not to support this application.

**Page 3****Winter Maintenance/Footpath Clearance (042/10)**

Agenda Item No. 8

**Page 4****Clerk's Report (048/10)**

g) Buterwick Hospice Care, the Clerk updated Members on the financial situation of the organisation (annual income/expenditure/current bank balances).

Members agreed not to support this application

h) Victim Support – awaiting requested financial information.

**057/10 Winter Maintenance**

Durham County Council had asked Town/Parish Councils to express their views on the provision of safe highways and footpaths during periods of severe winter weather in their area.

Responses are required by the 13<sup>th</sup> May 2010

Members agreed to raise the following concerns:-

- a) positioning of salt bins
- b) clearing of paths for school crossing patrols (War Memorial/Wolsingham Road/Wear Street)
- c) what was the £1 million from the NHS used for?
- d) for the Town Council to hire local contractors to clear roads/paths/priority areas/doctors surgery/district nurses/nursing home/Baring court/oap bungalows) as and when required.
- e) supply of emergency salt (storage facilities) for use by local residents.

Members also agreed for the Clerk to write to Mr Terry Collins, Director of Neighbourhood Services at Durham County Council regarding the above concerns (as suggested by County Councillor Jopling).

**058/10 Grot Spots/Areas in need of a clean up campaign**

Groundwork North East and the Three Towns AAP had invited the Town Council to nominate areas that they feel are Grot Spots and in need of a clean up (litter picking, clearing fly tipping, overgrown areas or just generally need a tidy up).

The initiative is being funded by the AAP and aims to improve the local environment. The tidy up will be carried out by Groundwork North East's Environment Task Force Team.

Members agreed to the following:-

- i) any areas to be reported to the Clerk for him to forward on the details to Groundwork North East.
- ii) For the Clerk to write to DCC and the AAP raising their concerns that this type of work was always carried out by Wear Valley District Council (funding within the amount collected by Council tax) and should be carried out by DCC as part of their mainstream servicing (re within existing Budgets).

**059/10 Accounts for Payments**

That approval be given for the payment of vouchers 75 to 76 (2009/10) in the sum of £500.00 and vouchers numbers 1 to 8 (2010/11) in the sum of £4199.81.

**060/10 Statement of Accounts (unaudited) for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010**

Members agreed to accept the Statement (income £42976.16; expenditure £31051.80; bank balance £13224.36 less unrepresented cheques (£1300.00) = amended balance £11924.36

**061/10 Tow Law Town Plan**

The following action points have been agreed at the Joint Working Party:-

- i)The school pupils will complete the walking route survey and identify points of interests along the proposed 3 walks. The information to be sent to the design team at DCC. This work should be completed by the end of August.
- ii)Design and location of signboard has been agreed
- iii)Two leaflets to be produced
- iv)Identifying symbol of Tow Law required (not yet agreed, possibly Beehive Cokeovens
- v)Provision of a Christmas Tree socket (additional cost of a meter and connection from an energy supplier (approx £700), the URRI scheme will cover the cost of the chamber, power socket, ducting and kiosk)
- vi)The principle of Off- Street parking is an integral part of enhancing the Town centre economy and the promotion of Tow Law as a stop –of point.

Members agreed to refer the following items to the Finance and General Purposes Committee for further discussions:-

- 1)Provision of Christmas Tree or Trees
- 2)Provision of Off- Street Parking

**062/10 Trex Gymnasium**

The latest bank account was detailed by the Clerk. The Clerk also reported that £200 was donated by Home Housing for ongoing costs of the equipment.

**063/10 Area Action Partnership**

The proposed dates for future Three Towns Board Meetings were:-

- Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2010
- Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2010
- Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2010
- Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2010
- Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2011
- Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2011

**064/10 Chairman's Report**

The Chairman asked Members to approve the following actions:-

- 1)Providing buses during the Easter holidays for young people of the Tow Law Youth Group
  - i)7<sup>th</sup> April to Spennymoor baths (51 seater) 11 attended; cost £100
  - ii)14<sup>th</sup> April to Spennymoor baths (27 seater) 24 attended; cost £70
  - iii)15<sup>th</sup> April to Discovery Museum, Newcastle (51 seater) 27 attended; cost £220

Members agreed the Chairman's action and approved the expenditure

- 2) Providing a mini bus for the Town Centre Planning Committee(including pupils and teachers from the two primary schools) to visit County Hall at a cost of £65

Members agreed the Chairman's Action and approved the expenditure

- 3)The Chairman announced that the Joint meeting with Greater Willington Town Council would be held on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> April at 3pm at the Resource Centre, High Street, Willington. Councillors Day, Hayton and Rowland would be attending.

- 4)The Chairman wishes to give his apologies for the next Town Council meeting (AGM) on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2010 as he would be on holiday and he also wished to be considered for the Office of Chairman for 2010/11 year.

**065/10 Clerk's Report****Items for Discussion:-**

A)The Clerk report that the meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee scheduled for 14<sup>th</sup> April 2010 did not take place due to there being only three Councillors present and Lucie Spence declined to present her portfolio to the Committee

b)Members agreed to donate £250 from the N-Power Community Fund towards the cost of transport of pupils to/from Blessed John Duckett RC Primary School visiting Burnhill Nature Reserve.

c)Members agreed to donate £250 from the N-Power Community Fund towards the cost of transport of pupils to/from Tow Law Millennium Primary School visiting Burnhill Nature Reserve.

d)Members noted the timetable from BDO External Auditors for the Annual Return for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010.

Approve section one of the Annual Return by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010

Appointed date for Audit 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2010

Display Notice of Electors Rights 7<sup>th</sup> June 2010 to 20<sup>th</sup> June 2010

Make Records available from 21<sup>st</sup> June to 16<sup>th</sup> July 2010

Approve the Annual Return at the June meeting (15<sup>th</sup>) of the Town Council

e)Durham Miners Association – Gala Book Project

Members agreed to purchase 5 copies of the book at a cost of £19.50 plus p&p (£3.50) each. Clerk to make the necessary arrangements.

f)DCC – Parish Paths Partnership; application form 2010This would be used for the 3 paths project that is ongoing with the two primary schools and the Town Centre Planning Committee.

**Items for Information:-**

g)DCC- Playbuilder programme 2010/11 – final approval date 26<sup>th</sup> May 2010

h)County Durham PCT – Joint Commissioning Strategy for Older people 2010/13 – Consultation events.

i)County Durham Health and Wellbeing Partnership – A physical Activity Strategy for County Durham

j)Link County Durham – documents for information; Joint Commissioning Strategy for Older People for County Durham 2010/13; consultation document on Proposal to close In-house Residential Care Homes in County Durham

k)Link County Durham - Local Involvement Network; GP Patient Forum Event; Derwentside Health Network.

l)DCC – Our Life Magazine; April 2010; Issue No. 2

m)DCC Parish Path Partnership News magazine; Spring 2010; Issue No. 26.

**066/10 Members Reports**

The Clerk was asked by Councillor Green to raise the problem of fires on the Industrial Estate.

Members agreed for the Clerk to write to DCC and Fire Service and also for this matter to be raised at the next Pact meeting.

**067/10 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting is the Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2010 immediately following the Meeting of Electors which commences at 6.30pm in the Community Centre.

The Meeting finished at 7.30pm

Signed by the Chairman.....Page 4