

## TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of **Tow Law Town Council** held on Tuesday **15<sup>th</sup> June 2010** in the Community Centre commencing at **6.30pm**

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

**Also Present:** Robert Plews (Resident), PC Rutherford (Durham Police) and G F Smith (Clerk).

**Apologies:** Councillors L. Brown, J. Day, R Grogan and G. Stevens also County Councillor P Jopling.

### **068/10 Acceptance of Office for Chairman (2010/2011)**

Councillor Graham signed the Acceptance of Office for Chairman, witnessed by the Clerk and Proper Officer of the Council and approved by all Councillors.

### **069/10 Declaration of Interest**

Councillor Batson and Graham declared an interest in agenda Item No. 8 – Matters Arising (Allotments rear of Dan's Castle).

Councillor Batson and Graham declared an interest in Agenda Item No 12 (b) – Planning Matters.

### **070/10 Police Report**

Pc Rutherford introduced himself to all Councillors as he was the new neighbourhood Officer for the Tow Law Area. He presented the report to the meeting followed by a question and answer session.

### **071/10 County Councillor's Report**

**No Reports.**

### **072/10 Representation by Residents**

Mr Plews raised concerns regarding plastic sacks (clothing) being left outside the new Barnardos Charity shop. Also the issue of Allotments and the waiting list (The Clerk responded).

### **073/10 Minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2010**

Minutes agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

### **074/10 Matters arising**

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#### **Matters Arising (056/10)**

#### **Purchase of Laptops and Projector**

The Clerk was experiencing some difficulties in setting up a Business Account with certain Companies, he would continue to progress the matter as soon as possible (Discussions ongoing with Dell Computer/PC World). Councillor Batson suggested the Clerk contact Dynamic IT and would contact the Clerk with relevant details. Clerk to report to the next Town Council Meeting.

Councillor **Batson** declared an Interest in the next item and left the meeting whilst it was being discussed.

#### **Allotment site at Dan's Castle**

A quotation had been received from Batson Environment & Leisure Ltd for work to the Allotment site including:- Access Road, post and rail dividing fence, preparation of topsoil, Stell Palisade fencing, removal of existing post and chainlink fence and supply of new gate. Total cost £10658.65 + vat.

**Members agreed** to accept this quotation and for the Clerk to instruct the Contractor to commence the work as soon as possible.

It will be necessary to call a meeting of the Allotments Committee to discuss Allotment rents. The Chairman of the Committee (Councillor Blacker) to liaise with the Clerk to set up a meeting with the Committee and Allotment holders.

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

Awaiting response from DCC regarding Budgets. Members agreed for the Clerk to also write to County Councillor Brian Stevens and Steve Ragg at the CDALC regarding the Council's concerns around Budgets for cleaning up Campaign.

**Clerk's Report (065/10)**

g) DCC – Playbuilder Programme 2010/11

The Clerk reported that he had received a letter from DCC (Agenda Item No 18(e)- \clerk's report stating that the bid was unsuccessful.

**Page 3****Power of Well Being (AGM 15/10)**

The Chairman presented each Councillor with their certificate of training in the Power of Well Being.

**Page 4****Planning Matters (AGM 17/10)**

A) 3/2010/0186 – application by Bond's Foundry, North Road

**Decision** – Members agreed to raise no objection to this proposed development.

**Clerk's Report (AGM 20/10)**

B) DCC – Parish/Town Councillor Registration of Interest Form

Forms had been sent to all Councillors. The Chairman reminded Members to complete the form and return them to the Clerk as soon as possible.

**Page 5****Members Reports (AGM 21/10)****i) Flower Beds on Millennium Green**

Councillor Green updated members on her draft proposal for flower beds for the Millennium Green site.

Members agreed to discuss this matter when the transfer of the Trustees has been completed.

**ii) Additional Bollards to Footpaths on High Street**

The Clerk reported that he had met with Councillor Stevens prior to the meeting and they had agreed to discuss this matter with Mr Jameson (DCC) when they discuss highway issues in Tow Law.

**iii) Inscriptions on the War Memorial**

Councillor Hayton asked for the Clerk to progress this matter with Officers from the County Council.

**iv) Bus Shelter on High Street**

Councillor Rowland suggested that the Council (or representatives) should meet with McInerney Homes regarding the development of the site following the removal of the Auction Mart Bull Ring building. Possible site for the Town Council Offices/Library/History Society. Members agreed to hold a Special Town Council meeting to discuss this proposal and ask representatives from McInerney Homes to attend. Chairman/Clerk to make the necessary arrangements.

**075/10 Standing Orders 2010**

Members agreed to defer this item until the Special Town Council meeting to be held on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2010 in the Community Centre commencing at 6.30pm.

**076/10 Annual Return for the Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010**

Members agreed to defer this item until the Special Town Council meeting to be held on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2010 in the Community Centre commencing at 6.30pm.

**077/10 Winter Maintenance – Response by Durham County Council**

Members agreed for the Clerk to copy the documents for all Councillors and to place the item on the agenda for the next Town Council meeting.

**078/10 Planning Matters**

**a) Application 3/2010/0171** – Applicant Mr M Jopling for outline planning permission for an Agricultural Dwelling at land adjacent to Park Terrace.

**Decision** – Members agreed for the Clerk to obtain further details from the Planning Officer

**b) Application 3/2010/0199** – Applicant Miss S Batson for a single storey extension to rear of 16 Dan's Castle.

**Decision** – Members agreed to raise no objection to this proposed development.

**c) Application 3/2010/0257** – Mr N Humble for a single extension with pitched roof to rear of 14 Dan's Castle

**Decision** - Members agreed to raise no objection to this proposed development.

**d) Application 3/2010/0252** – Applicant McInerney Homes for listed Building Consent for De-Construction (relocation of the Auction Mart Bull Ring Building off site) at Valley Rise/Church Lane.

**Members agreed to:-**

i) Await the outcome of the Special Town Council meeting with representatives from McInerney Homes.

ii) To respond to the County Council indicating that the Council will be making some sort of response to the proposed development.

**e) Application 3/2010/0253** – Applicant McInerney Homes for re-development of the vacant site of the Auction Mart Building and adjacent land at Valley Rise/Church Lane.

**Decision** – as d i) and ii) above.

**079/10 Accounts for Payment**

That approval be given for the payment of vouchers 15 to 20 in the sum of £1789.39

**080/10 Tow Law Town Plan**

The following item were still outstanding:-

- i) Car Parking
- ii) Notice Board

**081/10 Trex Gymnasium**

The Clerk reported that he receives copies of the organisations Bank statements on a regular basis (last dated 24<sup>th</sup> May 2010).

**082/10 Area Action Partnership**

Dates for the next meetings of the Task Groups:-

- 5<sup>th</sup> July (10am to 12pm) Crime & Community Safety
- 7<sup>th</sup> July (10am to 12pm) Local Environment & Community Civic Pride
- 8<sup>th</sup> July (10am to 12pm) Activities for young people
- 19<sup>th</sup> July (10am to 12pm) Healthy Lifestyle and Well Being

All meetings held at Civic Centre, Crook.

Concerns were raised at the starting times of meeting as this would exclude any one who was working, perhaps these meetings should be held after normal working hours (re after 5pm)

Next meeting of the AAP Forum would be held on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2010 at 6.00pm at St. Catherine's, Crook.

The Chairman encouraged all Members to try and attend any of the above meetings.

Members requested that the Clerk writes to CDALC for an item to be placed on the Agenda for the next Executive Committee Meeting. "AAP's are they working with or against Town and Parish Councils?."

**083/10 Chairman's Report**

The Chairman wished to thank the Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Vice Chair (Jim Day) and Committee Chairs for their support and hard work during 2009/10. He then went on to outline his priorities for the forth coming year:-

- a) Continue the dialogue with the HillTops Communities
- b) Await the report of the Boundary Committee before involving Sately and East Hedlyhope Parish Councils (Also involve Steve Ragg, CDALC).
- c) Continue with Councillor training
- d) Work with partners with developing a car park in Tow Law (Bond's, Doctors, BT, Co-op, Greggs, Barnardos, Banks Development and DCC).
- e) Set up a Car Park Committee  
(Consisting of Chairman, Vice Chairman and Councillors Gale, Grogan and Rowland)
- f) Set up a Millennium Green Committee  
(Consisting of Chairman, Vice Chairman and Councillors Brown, Rowland, Stevens and Taylor)
- g) Set up a Power of Well Being Committee  
(Consisting of Chairman, Vice Chairman and Councillors Batson, Brown, Hayton and Rowland)
- h) Set up a School Liaison Committee  
(Consisting of Chairman, Vice Chairman and Councillors Gale and Grogan)
- i) Set up a Windfarm Committee  
(Consisting of Chairman, Vice Chairman and Councillors Day, Gale, Grogan and Rowland)
- j) Discuss with DCC the following items of concerns:-
  - i) Winter Maintenance
  - ii) Summer Maintenance (i.e. grasscutting)
  - iii) Trex Gymnasium
- k) Discuss with Community Association (Chair Councillor Gale)
  - i) Office accommodation
  - ii) Council meeting room
  - iii) Use of Community centre when council meetings are taking place
- l) Develop an Action Plan "towards 2013"

Members agreed with the above proposals and also to call a Special meeting to discuss the Town Plan and the Action Plan moving towards 2013.

**084/10 Clerk's Report**

The following four applications for funding from the N-Power Community Fund were referred to the Finance & General Purposes Committee for further **information/discussion**:-

- a) Tow Law Gym (Trex)
- b) Baring Court Tenants Association
- c) 1<sup>st</sup> Tow Law Rainbows
- d) Jade Armstrong

**Further items for discussion:-**

e) DCC – Playbuilder year 2 Funding; Application unsuccessful

The Members were disappointed to hear that this application was unsuccessful and hoped that the County Council would reconsider their decision at a further date.

f) DCC – Ownership of Bus Shelters

Members agreed for Councillor Gale and Hayton to meet with the Clerk to respond to the County Council on Bus Shelters owned by the County Council and the Town Council and also confirming the locations.

**Clerk to update at the next Town Council meeting.**

g) Banks Developments – Office to close in August/September 2010

Members agreed for the Chairman to meet with the Clerk to send a response to the Company (with particular reference to the proposed Eco- Housing Development and the support received from the Banks Community Fund)

h) CDALC – County Durham Development Plan; Consultation period 11<sup>th</sup> June to 6<sup>th</sup> August 2010.

Members agreed for the Clerk to circulate to all Councillors information on the Consultation process, list of drop-in road shows and the date for the presentation to the joint Parish Councils meetings.

i) DCC – request for a Freedom of Information for copies of all bids submitted for the Playbuilder programme 2010/11.

Members agreed for this information to be disclosed.

l) Great North Air Ambulance – Letter of thanks

k) DCC – Surface dressing programme at Ironworks Road

l) DCC – New dial-a-ride service (started 1<sup>st</sup> June 2010)

m) Arriva – operational performance data; May 2010

n) DCC – Our Life magazine; June 2010; issue no. 3

o) Local Councils Review magazine; summer 2010

**085/10 Members Report**

Councillor Gale reported on:-

a) Wind Farm Funding – new funding stream to be released in September 2010

b) Liaison meeting for open cast site

c) DCC Budgets for street cleansing(including gully clearing, weed killing and equipment for winter maintenance after snow clearing)

Councillor Hayton reported on:-

a)collection of bins(problem at 32-34 Alpine Way

**086/10 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Tow Law Town Council will be held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2010 in the Community Centre commencing at 6.30pm.

The Meeting finished at 8.30pm

Signed by the Chairman.....Page 4