

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of **Tow Law Town Council** held on Tuesday **20th July 2010** in the Community Centre commencing at **6.30pm**

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

Also Present: County Councillors J. Bailey and P Jopling, P.C. Rutherford (Durham Police) Robert Plews (Resident), and G F Smith (Clerk).

Apologies: R Grogan

090/10 Declaration of Interest

None Received

091/10 Police Report

Pc Rutherford presented the report to the meeting followed by a question and answer session.

092/10 Representation by Residents

Mr Plews raised concerns regarding the planting of trees in High Street (Chairman responded) and lack of Police foot patrol (PC Rutherford responded).

093/10 County Councillor's Report

Councillor Jopling reported on:-

- a) Drop Kerb at Doctor's Surgery
- b) Land rear of High Street (DCC)
- c) County Plan

The Clerk thanked Councillor Jopling for arranging an Officer (David Rowell) from DCC to attend a meeting regarding the Car Park to the rear of High Street.

Councillor Bailey reported on:-

- a) Boundary Committee report delayed until January 2011
- b) Funding to organisations in Tow Law

094/10 Minutes of the meeting held on 15th June 2010

Amendment: Add Councillor Day to apologies subject to the above amendment the minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

095/10 Matters arising

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Matters Arising (056/10)

Purchase of Laptops and Projector

Clerk reported that he was obtaining further prices and would report to the September meeting of the Town Council.

Allotment site at Dan's Castle

The Contractor had completed the preparation of the site, this had created a further five allotments sites. Councillor Blacker suggested that the rent for these plots should be £40, this was seconded and members agreed, and the rent would be due as from 1st August 2010. An existing site was in need of strimming, members agreed for this work to be carried out and for the Clerk to write to the Allotment holder requesting that the site is kept tidy.

It was further agreed to hold a meeting of the Allotments Committee to discuss with Allotment holders allotment rents (Increase) and the forming of an Allotment Association. Concerns were raised that the County Council may have collected rents from some of the Allotment holders. Members agreed for the Clerk to make some enquires and report to the Allotment Committee.

Grot Spots/Areas in need of a clean up campaign

Letter to DCC re Budgets

Clerk to chase this matter up and report to the next Town Council meeting.

Signed by the Chairman.....Page 1

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Members Reports (AGM 21/10)**ii) Additional Bollards to Footpaths on High Street**

The Clerk reported that Councillor Stevens had met with Keith Jameson (DCC) and a report should be prepared for the next Town Council meeting.

The Clerk also reported that in addition to the above, the report would also cover problems at Smith Street (footpath and safety signs), Campbell/Railway Street (speeding vehicles and road signs) and position of Lamp post at High Street.

iii) Inscriptions on the War Memorial

Clerk to chase this matter up with DCC and report to the next Town Council meeting.

iv) Bus Shelter on High Street

Meeting with McInerney Homes

Members agreed to awaiting the decision on the Planning Application for the removal of the Cattle Mart and refer this matter to the Committee dealing with the Town Plan.

Planning Matters (078/10)

a) Application 3/2010/0171 – land adjacent to Park Terrace

Members agreed to raise concerns with the proposed development as the Agricultural building could be a residential development. Clerk to write to DCC objecting to this outline planning proposal.

b) Application 3/2010/0254 – site at Valley View/Church Lane

Members agreed to raise no objections to this proposed development and for the Town Plan Committee to meet with representatives of McInerney Homes.

Page 3**Tow Law Plan (080/10)****i) Car Parking**

Following a site meeting with David Rowell (DCC) on Tuesday 13th July a letter has been received to help clarify the proposals so that each party have a clear understanding of the nature of the scheme. Members agreed for a copy of the letter be sent to the Car Park Committee and for this Committee to meet in September prior to the next Town Council meeting.

Page 4**Clerk's Report (084/10)****Item A to D, applications for funding (N-Power Community Fund)**

The Chairman of the Finance and General purposes Committee (Councillor Rowland) announced that the Committee would meet on **Tuesday 7th September 2010** at 6.30pm in the Community Centre.

f) DCC –Ownership of Bus Shelters

The Chairman and Clerk had surveyed the Town Council area and now have a map which shows the positions of salt bins, rubbish bins, doggie bins, seats, bus stops and bus shelters.

g) Banks Developments – Offices to close

Councillor Gale and the Clerk had met with Mark Downall who had confirmed that the Company would be moving offices from Tow Law to Meadowfield but would still support Tow Law through the Banks Development Fund. An application for £10,000 towards the costs of the proposed Car Park was completed and sent to Durham County Foundation for their consideration.

096/10 Minutes of a Special meeting held on 29th June 29th June 2010

Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman

097/10 Matters Arising

Annual Return for year ended 31st March 2010

Documents to be sent to the External Auditor by 23rd July 2010

098/10 Winter Maintenance

All Councillors had been sent the following reports:-

a) Overview & Scrutiny Working Group – 13th May 2010

b) Implications of winter maintenance – pot holes

c) Revised code of practice for Highway Maintenance

d) Snow clearance by Members of the public – legal implications

Members agreed to refer this matter to the Winter Maintenance Committee.

Signed by the Chairman.....Page 2

099/10 Planning Matters

a) Application 3/2010/0302 – for garden shed (retrospective) at 16a Anson Bungalow, Weardale Crescent.

DECISION – Members agreed to raise no objection to this retrospective development.

Councillor Gale raised the following matter (following an advert in the Northern Echo on Saturday 17th July 2010).

b) Application 3/2010/0271 outline application for development of the vacant site with industrial type units for general employment and storage purposes at Armond Carr Works, Inkerman, Tow Law. The proposed development does not accord with the provisions of the development Plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated”.

Members agreed to support this proposed application as the site/building was previously used by Blair’s.

100/10 Accounts for Payment

That approval be given for the payment of vouchers 21 to 33 in the sum of £4468.73

101/10 Tow Law Town Plan

Letter received from DCC (David Rowell) referred to car park committee.

Pupils from local primary schools are walking the paths and preparing a report for the Town Council.

102/10 Trex Gymnasium

No further update.

103/10 Area Action Partnership

The Chairman/Clerk reported at that the last AAP Board Meeting it was agreed to allocate £10,000 to Tow Law and the Hilltop Community.

Funding Applications had to be in by November. The Chairman suggested that £3000 could be allocated to the cost of supplying a Tree with lights in the Town Centre. It was agreed to defer this matter to the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee (7th September 2010).

Further funding was also available and the Chairman encouraged all Members to work on projects (with costs) for consideration by the AAP Board/Forum in November. Councillors Bailey and Jopling pledged their support for any projects from the Tow Law area.

A further meeting to discuss the County Durham Plan had been arranged for Thursday 22nd July (6pm in the Civic Centre, Crook). Councillor Blacker, Graham and Hayton would be attending.

104/10 Chairman’s Report

The Chairman encouraged all members to get involved with the newly formed Committees and for them to meet in September to progress any outstanding/urgent items.

105/10 Clerk’s Report

Items 1a and 1b applications for funding – referred to the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

Items for information:-

- c) Link County Durham; update
- d) Campaign to Protect Rural England newsletter; summer 2010
- e) Clerks and Councils Direct magazine; July 2010; issue no. 70
- f) Durham Association Newsletter; June 2010; issue no.30

2) Baths Bus 2010

Members agreed to support the baths bus 2010; 2 visits to Spennymoor baths, 3 visits to Bishop Auckland baths and 1 visit to wet n wild at North Shields. Contribution of £5 per participant.

3) Response from Hodgson & Angus (Council’s Solicitors) regarding the Millennium Green Trust.

Item referred to the Millennium Green Committee

4) August Recess – The Clerk/Assistant Clerk would be taking holidays during August so the Office will not be regularly attended.

106/10 Members Report

Councillor Hayton – Sunnyside Community Partnership

- Hilltop Villages Partnership
- Liaison meeting for Open cast site

Councillor Gale – Winter Maintenance (Chairman/ Clerk to set up a committee in September

106/10 Members Report – continued

Councillor Rowland - Tow Law Town Plan 2010 – 2013

- PowerPoint presentations (a way forward for Tow Law Town Council)

107/10 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Tow Law Town Council will be held on Tuesday 21st September 2010 in the Community Centre commencing at 6.30pm.

The Meeting finished at 8.15pm

Signed by the Chairman.....Page 4