

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of **Tow Law Town Council** held on Tuesday **21st September 2010** in the Community Centre commencing at **6.30pm**

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

Also Present: County Councillor J. Bailey, PC Ian Craggs (Durham Police) John McGargill (County Council) and G F Smith (Clerk).

Apologies: Councillor T. Batson, L. Brown, G. Stevens and L. Taylor, County Councillor P. Jopling and PC Mike Robinson (Durham Police).

108/10 Declaration of Interest

Councillor Gale, Grogan and Hayton for agenda item 9b – Planning Matters (Millennium Green Trust).

Councillor Gale, Grogan and Hayton for agenda item no 14 – Millennium Green Trust.

Councillor Gale for agenda item 17a – Clerk's Report (Tow Law Community Association).

109/10 Police Report

Pc Craggs gave a verbal report to the meeting followed by a question and answer session.

110/10 Presentation by Mr John McGargill (County Council) on Civil Parking Enforcement

Mr McGargill gave a verbal report to the meeting on Civil Parking Enforcement which is scheduled to be implemented on the 1st April 2011 by a Contractor employed by Durham County Council. Followed by a question and answer session.

111/10 County Councillor's Report

Councillor Bailey reported on:-

- a) Arranged an Officer from DCC (Brian Kitchen) to a meeting with the Council's Winter Maintenance Committee
- b) AAP Funding Applications required by 11th November 2010
- c) Drop kerb in High Street (chase this up with County Council Officers)
- d) Donation to Community Association towards the cost of the Pensioners Christmas Party

112/10 Representation by Residents

No Resident present

113/10 Minutes of the meeting held on 20th July 2010

Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

114/10 Matters arising

Page 1

Matters Arising (056/10)

Purchase of Laptops and Projector

A price package is being put together by a specialist computer company and it is hoped to report back to the next Town Council meeting.

Allotment site rear of Dan's Castle

All rents from previous Allotments have now been paid. New Allotments (five) – two have been let and rent paid.

Members agreed for the Clerk to allow any offer of a tenancy to the next person on the waiting list be for 14 days after that time the offer be revoked and the Clerk to offer a tenancy to the next person on the waiting list.

Fencing work around the Allotment site is to commence soon (contractor awaiting delivery from supplier).

Grot Spots/Areas in need of a clean up campaign (AAP Project)

The Clerk was awaiting a response from DCC regarding Budget allocations previously used by Wear Valley District Council that should have been transferred to the County Council.

Clerk to chase this matter up with the relevant Director of Services and report to the next Town Council meeting.

Page 2**Members Reports (AGM 21/10)****ii) Footpaths on High Street (Councillor Stevens)**

Site visit had taken place but awaiting report from County Council. Clerk to chase this matter up and report to the next Town Council Meeting.

iii) Inscriptions on the War Memorial

Clerk to chase this matter up with (urgently) and report to the next Town Council meeting.

Bus Shelter on High Street Meeting with McInerney Homes (Councillor Grogan)

Awaiting Planning permission, once received the Clerk is to arrange a meeting with staff from McInerney Homes.

Tow Law Plan Car Parking

Meeting to be arranged with the Car Park Committee as soon as possible. Chairman/Clerk to make the necessary arrangements.

Clerk's Report (084/10)

Item A to D, applications for funding (N-Power Community Fund)

Meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee to be arranged as soon as possible. Chairman/Clerk to make the necessary arrangements

Winter Maintenance 098/10

Meeting of the Winter Maintenance Committee is to be arranged as soon as possible. Members agreed to Appoint the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council plus Councillors Gale, Grogan, Hayton and Rowland. It was also agreed for the Committee to ask the two County Councillors to attend the meetings along with relevant County Council Officers.

Page 3**Planning Matters 099/10**

a) Application 3/2010/0271 at Armond Carr Works, Inkerman

A letter of support for this application had been sent to DCC. The Planning meeting to discuss this application had met at 3pm on the day of this meeting (outcome not known).

Clerk to report to the next Town Council meeting.

Clerk's Report (105/10)

Items 1a and 1b – Application for Funding from the N-Power Community Fund

Meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee is to be arranged as soon as possible. Chairman/Clerk to make the necessary arrangements

Page 4**Members Reports (106/10)**

Tow Law Town Plan 2010 – 2013 (Councillor Rowland)

Update to be presented to the next Town Council Meeting.

115/10 Planning Matters

a) Application 3/2010/0370 – signs at Alex's Bar, 5 High Street

DECISION - Members agreed to raise no objections to this proposal.

b) Application 3/2010/0399 – erection of seat at the Millennium Green

DECISION - Members agreed to raise no objection to this proposal.

116/10 Accounts for Payment

That approval be given for the payment of vouchers 34 to 45 in the sum of £6786.36

Members raised concerns on the costs of hiring buses for the baths bus event. It was agreed that once the budget has been agreed for 2011/12 and it includes the baths bus project, that the Clerk obtains competitive prices from local bus companies for hiring of buses to local swimming baths.

117/10 Tow Law Town Plan

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

The Clerk reported that pupils from the two local primary schools had completed the walks and were working on the final report.

118/10 Trex Gymnasium

Clerk was awaiting latest Bank Statement details. Councillor Grogan reported that the facility was still proving very popular and staff were working on proposals for some internal alterations.

119/10 Area Action Partnership

Chairman reminded Members to work on projects that require funding from the AAP. Next meeting November.

120/10 Millennium Green Trust

The Clerk updated Members on the position of the transfer of Trustee to the Town Council. Members agreed for two Councillors (Chairman and Vice Chairman) to sign any necessary documents.

121/10 Baths Bus 2010

The Clerk reported the following:-

Cost of Buses £810; cost of entry to Wet n Wild £422.93; Total cost £1232.93 income from ticket sales (52 @ £5) £260.00. also a bus was hired for a trip to Scarborough on 12th August for families of Tow Law at a cost of £390; income received £161.00. Members agreed for a letter of thanks should be send to Christine Emerson who volunteered to supervise the above events.

122/10 Chairman's Report

The Chairman announced that Councillor Rowland (Assistant Clerk) had been successful in passing the Clerk's qualification "Certificate in Local Council Administration (CILCA)" on the 15th September 2010. All Members congratulated Councillor Rowland on this achievement.

123/10 Clerk's Report

Councillor Gale declared an interest in item 17a – Tow Law Community Association and left the meeting whilst this item was discussed.

Items for Discussion:-**a) Tow Law Community Association**

Application for a contribution towards the cost of a new telephone system installed in the Community centre. Current charge for this service is £100 per quarter. The Community Association would like the Town Council to contribute to the lease charge by paying half of the costs.

The Members agreed not to contribute to this telephone charge as they felt this was part of the rental agreement paid to the Community Association.

Councillor Gale returned to the meeting.**b) County Durham and Darlington NHS – Invitation to attend two workshops on the White Paper "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS".**

Any Members interested in attending the workshops to contact the Clerk for further details.

c) CDALC – Charter Review Event on 2nd October 2010 at County Hall, Durham commencing at 10.00 am.

It was agreed for Councillor Blacker, Graham and the Clerk to attend this event.

d) CDALC – Consultation on holding Local Referendums to control Council tax/precept increases.

Members noted that the Document was available from the Clerk.

e) DCC (Keith Jameson) – Response to problems at Station/Campbell Street.

Members noted that the County Council was unable to accede to the Council request to install traffic calming at the present time, based upon the recent survey/site meeting findings. Also the position regarding the request for junction markings was also declined following the County Council's preferred option within residential housing areas.

It was agreed to register the Town Council's disappointment with this decision and hoped that the County Council would continue to monitor the situation in this area.

f) DCC – statement of Licensing Policy 2011 to 2014 (Draft Document)

Members noted that the document was available from the Clerk.

g) DCC – Library Strategy (Draft)

Members noted that the document was available from the Clerk.

h) DCC – Taxi Licensing Policy (Draft)

Members noted that the document was available from the Clerk.

i) DCC – Request for information regarding Remembrance Sunday

Members agreed for the Clerk (Councillor Day) to provide the relevant information

j) Big Lottery Fund – Awards for All; Funding details

Members noted that the document was available from the Clerk.

k) Big Lottery Fund – Community Wildlife; funding details

Members noted that the document was available from the Clerk.

l) DCC – Registered Trading Scheme; request to display promotional material on the Council's noticeboards.

Members agreed to this request, Clerk to arrange to display promotional material on the Council's noticeboards

m) Invitation to visit Open Cast Mine at Park Wall Site

Members agreed to accept the invitation from the Site Manager and for the Chairman/Clerk to make the necessary arrangements and inform all Councillors of the date of the visit.

n) Application from Tow Law Community Association for a contributions towards the cost of installing a seat on the Millennium Green.
County Councillor Bailey agreed to discuss the request with Councillor Jopling to contribute from the County Councillors Members Initiative Fund.

Items for information:-

- o) Link County Durham; Newsletter; September 2010; issue no 7
- p) DCC – Our Life Magazine; August 2010; issue no 4
- q) Local Council Review Magazine; Autumn 2010

124/10 Members Report

Councillor Rowland –Need for a Zebra Pedestrian Crossing in High Street.

Members asked for the Clerk to write to the County Council requesting the area to be reviewed (again) for the provision of a Pedestrian Crossing in High Street, particularly following two recent incidents in the area.

Councillor Hayton – Concerns regarding the delay in reinstatement of the flower bed around the war memorial (County Council issue).

Flag Stones at Baring Court (dangerous tripping hazard) reported to Home Housing, Marie Layton, contact telephone number 01388 825817 (Direct Line)

Councillor Grogan – Community Contribution by Banks Developments on proposed Housing Development in Tow Law once the site work commences.

125/10 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Tow Law Town Council will be held on Tuesday 19th October 2010 in the Community Centre commencing at 6.30pm.

The Meeting finished at 8.00pm