

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of **Tow Law Town Council** held on Tuesday 18th January 2011 in the Community Centre commencing at **6.30pm**

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

Also Present: County Councillors J. Bailey, P. Jobling and Sid Rooke (Durham County Credit Union), Lizzie Anderson (Wear Valley Mercury) G F Smith (Clerk).

Apologies: Councillors L. Brown, L. Rowland and G. Stevens

Every one present stood for a minute's silence in respect, following the death of Councillor JIM DAY

001/11 Declaration of Interest

None Received

002/11 County Councillor's Report

County Councillor Bailey reported:-

- a) Bus Services (information with Clerk)
- b) Next AAP Board meeting 27th January 2011
- c) County Council spending review
- d) Boundary Committee report due early 2011
- e) Pot holes
- f) Contribution (£10,000) towards cost of Car Park at Tow Law

003/11 Police Report

Report for Crime and incident figures – December 2010 were circulated at the meeting. Additional report covering incidents, crimes and cctv was also circulated at the meeting.

004/11 Presentation by Sid Rooke, County Durham Credit Union

Mr Rooke presented details of the proposed Credit Union for Tow Law including:-

What it is a Credit Union (a savings and Loan Co-operative owned and run by its members)

Maximum savings of up to £5000

Affordable Loans from £50

All savings are secure and guaranteed

The Credit Union is managed and controlled by a volunteer "Board of Directors" Membership Fee is £1 how to save and repay a loan (using local collection points, paypoint or by standing order)

It is proposed to use the Community Centre as a collection point manned by volunteers (Who are trained).

Concerns were raised regarding collection times when only the Clerk was the only person in the building.

It was agreed that the collection times would be on a morning only.

Members agreed to support this service for Tow Law and hoped there would be enough volunteers for the scheme to work.

Mr Rooke thanked the Councillors and agreed to meet with Jenny Mountain to progress with the Arrangements/volunteers for the project.

005/11 Representation by Residents

None Present

006/11 Minutes of the meeting held on 7th December 2010

Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

007/11 Matters arising

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Members Reports (AGM 21/10)

Inscriptions on the War Memorial (Councillor Hayton)

No further progress, agreed to defer until later into the year.

Planning Matters 151/10)

Application 3/2010/0444 –Thornley Pit House Farm, Bridge Street.

No further details received from the Planning Officer.

Clerk to chase this matter up urgently and report any progress to Council Members

Page 2**Members Report (158/10)**

Mobile Vet Service in Tow Law (Councillor Green) Councillor Green updated the meeting, due to poor response/inclement weather the service has been suspended until later in the year (spring time).

Clerk's Report (174/10)

A) DCC – Parish and Town Councils Sub Committee of the Standards Committee The Clerk informed the meeting that the representative of the above committee was unable to attend the Town's Council's February meeting but would try to get to the March meeting.

B) DCC – School Admission arrangements for September 2012/13 – Consultation; copies of the document had been sent to all Councillors, any comments to be passed to the Clerk.

Page 3**Members Reports (175/10)**

B) New Localism Bill

Setting up a partnership Committee

No progress has been made. Clerk to chase this matter up urgently and report any progress to the next Town Council meeting.

C) Winter Maintenance

To be discussed in June

008/11 Setting the Precept

After much discussion all members present agreed to increase the precept for 2011/12 by 10% (£22429+10% =£24672). Therefore a Band D Council Tax household would be increased by £3.36 = £41.82 charge.

Members agreed to produce a Special Council Newsletter to inform all residents of the reasons for the agreed increase.

009/11 Planning Matters

A) Application 3/2010/0520 – 63 High Street, Tow Law for change of use from traditional Public House with accommodation above to traditional Public House with separate self contained flat above for Mr P Schofield (Inspire design consultancy Ltd)

DECISION – No Objection to this proposed development (Members had been made aware that the planning application had been approved by the County Council (Under Officer Delegated Powers)).

010/11 Accounts for Payment

That approval be given for the payment of vouchers 66 to 72 in the sum of £3491.20

011/11 Tow Law Town Plan

Item Deferred to a Special Meeting of the Town Council (Date to be agreed)

012/11 Trex Gymnasium

Councillor Ron Grogan reported on the £5000 funding allocated from the AAP towards the internal alterations of the building.

The payment for the Council Tax (Business Rates) was still outstanding, Clerk to chase this matter up urgently and report any progress to the next Town Council meeting.

013/11 Area Action Partnership

Next AAP Board meeting 27th January 2011

Next joint meeting with Greater Willington Town Council, AAP Co-ordinator and the Town Council is scheduled for 2nd March 2011 in the Community Centre, Tow Law commencing at 3.00pm

014/11 Millennium Green Trust

The transfer of Trustees had taken place on 20th December 2010. A number of items were still outstanding (Audited Accounts, equipment inventory and background paperwork/files). The Clerk was to inform the Council' Insurance Company of the change.

Members agreed to hold a Special Town Council meeting (To include the town plan) as soon as possible (date to be agreed).

015/11 Chairman's Report

The Chairman requested a Special Town Council meeting to meet with representatives from the Hilltop Communities to discuss Joint Arrangements (Clustering). **Date to be agreed**

016/11 Clerk's Report**Items for discussion:-**

A) Death of Councillor **Day** – Formal Notice of Vacancy

Members agreed for the Clerk to inform the Returning Officer of the Vacancy

B) County Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Service – Integrated Risk Management Plan; response by 17th February 2011. Details available from the Clerk

C) DCC The County Durham Plan – Consultation report on County Durham Settlement Study dated December 2010
Members agreed for the Clerk to arrange to obtain 15 copies of the report.

D) Butterwick House Children's Home – Application for funding
Financial information requested.

Items for Information:-

E) 2011 Census Councillor Handbook; details available from the Clerk

F) CDALC – Latest Electorate Numbers December 2010 = 1624 compared to December 2009 (1541)

G) The Royal British Legion – details of 90th Birthday celebrations 10th to 12th June 2011 details available from the Clerk.

H) RWE N-Power renewable newsletter; December 2010

I) County Durham Link Newsletter; December 2010; Issue No. 8

J) Clerks and Councils Direct Magazine; January 2011; Issue No. 73

017/11 Members Report

A) Breakfast Club, Millennium Primary School (Councillor Grogan)

Update of New Service at the School

B) Cuts in supported Bus Services (Councillor Hayton)

Members agreed for the Clerk to write to DCC objecting to the proposed cuts in supported Bus Services for Tow Law

C) Cinema in the Hilltop Villages (Councillor Hayton)

Update of new service in the area

D) PACT Meeting Next meeting 27th January 2011

Priority speeding vehicles in High Street

E) Upgrading Internet Access – Faster Broadband (Councillor Hayton)

Response from County Council (AAP)

F) Bus Services in Tow Law (Councillor Gale)

No service from 7pm Saturday to 7am Monday

Letter to be sent to DCC

G) Bus Stop/Shelter in High Street opposite Co-op (Councillor Gale)

Members agreed for the Clerk to obtain prices for a Bus Shelter and report to the next Town Council meeting (check with DCC)

H) Localism Bill (Council Batson)

Preparing the Town Council

018/11 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Tow Law Town Council will be held on Tuesday 15th February 2011 in the Community Centre commencing at 6.30pm.

The meeting finished at 8.30pm

Signed by the Chairman.....Page 3