

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of **Tow Law Town Council** held on Tuesday **15th February 2011** in the Community Centre commencing at **6.30pm**

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

Also Present: County Councillors J. Bailey, PC Rutherford (Durham Police), G F Smith (Clerk).

Apologies: Councillors T. Batson and G. Stevens and County Councillor P Jobling

019/11 Declaration of Interest

None Received

020/11 Police Report

PC Rutherford presented the report (verbal), copy to be emailed to the Clerk to attach to these minutes. A question and answer session followed. Two current incidents were brought to the Council's attention by PC Rutherford, they were a number of incidents of "Scrap men" collecting waste without the owners consent and a number of faulty flat screen televisions being sold to local residents. PC Rutherford would prepare a report/details for publication in the next edition of the Town council's newsletter.

021/11 County Councillor's Report

County Councillor Bailey reported:-

- a) Electrical Review of County Durham, report due June 2011 followed by a 10/12 week consultation period, final recommendations by end of 2011.
- b) Funding for Tow Law Football Club (Security)
- c) Funding for Trex Gym (March AAP Board Meeting).
- d) Seminar on Mid term financial planning
- e) Budget and precept meeting 23rd March 2011 at County Hall
- f) AAP Budgets for 2011/12; No change to Member Initiative Fund
- g) Bus Services (Meeting with portfolio holder)

022/11 Bus Service 1B (Arriva/SB Travel)

Members raised concerns with regard to the proposed revised timetable for the 1b bus service to/from Tow Law (Letter had been sent to DCC). County Councillor Bailey would raised the issues with the Council's portfolio holder and the relevant Officer/Council committee meeting (transport issues) and report to the next Town Council meeting.

023/11 Representation by Residents

None Present

024/11 Minutes of the meeting held on 18th January 2011

Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

025/11 Matters arising

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Planning Matters 151/10)

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

Councillor Gale and Clerk had been unsuccessful in downloading the information from the County Council's web-site(Planning). Councillor Gale and County Councillor Bailey to make contact with the relevant Planning Officer and forward any details onto the Clerk. Clerk to inform all Councillors of any progress with this matter.

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Members Report (175/10)

b)New Localism Bill

Setting up a Partnership Committee

Clerk to arrange for the accounts of the partnership committee to be audited before the outstanding balance (in Barclays Bank approx £580) is transferred into the Town Council's bank account. Clerk to contact Mrs Flynn (secretary of partnership committee) for account details and report to the next Town Council meeting. Members agreed that there will be a cost for audit fees.

Tow Law Plan (011/11)

Special meeting to be arranged

Trex Gymnasium (012/11)

Outstanding cheque for Business Rates has now been received

Millennium Green Trust (014/11)

Special meeting to be arranged

Chairman's Report (015/11)

Meeting with Hilltop Communities

Meeting to be arranged

Clerk's Report (016/11)**A)Notice of vacancy for a Councillor**

Public Notice (dated 7th February 2011) placed on the Council's noticeboard. Any request for an election must be made 25th February 2011.

b) DCC – The County Durham Plan – copies of document

Clerk to arrange copies as soon as possible.

Members Reports (017/11)

B) and F) cuts in supported Bus Services (Cllrs Gale and Hayton)

A letter has been sent to DCC

G) Bus Stop/Shelter in High Street (Councillor Gale)

To be raised when Councillors meet representatives from McInerney Homes

H) New Localism Bill(councillor Batson)

Setting up a partnership Committee

A copy of the Plain English Guide to the Localism Bill dated January 2011 from the Department for Communities and Local Government was sent to all Councillors.

026/11 Planning Matters

No new applications to consider

The Clerk had received a verbal report from the County Council's Planning Officer (Sinead Turnbull) that the two Planning Application from McInerney Homes (Auction Ring and 15 dwellings at Valley Rise) were to be considered by the Planning Committee on 3rd February 2011. The Clerk had not received any further communication on these proposed developments.

Members requested the Clerk to write to the Planning Officer asking for an update on the decisions taken at the Planning Committee.

Members also requested further information on the section 106 funding from this scheme (Steven Reed, DCC)

027/11 Accounts for Payment

That approval be given for the payment of vouchers 73 to 74 in the sum of £1268.65

Also circulated at the meeting was a statement of accounts for the period 1st April 2010 to 31st October 2010, Members noted the contents.

028/11 Tow Law Town Plan

Councillor Rowland updated the Members on a meeting held at County Hall with the design team and pupils from both primary schools. It was agreed for both schools to hold workshops to design the Information leaflet and the layout of the plan. Further information/details will be forwarded to the Town Clerk.

029/11 Trex Gymnasium

Councillor Rowland updated Members on a meeting with the volunteer worker at the gym. The following items were discussed:

- A) Internal alterations (Funding from AAP)
- B) Running Costs + 1 piece of equipment (Neighbourhood Budget)
- C) Equipment (Participatory Budgeting)
- D) Setting up Committee structure and Finance Reporting procedure (Clerk and Cllr Rowland agreed to assist with this work)

Members agreed for the Council Chairman, Chair of Finance & General Purposes Committee and the Clerk to attend the Steering Group/Committee meetings of the organisation and provide update reports as matters progress.

030/11 Area Action Partnership

Next AAP Board meeting 17th March 2011 at the Civic Centre, Crook commencing at 6pm.

Members noted that Councillor Grogan had been elected onto the AAP Board as a Resident Representative.

031/11 Millennium Green Trust

A number of items were still outstanding (equipment owned by the trust and transfer of bank account details). Member agreed for the Clerk to progress these matters as soon as possible and report to the next Town Council meeting.

The Clerk reported that he had arranged for the Public Liability Policy be transferred to the Town Council (Zurich Insurance Company)

032/11 Housing Strategy for County Durham 2010/2015

Councillor Gale updated the meeting on a document from Durham County Council "West Durham Delivery Plan". The Map showed Tow Law as a smaller village and is not mentioned throughout the report. A number of concerns were raised, in particular on the Housing Markets and Housing Standards.

County Councillor Bailey would obtain a copy of the report, discuss with County Council Officers and report to the next Town Council meeting.

033/11 Chairman's Report

Next meeting of the Executive Board of CDALC is on Tuesday 2nd March 2011

034/11 Clerk's Report**Items for Information:-**

- a) Application for funding Dance class and dance crew sessions at the Community Centre. Item referred to the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.
- b) DCC _ County Durham Settlement Study questionnaire; closing date for responses 11th March 2011 (details available from the Clerk).
- c) DCC – "Have you considered going Solar" leaflet (available from the Clerk)
- d) DCC – Joint Working with Health Networks (details available from the Clerk).
- e) Tow Law Football Club – Letter of thanks

035/11 Members Report

A) Library at Millennium school (Councillor Grogan)

Application made for Funding from Big Lottery, School have applied to use the County Council's Book List.

B) Feedback Report from meetings of the County Durham Association of Local Councils (Councillor Grogan)

Councillor Grogan requested a report from the Representative at the meeting held on 8th December and the forthcoming meeting on 2nd March.

C) Seat at Tow Law Wood (Councillor Hayton)

Funds had been received from County Councillors (Bailey and Jobling), £250 each. Seat will be installed by the manufacturer/local contractor and County Council have agreed to maintain the seat.

D) Drop Kerb in High Street (Councillor Hayton)

Work is still outstanding, County Councillor Bailey to chase this up with the Highways department and report to the next Town Council meeting.

E) Smith Street (Councillor Rowland)

Sign for Local primary School and White road markings are required to be replaced following resurfacing of the roads. Clerk to contact the County Council to make the necessary arrangements.

F) Entrance Features at Tow Law (Councillor Rowland)

Entrance features are required at Ridley Garage and the sewage works leading to Tow Law (similar to the one at Bridge Street) Clerk to check with AAP/DCC and report to the next Town Council meeting.

G) Cemetery at Dan's Castle (Councillor Rowland)

Concerns were raised regarding Sunken graves, headstones leaning as well as broken branches and broken headstone. Members agreed for the Clerk to contact DCC as a matter of urgency.

H) Dog Bins at Millennium Green (Councillor Rowland)

The dog bin was full near to the Trex gym and needs emptying. Clerk to contact DCC.

I) BMX Track – Drainage problems (Councillor Rowland)

Councillor Rowland has been made aware of a drainage problem at the BMX Track. Clerk to contact DCC and report to the next Town Council meeting.

J) Meeting of Allotment Committee (Councillor Blacker)

Clerk to contact the Chair of the Committee and arrange a meeting as soon as possible

036/11 Date of Next Meeting

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

The meeting finished at 8.00pm