

Tow Law Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 18th October 2011 in the Community Centre commencing at 6.30pm.

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

Also Present: Ashley Barnard (Wear Valley Mercury), Charlotte Bates (Durham Rural Community Council) and G.F.Smith (Clerk).

Apologies: Councillors L.Brown and R.Grogan, County Councillors J.Bailey and P.Jopling.

137/11 Declaration of Interest

None Received

138/11 Police Report

No report received

139/11 County Councillors Report

No Reports

140/11 Presentation by Charlotte Bates (Durham Rural Community Council) about the project “Live Right Now”

Charlotte explained what the project was, Why has it been introduced, Where will it be delivered, When will it start, How will it be delivered and what happens next.

This is a year long project which aims to find out more about the health and wellbeing of the people in the area (Tow Law and the Hilltop Villages), What they do to keep active and what help they need to live healthier lifestyles.

The project has been funded by the Dales Health Network. The DRCC will deliver the project with guidance from a steering group formed by representatives of local community groups and residents. She will work with groups of all ages using hands on health sessions to engage with residents to find out more about their current and future needs.

Followed by a question and answer section.

It was agreed for the TRES Gym working party to be part of the steering group that will meet regularly to influence delivery and provide direction. This working party will report to the Town Council on a regular basis.

Members thanked Charlotte for her presentation and she left the meeting.

141/11 Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th September 2011

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

142/11 Matters Arising

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Matters Arising (062/11)

3 Year Plan

Clerk/Assistant Clerk to report to the next Town Council Meeting

Members Reports (175/10)

Localism bill (Councillor Batson)
Setting up a Partnership Committee
Clerk/Assistant Clerk to report to the next Town Council Meeting

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Members Reports (035/11)

e) Smith Street / Wolsingham Road (Councillor Rowland)
Entrance Feature
Awaiting details from County Council (Phil Stannard)
f) Bridge Street (Councillor Rowland)
Entrance Feature
Awaiting details from County Council (Phil Stannard)
g) Cemetery at Dan's Castle (Councillor Rowland)
Councillor Rowland to arrange a visit to check if any work has been carried out by County Council.
j) Allotments Committee (Councillor Blacker)
Three allotment holders had still not paid the rent. Members agreed for the Clerk to issue a seven day notice to pay the outstanding balance or to explain why the rent had not been paid.
Clerk to report to the next Town Council Meeting. Other items outstanding:-
Water supply to Dan's Castle site
Excavation works to Millennium Green site
Removal of fence to Millennium Green site

Chairman's Report (055/11)

CRB checks
Awaiting Reports from Steve Ragg (CDALC)

Members Reports (098/11)

1. Repositioning of seat in Bridge Street (Councillor Hayton)
Clerk to chase this matter up with the County Council

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Clerk's Report (115/11)

1) N-Power Community Fund – Outstanding applications
Meeting of Finance & General Purposes Committee to take place immediately following this Town Council Meeting.

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145/11 Planning Matters

None To Discuss

144/11 Accounts for Payment

That Approval be given for the payment of vouchers 67 to 71 in the sum of £2203.44, Report attached to these Minutes.
Members agreed the statement of accounts for the period 1st April to 30th September 2011 (Expenditure £42011.88 Income £41521.74 Balance as at 30th September 2011 £9260.45), Copy of report attached to these minutes.

Signed by the chairman.....page 2

145/11 Tow Law Town Plan

Awaiting delivery of the notice board (DCC), Jenny Mountain, Russell Bell and pupils from the two local Primary Schools are working on the final details for the maps and plans. Clerk to chase up DCC (highways) for permission to erect the Notice Board on their land. Chair/Clerk to arrange a meeting of the Car Park Committee to discuss the proposed car park details with representatives from business organisations effected by the development (Co-op, Greggs bakers, BT and Bonds – contact details supplied by Councillor Grogan).

146/11 TREX Gymnasium

Chair/Clerk to arrange a meeting of the TREX Steering Group

147/11 Area Action Partnership

Next AAP Forum Meeting will be held on 17th November 2011 in ST Catherine’s Community Centre, Crook, commencing at 6.00pm.

148/11 Millennium Green Trust

Outstanding Items:-

1. Banking arrangements (All forms now complete, awaiting response from Barclays PLC)
2. Inspection of equipment (Chair/Councillor Gale to make the necessary arrangements)

149/11 Councillor Vacancy

Vacancy still outstanding, the Chair encouraged all Councillors to contact the Clerk of anyone who could be interested in becoming a Town Councillor.

150/11 Winter Maintenance

Councillor Rowland updated the Members on a meeting she had with officers from the County Council.

A map (Supplied by DCC) was produced showing the winter maintenance programme for Tow Law, Each member to look at the details and any comments to be passed onto the Clerk/Assistant Clerk, who will pass onto the County Council for their consideration. The map will be displayed in the Clerk’s office (The map highlights, road and path snow clearance).

151/11 Diamond Jubilee Commemorate Medal

Councillor Rowland presented details of a Diamond Jubilee Commemorative Medal to celebrate HM Queen Elizabeth’s Diamond Jubilee on 4th June 2012. The cost for each 32mm Gilding Medal in Perspex case delivered in 2011 is £1.99 each.

It was agreed (following a vote of 4 for and 4 against, using chairman’s casting vote) to purchase enough medals for the children of Tow Law from the ages of 0 to 16. Also if any resident wishes to purchase a medal they could order through the Town Council. A presentation of the medals will take place in the Community Centre (further details to follow). Clerk/Assistant Clerk to try and find out the estimated number of children (0 to 16) and place an order with the Tower Mint as soon as possible.

152/11 Chairman's Report

Councillor Graham informed the meeting that he would be attending the AGM of the County Durham Association of Local Councils at County Hall on Saturday 29th October 2011 commencing at 10.30am.

He also announced that he was unable to attend a special AAP Board Meeting on Wednesday 26th October 2011 at the Civic Centre, Crook, commencing at 6.00pm (Councillor Green to attend)

153/11 Clerk's Report

1. BDD (external auditors) Report for year ended 31st March 2011

Members noted the following:-

A) Notice of Conclusion of Audit (placed on notice boards 10th October 2011)

B) External Auditor's certificate and opinion (section 3 of Annual Return)

C) Auditors comments relating to:-

i) Restatement of fixed assets

ii) Trustee information not disclosed to Charity Commission

iii) Asset Register

iv) Internal Auditors recommendations

v) Budgetary process

vi) Internal Audit checks

2) Application for funding:-

A) St Josephs RC School

B) Flis Chester's, Family support worker

Items deferred to the next Meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee (immediately following the Town Council Meeting)

3) CPRE – New Guide “How to respond to Planning Applications”

Copy of the publication available from the Clerk

4) Boundary Commission for England – The 2013 review of Parliamentary Constituencies in England, Consultation until 5th December 2011.

Copy of details available from the Clerk

5) Tow Law Community Association – Calendar for 2012

Members agreed to donate £50 towards the costs of producing the calendars.

6) DCC – County Durham Play Strategy, Request for information

Clerk to complete data collection sheet

7) DCC – 2011 Bulb planting challenge

Posters placed on the Council's notice boards

Clerk to write to DCC regarding the lack of replanting of planters in the Tow Law area

8) Christmas activities

A) Christmas Trees

The Majority of households that have brackets fitted (have been checked) and all have agreed to pay £5 towards the cost of supplying a tree, Clerk to arrange for 60 trees to be delivered week commencing 21st November 2011.

B) Christmas Competition

Members agreed for the same format as last year

9) Link County Durham newsletter, September 2011 Copy available from the Clerk

Signed by the chairman.....page 4

154/11 Members Reports

1) Footpath from Ironworks Road to Doctors Surgery (Councillor Railton) Councillor Railton informed the Meeting that the footpath is overgrown. He had contacted WVDC/DCC some three years ago, they stated it was not adopted and had tidied the area as “an act of good faith”. He is unsure about who owns the land around the footpath. The trees are blocking light from the street lights. The footpath is used by a number of residents and it is clearly dangerous.

Members agreed for the Clerk to contact:-

A) The Probation Service (pay back scheme) to arrange for the area to be cleared/tidied up. Also for them to tidy up the site at the Beehive Coke Ovens.

B) The County Council (street lighting) to arrange for the trees overgrowing the street lighting to be lopped and tidied up.

2) Celebration by John Duckett RC Primary School, 25 Years (Councillor Green)

Members agreed to be involved with the celebration festivities (more details to follow)

3) Drop Kerb, High Street (Councillor Hayton)

Work had commenced on site

4) Seat at Thornley Road

The seat had been Re-located

5) Road Crossing Control Person (Councillor Blacker)

Raised concerns that no one was on Control at Wear Street/High Street Junction

6) Laying of Poppy Wreath (Councillor Rowland)

Members agreed for Councillor Rowland to lay the Wreath on behalf of the Town Council

7) Information on website by local Estate Agent (Councillor Gale) Councillor Gale again raised concern at incorrect information placed on the web site by Reeds Rains (Reporter from Wear Valley Mercury would make further investigations and may place a report in a future edition of the newspaper)

8) Localism Bill – Code of Conduct (Councillor Batson) Councillor Batson updated the Meeting on the work being carried out by NALC on the need for a Code of Conduct to be included in the Localism Bill for all Local Councils to adopt.

155/11 Date of Next Meeting

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

The Meeting finished at 8.05pm

Signed by the chairman.....page 5