

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 26th March 2013 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6:30pm.

Present: Councillors J. Gale (chairman), A. Blacker, L. Brown, P. Graham, A. Green, E. Hindmoor, M. Hird, L Rowland and C. Umpelby

Also Present: C. Thompson and D. Rider (Employment Hub) and G. F. Smith (Clerk)

Apologies: Councillors T. Batson and C. Hayton

041/13 Declaration of interest

Councillor Gale declared an Interest in Agenda item 17a –Report of Finance and General Purposes Committee (Tow Law Community Association).

042/13 Presentation by Chris Thompson and David Rider on proposed Employment Hub in Tow Law

Possible provision of IT/Job Club in the Community Centre, Tow Law offering mentoring and training session for the unemployed to help them back into work (IT skills to complete cvs for job application forms). It has been very successful at Langley Park for Esh Parish Council with six people obtaining employment. Suggesting a one day (Thursday) a week for a trial period of ten weeks, joint working with local job centres. Followed by a question and answer session Mr Thompson and Mr Rider left the meeting.

Members requested more information (i.e. background, qualifications, etc), availability of the Community Centre and costs (i.e. hire of room, consultancy rates, funding availability).

Clerk agreed to prepare a report for the April/May Town Council meeting.

043/13 Minutes of the ordinary meeting held on **19th February** 2013 agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

044/13 Matters arising

None

045/13 Police Report

No report

046/13 County Councillors Report

No Reports

047/13 Representation by residents

None

- 048/13 Planning matters**
 A) Planning Applications
 The following Planning Application had been received:-
 i) 3/2013/0058 by B + F Complete Property Services Limited for erection of two storey extension to rear of 26 Wolsingham Road, Tow Law. DECISION – No objections.
 B) Neighbourhood Planning
 Members agreed that Tow Law Town Council hereby requests that the Parish of Tow Law be designated as a Neighbourhood Area in accordance with regulation 5 of Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. Also that Tow Law Town Council considers itself a relevant body for the purposes of section 61G of the 1990 Act, to apply for designation of the Parish of Tow Law as a Neighbourhood area. Clerk to send the relevant letter and plan to Durham County Council (Regeneration and Economic Development).
- 049/13 Accounts for payment**
 That approval is given for the payment of vouchers 99 to 102 in the sum of £1319.59. Copy of report attached to these minutes.
- 050/13 Tow Law Town Plan**
 No further update
- 051/13 Trex Gymnasium**
 No further update
- 052/13 Area Action Partnership**
 a) The next AAP Board Meeting will be held on the 23rd May 2013 at the Civic Centre, Crook, commencing at 6.00pm.
 b) Details circulated on “voters who attended It’s up to U £500k event on 23rd February 2013”.
- 053/13 Millennium Green Trust**
 Councillor Rowland reported that the Volunteer group would be carrying out a litter pick on Sunday 28th April 2013 between 1pm – 5pm (20 people would be taking part).
 Members agreed to cover the costs of light refreshments on the day for all volunteers that take part in this event.
- 054/13 Town Council Elections 2nd May 2013**
 The Clerk had previously delivered each Councillor a nomination pack to be completed and returned to the County Council’s Returning Officer by Friday 5th April 2013.
 Also circulated prior to the meeting a timetable of proceedings for Local Government Elections being held on Thursday 2nd May 2013.
- 055/13 Chairman’s report**
 Councillor Gale had attended the AAP Board meeting on Thursday 7th March 2013 and gave a report on the following:-
 a) Its up 2 U 500k event (feedback from Gordon Elliot and unsuccessful Project applications)
 b) Lindisfarne Gospels

1) The Clerk reported on the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes committee held on 26th March 2013 in the Community Centre, commencing at 5.30pm:-

Present:- Cllrs L. Rowland (Chair), L. Brown, J. Gale, A. Green, P. Graham and M. Hird also G. F. Smith (Clerk)

Apologies:- Councillor C. Hayton

a) Declaration of Interest

Councillor Gale declared an interest in item –Community Centre (heating problems)

b) N-Power Community Fund – Applications

Members agreed to recommend supporting the following:-

i) Baring Court (day out/provision of entertainment for residents of the scheme) for £250 from the fund.

ii) TLCA (start up cost of a new Junior football team in Tow law) for £250 from the fund

iii) Tow Law 1st Scouts Group (Beavers) (fund the hire of transport to take the group to events etc) for £100 from the fund

Members agreed not to support the application from Anne Marie Mason (does not meet the criteria)

Members also agreed for the Clerk to write to Emma Scott regarding the outstanding application for Nell and Sadie Morris for contribution towards dancing costs.

c) CCTV system in Tow law

Members agreed for the Clerk/Assist Clerk to research for any funding opportunities to replace the present three camera system.

It was suggested to complete an application form for the County Durham Community Foundation and report to a future meeting of the Committee.

d) Community Centre – heating problems

Councillor Gale/The Clerk updated the meeting on recent problems with the central heating system throughout the building. The radiator in the Clerk's office (electric) is faulty and is awaiting repair (temporary heater provided by the Chair) other heating problems have been addressed and should now be operating correctly. Situation to be monitored and the Clerk to report to Chair/Vice Chair of any future problems.

e) Publication of individual names in the Public domain

Members agreed to continue with the present practise of naming successful applicants for funding (N Power Community Fund) in the Council's minutes (transparently/accountability). Produce a Council Newsletter in May setting out the Criteria for applying for N-Power Community Funding so that all residents are aware of what funding is available and who can apply (Groups and individuals).

f) Christmas Trees 2013

Members proposed:-

i) Provide the Christmas Trees to houses in Tow Law (65 approx)

ii) Continue to look for a suitable piece of land to use for the Civic tree (which was requested by the recent petition received by the Town Council). It was suggested to look at the possibility of siteing a tree at the entrance to Deerness Estate

The meeting finished at 6.27pm

Members agreed to accept the recommendations of the Finance and General Purposes Committee and for the cheques to be raised as soon as possible for the three successful applicants from the N-Power Community Fund.

2) Letter from Roberta Morgan, Claremont, 1 Smith Street, Tow Law. The Clerk read out the contents of the letter received from the above resident.

Members noted the comments and hoped to have the information board in place very soon. The information booklets will be distributed once the board has been erected.

3) Letter from Durham County Council (Regeneration and Economic Development) dated 15th March 2013 regarding details of an appeal by Mr W. J. Drennam under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 regarding refusal of an application made to DCC for an Anaerobic Digestion Plant at High Hedley Hope Farm, East Hedley Hope, Bishop Auckland, DL13 4PR.

Inquiry date set for 17th April 2013 at Chester le Street Civic Centre, commencing at 10.00am.

057/13 Members Reports

None

058/13 Date of next meeting

The next ordinary meeting of Tow Law Town Council will be held on Tuesday **16th April** 2013 commencing at 6:30pm in the Community Centre.

The meeting finished at 7.55pm