

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 16th July 2013 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.30pm.

Present: Councillors J. Gale (Chairman), A. Blacker, J. Fowler, A. Green, R. Grogan E. Hindmoor, M. Hird, L. Rowland, P. Stokes and C. Umpelby

Also Present: County Councillor J. Hart, PC M> Rutherford, SGT Adam Howell and G. F. Smith (Clerk)

Apologies: Councillors T. Batson, L. Brown,

115/13 Declaration of interest

None

116/13 Minutes of a Special meeting 18th June 2013 (at 5.30pm)

Amendments:-

Finance Committee should read "Councillors Gale, Green (Chair), Hindmoor (Shadow Chair), Hird and Rowland".

Millennium Green Committee should read "Councillors Gale, Green, Hird, Rowland (Chair) and Umpelby"

Town Plan should read "Town Plan Committee –Councillors Blacker, Gale, Hindmoor, Rowland and Stokes (Chair)"

Trex Gym should read "Sports Recreation Centre Committee"

Subject to the above amendments the minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

117/13 Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 18th June 2013 (6.30pm)

Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

118/13 Matters arising

Appointment of a Local Authority Governor

The Clerk had "how do I become a Local Authority Governor?"

And had e-mailed the Head Teacher at Tow Law Millennium Primary School informing her that a further two Councillors wished to be considered when the next vacancy becomes available (copy sent to County Councillor Hart).

Planning Matters

Application 3/13/0151 for 28 High Street, Tow law had been approved

"The change of use of this property would reflect the existing pattern, bring a currently empty property back into use and would represent sustainable development".

Application CMA/3/54 for meteorological mast at West Moor Farm (extension for further 12 months) – not determined

Members report

Further report to the Town Council on proposed play areas at Deerness Estate, Pennine Way and Millennium Green and other housing estates.

Further report on the state of the Cemetery at Thornley Road (meeting with Dave Gillett, County Council 17th July)

- 119/13 Police Report**
 Report for the month of May 2013 was circulated at the meeting, followed by a question and answer session. Items raised:-
 Remembrance Day – Traffic Management system (Clerk to discuss with Mary Bell)
 CCTV – Update
 Visit by Chief Constable to Town Council meeting
 Detection rate/incident/crimes (drug offences)
- 120/13 County Councillor Report**
 County Councillor Hart reported on the following:-
 Play area strategy (DCC)
 Dog Fouling (Deerness Estate)
 Valley Rise (pre-application stage)
 Funding of local projects
 Next Surgery event 14th September
 Contact details (business card circulated at the meeting)
 Items raised by Councillors:-
 Protection of trees on Valley Rise
 Visit to “Bull Ring” by Beamish Museum officials
 Commercial Waste Container for Sports Recreation Centre
 Skips on estates
 Section 106 funding
 Cutting back overhanging hedge on Ironworks Road
- 121/13 Representation by residents**
 None
- 122/13 Planning matters**
 A) Planning Applications - none
 B) Neighbourhood Planning
 i) DCC report “Neighbourhood Planning – Council procedure “(copy to all Councillors)
 ii) DCC draft Public Notice publication of application for designation of a Neighbourhood Area for Tow Law Town Council. Details to be published in:-
 Town Council’s Newsletter
 Town Council’s Web Site
 Town Council’s Notice Board
 Durham County Council’s Web Site
 To be advertised for not less than 6 weeks, date to be agreed
 iii) Expression of Interest (possible £7000 grant) application “supporting Communities in Neighbourhood Planning Programme by Department for Communities and Local Government–locality.org.uk”.
- 123/13 Accounts for payment**
 That approval be given for the payment of vouchers 25 to 33 in the sum of £2814.06. Copy of report attached to these minutes.

124/13 Expenditure report from 1st April to 30th June 2013

Members accepted the report of the Clerk, details as follows:-

Cost Heading	£.p
Staff Costs	3903.81
Admin Expenses	30.00
Office rent	1800.00
N-Power Community Fund	600.00
Audit Fees	82.25
Councillor/Staff Training	168.00
Allotments	28.77
Miscellaneous	1132.96
Vat	54.00
Total	<u>7799.79</u>

125/13 Tow Law Town Plan

The Chairman thanked Councillor Stokes for his research work with the County Archivist and National Railways to determine the ownership of land on the corner of Church Lane/Alpine Way. This area of land is in the ownership of the North Eastern Housing Association Limited **Now** Home Housing Group Ltd.

Members agreed for the Chair to discuss with the Home Housing Group Ltd the possible use of this land to position the new notice board (Walks in Tow Law). This is due to the County Council's preferred site being unsuitable (electric and BT cables).

126/13 Sports Recreation Centre (Trex Gymnasium)

The Clerk updated the Members on a meeting (8th July) attended by the Chairman, Vice Chair and the Clerk with Barrie Alderson and Paul Irwin of the County Council regarding the transfer from DCC to the Town Council of the above building and grounds (including football field and the BMX Track), awaiting response from Durham County Council.

127/13 Area Action Partnership

The Chair reported on the AAP Board meeting of 4th July 2013 at Crook Civic Centre. He encouraged each Councillor to look at possible funding application for consideration at the Forum Event on 7th November 2013. Next AAP Board meeting 12th September 2013.

128/13 Millennium Green Trust

The Volunteer Group were looking at the following:-

Enhancing the pond area

Working with other volunteer groups (Heart of Durham)

Funding – "Million Ponds", "pond life", Grants from Northumbrian Water

Register land with Natural England

Fencing to be repaired

Involving Schools to carry out projects

Group to meet on a monthly basis

129/13 Chairman's report

Reported in agenda items AAP/Millennium Green/Town Plan

130/13

Clerk's Report

1) County Durham Association of Local Council's – Annual General Meeting will be held on the 26th October 2013 at County Hall, commencing at 10.30 am.

Members agreed to nominate the following candidates for the three Vice Presidents of the Association:-

Councillor T. Batson (Tow Law Town Council)

Councillor D. Bell (Brandon & Byshottles Parish Council)

Councillor W. Walters (Spennymoor Town Council)

2) Minutes of the Finance Committee held at 5.30pm on the 16th July 2013:-

Present Councillors A. Green (Chair), J. Gale, E. Hindmoor, M. Hird and L. Rowland.

It was recommended to support the following applications from the N-Power Community Fund:-

a) Jenny Mountain (TLCA) £200 towards supporting an exhibition "Books" from the 25th October to 10th November 2013, involving local Primary/Secondary Schools pupils to visit Tow law and Stanley Community Centres and St Thomas's Church at Stanley, Crook.

b) Weardale Holiday Activity Planning Group (Ann Marie Sweeney) £200 towards trips away for children during the six weeks school holidays.

c) Tow Law Millennium Primary School (Fliss Chesters) £200 towards holiday activities during the school summer holidays, craft sessions and communal lunches.

d) Martial Arts Classes at Tow Law Community Centre (James Land) £200 towards equipment (kicking and punching pads for children and young people).

e) Town Council bus trip to Wet n Wild (Jenny Mountain and Christine Emerson) £350 donation towards bus fares and entrance fees to the attraction at North Shields.

Should funds be available in December the Committee may support a Christmas trip to a Pantomime (Gala Theatre, Durham).

Next Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday 11th September at 6.30pm in the Community Centre.

Future meetings will be held on the second Wednesday of each month.

September agenda to include provision of Christmas Trees/ Competition

The meeting finished at 6.10pm

Members agreed to accept the recommendations of the Finance Committee

131/13

Members Reports

Councillor Rowland reported on the following:-

Chairman/Councillor Training held on the 9th July 2013 at Shotton Hall was attended by Councillors Fowler, Hird, Rowland and Stokes.

132/13

Date of next meeting

The next meeting of Tow Law Town Council will be held on Tuesday **17th September 2013** commencing at 6:30pm in the Community Centre.

The meeting finished at 7.45pm