

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 15th October 2013 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.30pm.

Present: Councillors J. Gale (Chairman), A. Green, M. Hird, L. Rowland, P. Stokes and C. Umpelby

Also Present: Mr M. Barton (Chief Constable), PC M. Rutherford (Durham Police) S. Spence, V. Downs, C. Hodgson and C. Galley (Residents) and G. F. Smith (Clerk)

Apologies: Councillors L. Brown, J. Fowler, R. Grogan, E. Hindmoor and County Councillor J. Hart.

154/13 Declaration of interest
None

155/13 Town Council meeting with Mr M Barton, Chief Constable, Durham Police Mr. Barton introduced himself to Members and talked on the following topics:-

- The commitment of Durham Constabulary to delivering excellent Policing to inspire confidence in victims and our communities
- Protecting Neighbourhoods
- Tackling Criminals
- Solving Problems
- “Aiming for Excellence” Philosophy
- “Plan on a page” strategic Priorities
- Welcome views and encourage all community members to take part in our surveys
- Reduce the harm caused by alcohol
- Protecting vulnerable people
- Focusing on the victim
- Reducing the threat and harm from major, serious organised crime and terrorism
- To be good at solving problems
- “Transparency and Integrity Programme”
- To contact Police telephone 999 (emergency) and 101 (non emergency)

Members raised the following concerns:-

- The need for a Zebra Crossing in High Street
- Speeding Issues
- New/updated CCTV for the Town
- School Crossing Patrols

Mr Barton agreed to respond to the Council on the above matters
The Chairman thanked Mr Barton for attending the meeting

The Four members of the Public joined the meeting

156/13 Representation by Residents
Residents raised a number of concerns regarding anti social behaviour, vandalism, damage to property and older young people misusing the play equipment at the rear of the Community Centre (which was installed by the Community Association).
Mr Barton responded to these complaints but reminded the residents that these matters should be reported to the Police and also to the local PACT meeting. PC Rutherford informed them of an ongoing task force which was in place.

MR BARTON AND THE RESIDENTS LEFT THE MEETING

157/13 Minutes of a the Ordinary meeting held on 17th September 2013
The minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

158/13 Minutes of a Special Meeting held on 19th September 2013
The minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

159/13 Matters arising
Councillor Rowland updated the members on her meeting with Helen Horner (Proludic Ltd) regarding play equipment for Attlee estate and funding opportunities. Further update at the next Town Council meeting.
Councillor Stokes reported that the temporary mast at High West farm was still in place. Clerk to report this matter to the Enforcement Officer (DCC Planning Department).
Councillor Rowland updated the members on her telephone call with Elaine Crow (DCC Rights of Way Officer) regarding fencing erected obstructing alleged public footpath at Highfields/Deerness Estate. Clerk to make further enquires regarding land ownership and report to the next Town Council meeting.

160/13 Police Report
Report for the month of September 2013 was circulated at the meeting by PC Rutherford, followed by a question and answer session. The next PACT meeting will be held on the 24th October 2013 at 7.00pm in the Masonic Hall.

161/13 County Councillor Report
The Clerk read out the report from County Councillor Hart, which included the following:-

- New road markings near the War Memorial and the Co-op
- Enhanced gateways on the entrances to Tow Law
- Hedleyhope Digester (transport conditions)
- "A-boards" on the High Street
- Access to St John Duckett School from Highfields/Deerness Estate
- Parking on drop kerb by the War Memorial
- Planning Permission for play areas
- Remembrance Parade on 10th November 2013 at Tow Law
- Funding for Tow Law FC ground improvements

- 162/13 Planning matters**
 A) Planning Applications - None
 B) Neighbourhood Planning
 Following the completion of the Public notice regarding the Neighbourhood Plan for Tow Law, Members agreed to call it "Tow Law Town Area". Clerk to inform DCC.
- 163/13 Accounts for payment**
 That approval be given for the payment of vouchers 50 to 58 in the sum of £4809.06. Copy of report attached to these minutes.
- 164/13 Tow Law Town Plan**
 The Chairman reported that he had met with Officers from DCC and an agreement had been reached (without the need for planning permission) for the position of the Council's walks/notice board and the Christmas tree on the paved area opposite the Co-op (Church Lane).
 Members were pleased with this report and agreed for the Finance Committee to discuss costs etc of a tree and solar lights to be in place for December 2013.
- 165/13 Sports Recreation Centre**
 An e-mail (20th September 2013) has been received from DCC (Barrie Alderson) asking the Council to reconsider the three year timescale to allow Public Consultation and for Finance to be in place. Clerk to contact DCC with a response. Members agreed to re-affirm the three year timescale.
- 166/13 Area Action Partnership**
 Forum event scheduled for 2nd November has now been changed to 7th December 2013.
 Next AAP Board meeting 28th November 2013 in the Civic Centre, Crook commencing at 6pm.
- 167/13 Millennium Green Trust**
Councillor Hird reported on the following:-
 i) £150 from Northumbrian Water
 ii) £100 received from County Councillor Hart (Members Initiative Fund)
 iii) Possible further funding through Councillor Hart
 iv) Councillor Hird and Rowland to attend a "meet the funders" event at Spennymoor on the 12th November.
- 168/13 Chairman's report**
 1) Highways Repairs (e-mail from CDALC)
 Assisting the County Council in various areas of the road maintenance by Town and Parish Council.
 Members agreed not to support this project.
 Reporting of pot holes in roads to the County Council by the Highways Action Line (Tele: 0191 370 6000 or e-mail hal@durham.gov.uk)
 Members agreed to place an article in the next edition of the Council's Newsletter.

“Encourage residents to report any pot holes in roads to the County Council’s Highway Action Line (tele 0191 3706000 or via e-mail hal@durham.gov.uk). Once a pot hole has been brought to the attention of DCC and the defect is covered by the Highway Safety Inspection manual then a liability arises and hence the need for repair”.

Councillor Hird and Rowland agreed to contact the relevant Officer at DCC regarding work that could be carried out by volunteer groups regarding snow clearance in Tow Law.

2) Further cuts to budgets by DCC (closure of care homes)

The Chairman drew Members attention to the latest proposed cuts by DCC to close all County Council Care Homes.

Members agreed to write to the Leader of the Council asking the Council to review this decision and not to close any further Care Homes.

169/13

Clerk’s Report

1) Provision of Christmas Trees (residents)

Members agreed to ask residents for a donation of £10 towards the cost/installation/decoration/removal of miniature Christmas trees on their properties.

2) Christmas Lights Competition.

Members agreed not to go ahead with the competition this year

3) Remembrance Sunday 10th November 2013.

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

4) Funding Application

Deferred to the Finance Committee

170/13

Members Reports

i) Celebration of Anniversary of 1st World War (1914/2014)

- Councillor Grogan

Item to be placed on the agenda for the November meeting.

171/13

Date of next meeting

The next Ordinary meeting of Tow Law Town Council will be held on Tuesday 19th November 2013 commencing at 6.30pm in the Community Centre.

The meeting finished at 8.40pm

Signed by the Chairman.....page 4