

## TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

### Minutes of the meeting of Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2013 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.30pm.

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

**Also Present:** County Councillor J. Hart and G. F. Smith (Clerk)

**Apologies:** PC M. Rutherford (Durham Police)

**172/13 Declaration of interest**

Councillor J. Gale – agenda item 16 (1d) Clerk's Report

Councillor T. Batson – agenda item 9 (V 66, 67) accounts for payments

Councillor J. Fowler – agenda item 9 (V68) Accounts for payments

**173/13 Minutes of a the Ordinary meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2013**

The minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**174/13 Matters arising**

Councillor Rowland on the quotation received from Proludic Ltd for play equipment at Attlee Estate at a cost of £24695.00. Work is ongoing to obtain funding for all the projects. Detailed drawings are available to view in the Clerk's office.

The Clerk updated Members on a meeting held with the Chief Constable on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2013 to consider possible site/s for pedestrian crossings (light controlled) in High Street. The meeting was attended by Councillors Gale, Rowland, Green and Hird. Feedback was very positive and a further meeting with County Council Highways staff and traffic department of the Police would be arranged in the near future. The Clerk suggested further ways of improving the bid (i.e. residents petition, suggested crossing area etc).

The Clerk also updated Members that he had ordered 60 x 4ft Christmas Trees @ £15 each, 1 no 5.5 mtr Christmas Tree @ £150 and 3 boxes of solar fairy lights @ £150, delivery is expected in week commencing 25<sup>th</sup> November 2013. The Clerk took names of Councillors who volunteered to help "dress" the tree.

Councillor Stokes again raised the issue that the temporary mast at High West Farm was still in place. Clerk to remind DCC Enforcement Officer.

**175/13 Police Report**

No report received. The Clerk informed Members that the next PACT meeting will be held on the 28<sup>th</sup> November 2013 in the Masonic Hall commencing at 7.00pm. The issues for November were dog fouling and littering throughout Tow Law.

Members raised concerns that the litter bins and dog bins were not being emptied on a regular basis (DCC).

176/13

**County Councillor Report**

County Councillor Hart reported on the following:-

- New road markings/signage in Tow Law
- Winter salting routes 2013/14
- Hedleyhope Digester (update on Public meeting)
- Consultation on proposed closure of Council run care homes
- Participatory Budget event 7<sup>th</sup> December 2013
- 30 MPH signs (relocation)

177/13

**Planning matters**

A) No Planning Applications received

The Clerk reported that he had obtained a copy of the County Councils pre submission draft Local Plan document and the proposals maps document (available to view in the Clerk's office). The next consultation event will be held at Wolsingham Town Hall on the 28<sup>th</sup> November (3 to 7pm).

B) Neighbourhood Planning

The Clerk reported on a meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group (organised by CDALC) held at Newton Aycliffe on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2013 attended by Councillor Rowland and himself.

The Clerk also reported on receipt of a document "The nuts and bolts of Neighbourhood Plans" by Planning Aid England, copy available to view in the Clerk's Office. Awaiting response from DCC agreeing the Neighbourhood Area Statement.

178/13

**Accounts for payment**

That approval be given for the payment of vouchers 59 to 69 (November) and 70 to 72 (December) in the sum of £4353.81. Copy of report attached to these minutes.

179/13

**Tow Law Town Plan**

A) Provision of Car Park – County Council Land

Members agreed to speed up the process to complete and sign the lease for the transfer of the land from the County Council to the Town Council and for the Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk to meet with representatives of Bonds and Banks to progress the works to provide a surface area for parking places as soon as possible, try to complete before 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014.

180/13

**Sports Recreation Centre**

No further progress, Clerk to e-mail County Councillor Hart with details.

181/13

**Area Action Partnership**

Next AAP Board meeting 28<sup>th</sup> November 2013 in the Civic Centre, Crook commencing at 6pm.

PB voting event on 7<sup>th</sup> December in Crook Primary School (10 to 2pm)

182/13

**Millennium Green Trust**

**Councillor Hird reported on the following:-**

Training Course at Spennymoor – Meet the funders attended by Councillor Rowland and herself and also a meeting with AAP staff (Nicola Woodgate) on funding application forms, completing Neighbourhood Budget Funding Application form for work to the pond and planting area.

Contacting DCC Civic Pride Officer regarding obtaining "poop scoops" for use by the volunteer group.

- 183/13 Commemorating Centenary of World War One**  
 Members agreed to work in partnership with many organisations in Tow Law to hold event/s to commemorate the centenary of World War One. It was also agreed to seek funding to restore/repair the War Memorial in High Street and any community events. Item to be placed in the next edition of the Councils newsletter.
- 184/13 Chairman's report**  
 Councillor Gale was unable to attend the meetings of CDALC Executive Committee representing the Three Towns AAP area and recommended Councillor Batson, to take his place and Councillor Rowland to act as a reserve.  
 Members agreed to this change
- 185/13 Clerk's Report**  
 1) Applications for funding  
**a) Mrs H Doherty, 8 Elm Terrace**  
 Donation towards raising funds for activities/outings/entertainment for the residents of Castle Bank Home. Mrs Doherty recently completed a 100 mile walk for this local cause.  
 Members agreed to donate £  
**b) Tow Law Millennium Primary School**  
 Donation towards cost of pantomime (which was performed on 14<sup>th</sup> November). As the event had already taken place Members could not make a donation but asked the Clerk to produce a report on funds allocated from the N-power Community Fund for 2013/14 to be further discussed at the Finance Committee.  
**c) Great North Air Ambulance**  
 Clerk had requested Financial information on the Charity, Members agreed to wait the financial reports and for the Finance Committee to further discuss the funding application.  
**d) Tow Law Community Association (The Cubs Organisation)**  
 Members agreed to donate £250 from the N-power Community Fund to support the start up of the Cubs organisation which meet in the Community Centre, Tow Law.  
 2) Update on Quality Council Scheme  
 New minimum evidence required for a Council to obtain either one, two or three star Quality Status. This scheme is to be implemented in early 2014. The Town Council remains a Quality Town Council until the scheme is open for submission.  
 3) Winter salting routes in County Durham 2013/14 copies available from the Clerk.
- 186/13 Members Reports**  
**Christmas Theme 2013 (Councillor Green)**  
 Councillor Green suggested that the Town Council should support a "Christmas Theme" for residents during the month of December with three prizes of £75, £50 and £25 as judged by a mystery visitor to the Town one week prior to Christmas. Funds to be obtained from the N-Power Community Fund.  
 Members agreed to support this scheme and for the Clerk to make the necessary arrangements (publicity, Judge etc)

Queens Garden Party 2014 (Councillor Batson)

Members agreed to nominate Mrs Mary Bell for the voluntary work she carries out for The Royal British Legion (Tow Law Division) Remembrance Sunday – March through the Town. Members agreed to support the event and for the Clerk to obtain further information (road closures, stewards, risk assessments etc) and report to a future Town Council meeting. County Councillor Hart to make further inquires of the County Council regarding use of Stewards etc.

**187/13**

**Date of next meeting**

The next Ordinary meeting of Tow Law Town Council will be held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2014 commencing at 6.30pm in the Community Centre.

The meeting finished at 8.20pm

Signed by the Chairman.....page 4

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