

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 15th April 2014 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.30pm.

Present: Councillors J. Gale (Chairman), T. Batson, A. Blacker, L. Brown, 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: Councillor A Green

055/14 Declaration of interest
None

056/14 Commemorating Centenary of 1st World War
Councillor Grogan confirmed that the Tow Law History Society would be having an Exhibition "A tribute to the fallen of the 1st World War" in the Community Centre on the 2nd/3rd August 2014.
Members agreed for the poster to be copied (1000 copies) and inserted into the next edition of the Council's Newsletter (to be delivered this month).

057/14 Minutes of a the Ordinary meeting held on 18th March 2014
The minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

058/14 Matters arising
i) Banner Group for Tow Law
ii) DCC Service Level Agreement for Neighbourhood Planning
iii) Risk Assessment for the Community centre- copy with Clerk
iv) Roddymoor Allotment Association – Council's waiting list

059/14 Police Report
No report received.

060/14 County Councillor Report
County Councillor Hart reported on the following:-

- Cabinet meeting at Crook (16th April)
- Closure of Care Homes
- 80 High Street – Investigations by DCC Officers
- Cattle Mart Site – tidy up
- Repairs to Nisa Shop – works outstanding
- Funding from Police Crime Commissioner

061/14 Representation by Residents
None

062/14 Planning matters
A) Planning Application DM/14/00547/FPA by Mr M Hopps for single storey extensions to front and rear and alterations to roof (including a dormer window) at 9 Smith Street, Tow Law.
Decision – No objections
B) Neighbourhood Plan
No further update

- 063/14 Accounts for payment**
Members gave approval for the payment of vouchers 1 to 6 in the sum of £1839.05. Copy of report attached to these minutes
- 064/14 Tow Law Town Plan**
A) Car Park
Awaiting details from DCC (Jill Angus)
B) Play Areas
Councillor Rowland updated the meeting on the visit to schools/community centre with the exhibition boards.
- 065/14 Area Action Partnership**
A) Next AAP board meeting – 8th May 2014 at Crook (6pm)
- 066/14 Millennium Green Trust**
- Councillor Hird reported on the following:-
 - Article in the Northern Echo
 - Next Litter pick 27th April
 - Ron Hogg (Police Commissioner) to attend litter pick on 27th July
 - Durham Wildlife Trust to return in July
 - Fencing to be surveyed (responsibilities)
- 067/14 Chairman's report**
The Chairman raised the following issues:-
- Unfair distribution of funding throughout County Durham and the lack of money (economic development) for Tow Law.
 - The establishment of the North East Leadership Board (super authority), a combined Authority with powers over Transport, Skills and Economic Development accross seven councils (including Durham County Council). Lack of consultation with Local Council's and the electorate.
- 068/14 Clerk's Report**
1. Lack of top soil on allotment site rear of Dan's Castle. Chairman, Vice Chairman, Clerk and Councillor Blacker to meet with allotment holders and report to the next appropriate Town Council meeting.
 2. Bank balance Millennium Green Trust (Barclays Bank) £99.75 as at 21st March 2014
 3. Bank balance Tow Law Community Partnership (Barclays Bank) £587.71 as at 18th March 2014.
 4. Timetable for external audit for the year ended 31st March 2014:-
 - i) display public notice 21/4/14 to 4/5/14
 - ii) records available from 6/5/14 to 3/6/14
 - iii) Annual Return to Auditor 23rd June 2014
 - iv) Approve accounts – June's Town Council meeting
 - v) Publish Audited Accounts by 30th September 2014
 5. Application for funding – RWE Innogy UK Ltd
 - a) Members agreed to donate £250 from the above funding for a family day trip during the Spring Bank Holiday week, organised by the Community Association (Christine Emerson)
 - b) Members agreed to donate £250 from the above funding for a day trip to South Shields during the summer holidays organised by the (TLCA Christine Emerson)

6. Crook Leisure Facility – have your say (proposal at Peases West); for information.
 7. Land at Ironworks Road, Tow Law – availability of land; for information
 8. Letter from Smith Roddam, Crook regarding a parcel of land from Durham County Council (2004). The transaction was not concluded and the land remains in the ownership of Durham County Council.
- Members were very disappointed with this latest information and requested the Clerk to make further inquiries and report to the next appropriate Town Council meeting.

069/14 **Members Reports**
None

070/14 **Date of next meeting**
Date of the next ordinary meeting Tuesday 20th May 2014 following the meeting of Electors (which commences at 6.00pm) and the Annual General meeting (which follows the meeting of electors)

The meeting finished at 8.47pm

Signed by the Chairman.....page 3