

Tow Law Town Council

Minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on Tuesday 6th March 2007 in the Community Centre commencing at 6.30pm.

Present councillors: T Batson (Chair), A Blacker, J Day, J Flynn, J Gale, P Graham, A Green, R Grogan, E Morris, G Stevens, and J Stevens.

Also in attendance: District Councillor C Hayton and G F Smith (Clerk).

Apologies: None.

Declaration of Interest

Councillors Flynn, Gale, Grogan, Hayton and J Stevens all declared an interest as trustees of Millennium Green.

The meeting was to consider the Town Council taking over the responsibility for the operation of the green.

Background

Councillor Flynn informed the meeting of the background to the Trust which was set up on 1st November 1998. An initial grant of £42,547.97 was received from the Countryside Commission (Millennium Greens Grant). The Trust was registered with the Charity Commission on 3rd June 1999, registration number 1075815.

The original trustees were Jennifer Flynn, Colin Hayton, Ronald Dennis Grogan, Jeffery Gale, Judith Stevens and Stuart Balmer.

The insurance is currently £413 (Zurich) with additional premiums being paid for one off events.

The Trust is to approach Wear Valley District Council to see if the cutting of the green can be included in their grass cutting programme. Future possible funding may be available from County Durham Foundation Banks Landfill Tax Fund and Awards for All.

The Chairman invited comments from all members which included:-

- a) In favour of the scheme being taken over by the Town Council.
- b) Concerns over the cost of the grass cutting and maintenance of the site/equipment.
- c) Lack of detailed costing.
- d) What would be the possibility of Wear Valley District Council/Durham County Council taking responsibility of the land and/or maintenance.

Members who declared an interest were asked to leave the meeting while further discussion was to take place.

Signed by the Chairman

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The Chairman asked for comments from each member present which included:-

1. Should the Town Council assist and help to maintain the good work that has already been done up to now.
2. Is it right and proper for the Town Council to take over the project.
3. There is a will to do something, is that possible.
4. Possibility of raising revenue (re grazing rights).
5. Not enough costing information available.
6. Cost of maintenance (high).
7. A need for further detailed information.
8. It was felt that this could not be resolved tonight.
9. A number of members would like the Town Council to take over the project, subject to more detailed costing being available.
10. Will Wear Valley District Council be willing to take over the project.
11. Would a possible Unitary Authority assume responsibility.

It was agreed that:-

Members were prepared to back the principle of adopting Millennium Green subject to further financial details being investigated.

Refer the matter to the Finance and General Purposes Committee to look at all aspects of the possibility of the Town Council taking over the responsibility for the operation of the Millennium Green.

Members who declared an interest were asked to rejoin the meeting.

The Chairman informed the meeting of the two recommendations. All members agreed with the suggested actions.

The meeting finished at 6.35pm.

It was noted that the Development Day is to be re-scheduled for Thursday 29th March 2007 (10am to 3pm).