

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Tow Law Council Annual Meeting Held on Tuesday 15th May 2007 in the Community Centre commencing after the Annual Meeting of electors which commenced at 6.30pm.

Present: Councillors T. Batson (Chair) A. Blacker, J. Day, J. Gale, P. Graham, A Green, R. Grogan, L. Rowland, G. Stevens, J. Stevens

Also in Attendance: County Councillor T. Carroll, District councillor C. Hayton P.c. Jeff Blair, PcsO Richard Strong, L. Hodgkinson (Wear Valley street warden) G.F. Smith (Clerk) and B. Robinson (The Northern Echo)

Apologies For Absence: SGT David Lyle (Durham Police)

AGM 01/07 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE ENSURING YEAR

Councillor T. Batson and J. Gale were nominated and Seconded. A Ballot was held and Councillor Carroll and Hayton acted as invigilators. The result was Councillor Batson 4 votes, Councillor J. Gale 6 votes, it was agreed that Councillor J. Gale be and is hereby elected to serve as Chairman of the Town Council for the ensuring year.

AGM 02/07 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Councillor Gale duly signed his declaration of acceptance of office which was countersigned by the Clerk as proper Officer.

AGM 03/07 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No declaration of interest.

AGM 04/07 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN FOR THE ENSURING YEAR

Councillor J. Day and It Grogan were nominated and seconded. A Ballot was held and Councillor Carroll and Hayton acted as invigilators. The result was councillor Day 3 votes and Councillor Grogan 7 votes. It was agreed that Councillor Grogan be and hereby is elected to serve as vice chairman of the Town Council for the ensuing year.

SIGNED BY THE CHAIRMAN

AGM 05/07 POLICE REPORT

Mr 1. Hodkinson street warden updated the meeting on his work in Tow Law, Followed by a question and answer session.

PCSO Richard Strong presented the report for the month of April 2007 (copy attached to these minutes) , followed by a question and answer session. He also informed the meeting of his work with young people in Tow Law who had expressed an interest in holding a rave event in a building in Tow Law.

It was suggested he attend the next meeting of the Community Association (11th June 2007) mainly to discuss the possibility of any fund towards holding this event. PcsO Richard Strong, Pc Jeff Blair and Mr 1 Hodkinson left the meeting It was agreed to write to the Chief Constable stating how pleased members are with the reduction of the crime statistics for Tow Law.

AGM 06/07 REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Councillor Carroll informed the meeting of his election to cabinet, his portfolio being climate change and service direct, also a council member on the Local Government Association. He had no further views / updates on the county council work with Town / Parish Councils.

Councillor Carroll left the meeting.

AGM 07/ 07 CHEUQE AUTHORISATION

It was agreed that the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Chairman of Finance and general purpose Committee would be Authorised Cheque Signatories and that any two signatories from the three approved would be acceptable. Clerk to make the necessary arrangements with the Co-operative Bank.

AGM 08/07 TO APPOINT MEMBERS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

It was agreed to appoint Members to the following appropriate bodies, as follows:-

a) Tow Law Community Association

Councillor T. Batson A. Blacker J. Day J. Gale A. Green L. Rowland and J. Stevens.

b) County Durham Association of local Councils

Councillor T. Batson

c) Police Community Liaison Committee

Councillor T. Batson to attend and other council members as and when

d) W.V.D.C. PARISH/TOWNCOUNCIL FORUM

The Chairman(Councillor Gale) will discuss the agenda with Councillor Batson to determine who would be the most appropriate representative plus the Clerk to attend.

SIGNED BY THE CHAIRMAN

AGM 09/07 TO RECEIVE REPRESENTATION BY RESIDENTS

No Residents present.

AGM 10/07 THE LOCAL AUTHERITIES (MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT ORDER 2007

It was agreed to defer this item until the next meeting and for the Clerk to obtain further clarification on paragraph 12 (2) Members right to speak at Meetings.

AGM11/07MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 17TH APRIL 2007

Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

AGM 12/07 MAI''TERS ARISING

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061/07 Clerk's Report

a) Trees at Tow Law – NEDL

The Clerk reported that no further correspondence has been received from NEDL although some trees have been planted.

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069/07 Minutes of the Finance and general purpose Committee 27th March 2007 Millennium Green

It was agreed to refer this item back to the Finance and general purpose Committee to discuss further details on costings and the agreement of Wear Valley District Council to cut the grass 6 times this year.

072/07Planning matters

b) Blackfield Farm, 11 North Road

Members were informed that the Planning Permission has been refused.

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075/07 Clerk's report

j) Letter from C. Wilkinson, 4 Pennine Way

The Clerk had written to the Police and Wear Valley District Council (Anti-Social behaviour Officer), no response had been received, clerk to report to the next Town Council Meeting.

076/07 Members reports

Old Barclay's Bank Premises

Clerk had written to Wear Valley District Council (legal section) no response had been received, Councillor Grogan had a telephone conversation with the owner who was going to respond to the Police, Wear Valley District Council and the Town Council following a legal matter being resolved.

AGM13/07 UNAUDITED STAEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR 2006/07 Members received a copy of the Financial Statement for year ending 3 e March 2007. It was agreed to formerly receive and adopt the statement and for the Clerk to complete the Annual Return in conjunction with the Internal Auditor.

SIGNED BY 'THE CHAIRMAN

AGM 14/07 REPORTS OF THE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Councillor Hayton reported that he had been re-elected.

Councillor Crogan reported:

- a) Update on Old Barclays Bank Premises in High Street
- b) English Heritage had objected to the demolition on the "Bullring"
- c) Security gate to be installed around cctv

Councillor Gale — no report

AGM 15/07 PLANNING MATTERS

- a) Substitution of house types relating to existing permission 3/2005/0673 Ref 3/2007/0288 for Mc Inerney Homes Ltd. Members agreed to raise no objections.
- b) Erection of 4 Bedroomed House at Thornley Road. Ref 3/2007/0298 for Lynne Cunningham Members agreed to raise no objections.
- c) Projecting and illuminated sign advertisement on side of property, Advertising board on front of property (retrospective) , Ref 3/2007/0304 for Mr & Mrs Dillion, 82 High Street. Members agreed to raise no objections.

AGM 16/07 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENTS

Members approved the payments for voucher 06 in the sum of £623.30

AGM 17/07 CHAIRMAN REPORT

Councillor Gale had no Report

AGM 18/07 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk reported on the correspondence received:-

- a) All Councillors had signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Councillor.
- b) County Durham and Cleveland County Training Partnership "Training for Councillors. Members to let the Clerk know if they are interested in attending any of the courses.
- c) Wear Valley District Council — Local Government Review — Clerk to Copy Letter to all Councillors for them to consider a response.
- d) Durham County Council — Local Government Re-organisation, Invitation to Question and Answer session at County Hall on Saturday 2^{od} June 2007 10am -12pm. Chairman and Clerk to attend.
- e) Durham Wildlife Trust — Hedleyhope Fell and Common:- Consent to erect fences.
- f) Tow Law Community Partnership — Application for grant N Power Community Fund 2007/08 towards cost of the Tow Law Community Festival 2007. Members agreed to place this item on the next Meeting of the Finance and general purpose committee for further discussion.
- g) County Durham Association of Local Council Newsletter; April 2007; issue 12
- h) Information received from Durham County Council (Mr John Hodges) regarding the state of the road on Deerness Estate. Re — surfacing work is scheduled for 2008/09 Financial year. The County will continue to repair the pot holes in this Financial year

Signed by the Chairman

i) Members noted that following the Elections on 3^d May 2007 the Council has two vacancies. It was agreed to co-opt two members and names to be suggested at the next Town Council Meeting.

AGM 19/07 Members Reports

**Extension of yellow No Parking lines near the Community centre
Council members surgeries – to be discussed at the next Town Council Meeting.**

AGM 20/07 Date and Time of the Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 19th June 2007 commencing at 6.30pm in the Community Centre.

The Meeting finished at 8.35pm

Signed By the Chairman