

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 16th September 2008 in the Community Centre at 6.30pm.

Present Councillors: P. Graham (Chairman) T. Batson, J. Day, J. Gale, A. Green, R. Grogan, H. Hail, L. Rowland, G. Stevens, and L. Taylor.

Also Present: Councillor W. Waters (Chairman County Durham Association of Local Councils), Anita Atkinson (Weardale Gazette), Duncan Leatherdale (Wear Valley Mercury), Helen Smithson (Northern Echo), Stephen Thomas (WVDC) and G F Smith (Clerk)

Apologies: Sgt D Lyall, Pc Blair, (Durham Police) Councillor L. Brown, District Councillor C. Hayton and County Councillor J Bailey

110/08 Declaration of Interest

Councillors, Grogan Rowland and Stevens declared an Interest in item 22 Licence Review for The Station Inn, High Street, Tow Law.

Councillor Batson declared an interest in item 18a- Planning Matters, Ridley Exhausts, Brick Flats Garage.

111/08 Police report

The report was circulated at the Meeting. Councillor Hail raised some community concerns and agreed to discuss them with Councillor Batson who would raise concerns at the next meeting of the Police Consultative group (23rd Oct 2008).

112/08 Presentation of the Quality Town Council Status Certificate

Councillor Waters (Chairman, County Durham Association of Local Councils) presented the Certificate to the Chairman and Clerk. He said "It gives me great pleasure to present this award to Tow Law and I am proud the Town Council has gone so far". Councillor Graham accepted the award and said "We have all worked very hard for this and past Chairman must also take some credit".

113/08 Representation by Residents

No matters raised.

114/08 Update from Community Partnership

No Report, Councillor Gale reported that the Partnership was to meet on Thursday 18th September it could well be the final meeting.

115/08 Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th July 2008

Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

116/08 Matters Arising

Page 1

127/07 Tow Law Football Club

The Clerk had received a response from the Society of Local Council Clerks stating that the Town Council could work in Partnership with the Football Club (who were registered with the Inland Revenue for charitable status)

Page2

043/08 Report of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held 12th March 2008

e) Town Council News, School Newspaper (The Tow Law Times)

The Clerk reported that the latest edition of the School Newspaper had included a page on Town Council News and an article on the Clerk (written by pupils of the School). It is hoped to continue with a contribution in the next edition.

AGM 11/08 Cheque Authorisation

Clerk making the necessary arrangements with the Co-operative Bank Plc. (change Bank signatories, Change present current account to free Banking Service Account and open a High savings account)

AGM 23/08 Clerk's Report

1. Damage to seat Ironworks Road

The Clerk reported that the seat had now been collected by the repairer (Evershed Products) and he was awaiting the estimate for repairs. Clerk to report to the next Town Council meeting.

J) County Durham and Cleveland County Training Partnership – Councillor Training the Clerk was awaiting confirmation of Training Session dates, Clerk to report to the next Town Council meeting.

Page3

083/08 Clerk's Report

k) Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) RE: Town/Parish Elections. The Clerk informed Members that he had responded to the CDALC. No response had been received from the DCLG.

m) Mencap – Application for Funding (financial information requested) The Clerk had requested financial information from Mencap, this had not been received, Clerk to chase up response and report to the next appropriate Town Council meeting.

085/08 Members Reports

a) Unitary County Portfolio holder (Town/Parish Councils).

The Clerk had written to Councillor Stevens inviting him to attend a meeting of the Town Council. Councillor Stevens had responded stating he hoped to attend either the October or November meeting of the Town Council.

b) North Road/Inkerman Road

The Clerk reported on the response from Wear Valley District Council which stated that the matter was logged as a Planning Enforcement complaint and are currently being investigated. Clerk to report to the next appropriate Town Council meeting.

Page4

Page5

101/08 Baths Bus 2008

Agenda Item No 17.

105/08 Clerk's Report

a)CDALC – Boundary Committee Review of County Durham

Agenda Item No 9

b)CDALC-Local Government Review-Consultation meetings. Councillors Gale, Batson and Grogan updated the Council Members on the various consultation meetings they had attended.

Page 6

105/08 Clerk's Report

J)CDALC – Local Governance Arrangements; Meeting 24th July 2008 Councillor Gale updated the meeting.

107/08 Members Reports

Complaint from resident in Railway Street/High Street – Commercial Waste

The Clerk had written to Wear Valley District Council (Environment Division) The letter had been acknowledged and an investigation would take place. Clerk to report to the next appropriate Town Council meeting.

Page 7

109/08 Clerk's Salary

Agenda Item No 25

117/08 Minutes of a Special Meeting of Town Council on 8th September 2008

Members agreed:-

1)That the Unitary Authority for County Durham should comprise of a minimum Of 126 Councillors.

2)That the Town Council meet with the following Communities regarding the possibility of future joint working and to gauge Public opinion on the suggestion of extending the Town Council's Boundary:-

Billy Row, Fir Tree, Roddymoor, Stanley (Crook), Sunnyside and Thornley Village.

It was further agreed for the Town Council to work jointly with the communities and the local press on obtaining public opinion on the suggestion of extending the Town Council's Boundaries.

118/08 Report of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 10th September 2008.

1.Review of the Clerk's Salary

Members agreed that the Clerk's Salary should be Salary point 29 as from 1st October 2008, as per the National Conditions of Service for Clerks of Local Councils.

2.Play Area Funding

Members agreed that a "Competent Person" should carry out a Safety Inspection at the two Play Areas (Alpine Way and Pennine View) and for the report to be discussed at a future meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

Members agreed to transfer £3000 (£1000 received from WVDC and £2000 from Home Housing for ongoing maintenance in the two Play Areas) from the Council's Current Account into a High Interest Account. Clerk to make the necessary Arrangements with the Co-operative Bank.

3. Councillors training

Members agreed to hold a Special meeting on Wednesday 12th November 2008 at 6.30pm to discuss Councillor training and use the self-perception Inventory (Bolbin Questionnaire).

4. Statement of Accounts as at 31st August 2008

Members agreed to accept the figures stated on the Report and also for the Clerk to meet with the Secretary of the Community Association regarding the use of the office and meeting room. Clerk to Report to the next Town Council Meeting.

119/08 County Councillors Reports

No Reports

120/08 District Councillors Reports**Councillor Gale Reported:-**

- a)Collection of Waste Bins
- b)LSP Representation
- c)Wind Farm – West Durham (Next Meeting 2nd October)
- d)West Durham Wind Farm – Funding (Project applications are required)

Councillor Grogan reported:-

- a)Update on the Recreation Ground
- b)Co-op New Store (Transfer from old shop 16th October)
- c) Cattle Mart Bull Ring (2 Prospective Buyers)
- d) Banks Development (Ongoing discussion with Planning Officers)
- e) EDF Wind Farm – Funding (A Committee will need to be in place to discuss the methods of distributing the £9300 Fund yearly allocation).
- f)Co-op building, High Street – possible uses.

Members requested Councillor Grogan to bring a further report to the Town Council with suggestions of possible usage of the building (ie Library, base for the Historical Society etc)

- g) Banks development ECO Site – 106 Funding

Councillor Hayton – No Report**121/08 Councillors Surgeries 2008/09**

Members agreed to continue with the surgeries (duration to be one hour and for the location to be rotated). Chairman and Clerk to discuss the allocation list and report to the next Town Council meeting.

122/08 Statements of Accounts as at 31st August 2008

Members agreed to accept the figures on the Reported Balance (£21,605.70)

123/08 Baths Bus 2008

Cost of Transport was	£585.00
Cost of entry into Wet n Wild	£172.80
Total Expenditure	£757.80
Income (40 tickets @ £5)	£200.00
NET COST	£557.80

Members agreed that this event should continue and for the Clerk to make necessary arrangements for 2009.

124/08 Planning Matters

- a) Application 3/2008/0471 – Ridley Exhausts, Brick Flats Garage
Members agreed to raise no objections to this application subject to adjacent owners being consulted and their comments taken into account when making a decision on this application.
- b) Application 3/2008/0475 – (item withdrawn)
- c) Application 3/2008/0483 (Resubmission) – 26 Dan's Castle
Members agreed to raise no objections to this application.
- d) Application 3/2008/0496 – Tow Law Millennium School
Members agreed to raise no objections to this application.
- e) Application 3/2008/0514 – 4 Millennium Court
Members agreed to raise no objections to this application.
- f) Application 3/2008/0427 (Resubmission) – 17 High Street
Members agreed to raise no objections to this application.
- g) Application 3/2008/0535 – Land rear of 11 to 19 Campbell Street
Members agreed to raise no objections to this application.
- h) Application 3/2008/0538 – Inkerman Farm, Inkerman Road
Members agreed to raise no objections to this application.

125/08 Accounts for payment

That approval to be given for payment of voucher numbers 32 to 43 in the sum of £2877.94.

126/08 Chairman's Report

Councillor Graham Reported:-

That he had received an Invitation to attend the Greater Willington Town Council's Chairman's Sunday Service on 5th October 2008 commencing at 10.30am in the Methodist Church. He was unable to attend, Members agreed for Councillor Batson to attend this ceremony.

127/08 Clerk's Report

1. Update from Mr Steve Thomas, Wear Valley District Council

Steve updated the Members on the following:-

- i) Feedback events following the recent Unitary Consultation Events – Crook, St Catherine's Community Centre on the 6th November 2008 (6-8pm)
- ii) Neighbourhood Arrangements Community Initiatives Funding 2008/09 – Application forms available from the Clerk.

2. Correspondance Received:-

- a) Wear Valley Community Network – Community Fayre Saturday 15th November 2008 at (Venue to be decided) 9.30 am to 1.00pm

Members agreed to participate in this event and for the Clerk (plus volunteers) to prepare a promotional Stand "Tow Law Town Council – Quality Status".

- b) WVDC/DCC – Engagement in the New Unitary Local Development Framework.

Members agreed for the Clerk to complete the application form.

- c) Wear Valley Police Community Consultative Group Meeting at Bishop Auckland Town Hall on Thursday 23rd October 2008 commencing at 7.00pm.

Members agreed for Councillors Batson and Hail to attend.

- d) WVCN – Summary Report on Consultation event held at the Spectrum Complex, Willington on 9th July 2008 (copy obtainable from the Clerk)

e) CDALC – Financial Services Compensation Scheme – Parish Councils, Parish Meetings and Town Council are not covered by the F.S.C.S

Members agreed for the Clerk to write to the CDALC indicating their concerns and for the Association to raise this matter with the National Association of Local Councils. Clerk to report to the next appropriate Town Council meeting.

f) CDALC Update on the power of Well being to “Eligible” Town/Parish Councils.

g)CDALC – Consultation re proposed Parish Elections in 2009 in County Durham; Update

h)CDALC – Access Points within Parish and Town Council Offices.

Members agreed for the Clerk to respond to this request to negotiate with the New Unitary Authority to provide a local access point within Tow Law.

i)CDALC – Councillor’s Indemnity – Code of Conduct

Members agreed for the Clerk to copy document to each Councillor and for them relay their views to the Clerk, who will respond to the CDALC accordingly.

j) CDALC – Update on the Quality Town/Parish Council criteria. (this will not affect the Town Council until they Re-Submit in 2012)

k) County Durham Primary Care Trust – World Class commissioning Assurance Programme; details of Stakeholders Surveys (1 to 15 September 2008). Half day conference on Exploring Developments and Input into various Plans which is planned for Thursday 25th September 2008 (9am to 1pm) at Hardwick Hall, Sedgefield.

l) County Durham PCT – Commissioning Structure

Clerk to copy to all Members.

m)DCC – Proposed Diversion of Public Footpath NO37

Members agreed to raise no objections.

n)DCC – Attachments to Street Lighting.

o)Vitalise(essential breaks for Disabled People and Carers) – Application for Funding Clerk to obtain further information (including financial statements).

p)County Durham Local Involvement Network (Link) – Application for Membership. Members agreed to apply for Associate Membership, Clerk to complete the necessary application form.

q) County Durham Learning Disabilities Partnership Board Newsletter; July 2008; issue no 22.

r)CDALC – County Association Newsletter; July 2008; issue no 20.

s)Campaign to protect Rural England Newsletter; Autumn 2008

t)Local Council Review Journal; September 2008; Volume 60 issue no 3

u)Clerks and Councils Direct Magazine; September 2008; issue no 59

Councillors Grogan and Rowland left the meeting whilst the next item was discussed.

Councillor Stevens addressed the Council on the next item and left the meeting whilst the item was discussed.

128/08 Licence review for the Old Station Inn, High Street, Tow Law

The members agreed to write to the Environment Protection manager at WVDC raising the following concerns about the Old Station Inn, High Street, Tow Law:-

a)The Anti Social behaviour by customers in the premise’s rear yard late at night.

Item

b) The extreme lateness of the Public house remaining open to serve alcoholic drinks to customers (re after 1.00am)

Members asked for Wear Valley District Council to consider the above allegations when determining the premises Licence.

Councillors Grogan, Rowland and Stevens returned to the meeting.

129/08 Members Reports

CCTV at Tow Law

Item raised by Councillor Hail. Members agreed for the Clerk to write to WVDC (Elaine Baker, Community Safety Officer) for an update report on obtaining CCTV at Tow Law.

Fly Tipping, Thornley Road

Councillor Hail had reported to the County Council a number of tyres that had been dumped near the Cemetery on Thornley Road.

Road to the rear of new Co-op store and Bond's Foundry

Councillor Grogan updated the meeting.

130/08 Date & time of the next meeting

The next Town Council meeting will be held in the Community Centre on Tuesday 21st October 2008 commencing at 6.30pm.

Confidential Items

131/08 Clerk's Salary

The Meeting Finished at 8.45pm

Signed by the Chairman.....Page 7