

TO W LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Special meeting of the Tow Law Town Council held on Thursday 5th February 2009 at 6.30pm in the Community Centre.

Present: Councillors A. Blacker, J. Gale, A. Green, R. Grogan, H. Hail, L. Rowland, G. Stevens and L. Taylor.

Apologies: Councillors T. Batson, L. Brown, J. Day and P Graham

Also Present: Mrs J. Flynn and Mr G. F. Smith

1. Chairman of meeting

Councillor Hail proposed and seconded by Councillor Green that Councillor G. Stevens should Chair the meeting. It was agreed that Councillor G. Stevens would Chair the meeting.

COUNCILLOR G. STEVENS IN THE CHAIR

2. Declaration of Interest

a) Tow Law Millennium green

Councillors Gale and Grogan declared an interest in this item

b) Tow Law Community Partnership

Councillors Gale and Green declared an interest in this item

c) Tow Law Community Association

Councillors Gale Green and Rowland declared an interest in this item

d) Wow Gym

Councillor Grogan declared an interest in this item

3. Tow Law Millennium Green Trust

Mrs Flynn updated members of the background of the Trust and the present financial situation (£1000 in bank but £700 required for Insurance purpose). A recent grant had been received from the Bank's developments for footpaths and repairs to the Green, clearing the damage ditches, strimmer and ride-on mower. The grass was being cut by WVDC on a rota basis and a volunteer from the local football club who carry out grass cutting between the times carried out by WVDC. Members asked Mrs Flynn a number of questions regarding funding and the need to purchase equipment.

Members agreed to take over the responsibility of the Millennium Green Trust as Corporate Trustees, the Clerk to make the necessary arrangements with Mrs Flynn and to report to the next appropriate Town Council meeting.

4. Tow Law Community Partnership

Mrs Flynn reported on the financial situation of the partnership bank accounts. The partnership had recently received a grant from Home Group for £1600 which was an agreed contribution to the Wow Gymnasium. The no 1 account now had a nil balance; the no 2 account had £1100 balance which was wages costs for Jason Miller for I.T. repairs. This would be transferred in the TLCA accounts as soon as Mrs Flynn could get the books balanced and audited. Any surplus would be transferred to the Town Council. Members agreed to adopt a partnership agreement to defer a decision on the Sub – committee membership until the next ordinary Town Council meeting (17th February 2009). It was also agreed for the Clerk to make the necessary arrangements with Mrs Flynn and to report progress to the next appropriate Town Council meeting.

5. Tow Law Community Association

Mrs Flynn reported on the financial situation of the Association. Members agreed to contribute £1000 in increased rent subject to the following conditions:-

- a) The £1000 was to be paid in instalments over February (£670) and March (£330); the expenditure would be approved at the Ordinary Town Council meeting on 17th February and 17th March 2009.
- b) The Town Clerk's Office would be for his own use only.
- c) The Town Council would have its monthly meetings in the Old meeting room (which now hosts the computer suite which should be tidied away to allow the meetings to take place).
- d) The contribution should allow for the Community Centre to be staffed (Monday to Friday, Hours 9.30 to 4.30 each day). This would allow the bid for AAP Area office to be possible/successful.
- e) The request for £2000 to be reviewed in April 2009.

Members felt that the Town Council's representation on the Committee membership should be increased. Mrs Flynn agreed to take these recommendations to the Association's committee. It was proposed and seconded that the Town Council should take responsibility for the running of the building, this was passed unanimously.

6. Wow Gymnasium at Tow Law

Councillor Grogan updated members of the running/financial situation of the Gymnasium. The building was maintained by Wear Valley District Council, the Town Council receive a contribution from the management of the building and the Town Council pays the Council tax on the building. The hourly hire rate will increased from £1.50 to £2.00. The weekly income is about £100, centre open 12 hours per week. There is to be an official opening in approximately two weeks.

Members agreed to review the situation of the Wow Gymnasium in 12 months time with a view to taking the running and responsibility of the building.

Meeting finished at 7.50pm