

## TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Tow law Town Council held on Tuesday 16<sup>TH</sup> June 2009 in the Community Centre commencing at 6.30pm.

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

Also Present: Pc Dave Turner County Councillor Owen Temple County Councillor J. Bailey K. Fotheringham, C. Hodgson, S. Spence, A. Spence, P. Monk (Residents) and G. F. Smith (Clerk)

**Apologies:** Councillors T. Batson, L. Brown and County Councillor P. Jobling

### **098/09 Declaration of Interest**

Councillor Stevens declared an interest in agenda item 8a Planning Matters

Councillor Graham declared an interest in agenda item 8a Planning Matters

Councillor Day declared an interest in agenda item 8b Planning Matters

Councillor Green declared an interest in agenda item 8c Planning Matters

Councillor Rowland declared an interest in agenda item 13a Clerk's Report

Councillor Grogan declared an interest in agenda item 11 Wellness on Wheels gymnasium

Councillors Grogan, Graham and Rowland declared an interest in agenda item 13f

### **099/09 Police Report**

Pc Dave Turner circulated the crime and incident figures for May 2009, followed by an question and answer session.

### **100/09 County Councillor report**

Councillor Bailey reported on the following:-

- a) Attendance at meetings
- b) Winter Maintenance Programme
- c) Headstones at Thornley Road Cemetery
- d) Fly tipping (items have now been cleared from the sites)
- e) School Crossing Patrol at Tow Law Millennium School (meeting to be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2009)
- f) Area Action Partnership (Meeting to select Chairman and Vice Chairman)
- g) Play area at Pennine View (Possible funding)
- h) Boundary Committee electoral arrangements contact details for DCC/Parish & Town Council Services is Eddy Tomlinson.

### **101/09 Representation by Residents**

Residents raised the following concerns regarding the proposed planning application for a wind turbine at the Football Club, Ironworks Road:-

The positioning of the turbine in relation to residential properties in the area. Health & Safety issues. Invasion of privacy of the local residents. A bat survey carried out at the wrong time of year.

Signed by the Chairman.....Page 1

**102/09 Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2009**

Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman

**103/09 Matters Arising****Page 1****Page 2****022/09 Members Reports**

e) Allotments – meeting of the sub-committee

Clerk to arrange a meeting as soon as possible

**037/09 Clerk's Report**

Millennium Green Area

Councillor Rowland reported that she had met with Mr Douglas Johnston and he was prepared to consider selling the land next to the Millennium Green. Members agreed for the Clerk to make arrangements with the District Valuer to have the land valued and to report to the next appropriate Town Council meeting.

The Clerk reported that he had received no further correspondence from the Charity Commission/Millennium Green Trustees. Members agreed for the Clerk to contact Mrs Jenny Flynn for an update and to report to the next Town Council Meeting.

**056/09 Clerk's Report**

d) Statement of Community Engagement

The Clerk was preparing the report, members agreed for the Clerk to report to the next appropriate Town Council Meeting.

f) DCC – Parish Paths Partnership Applications 2009.

The Clerk is awaiting quotations from local contractors. Members agreed for the Clerk to report to the next appropriate Town Council meeting.

**Page 3****071/09 Clerk's Report**

d) DCC – Non Domestic Rate Bill for the Recreation Ground (wow gym)

The Clerk is awaiting a response from DCC. Members agreed for the Clerk to report to the next appropriate Town Council meeting.

e) The Boundary Committee for England – Electoral arrangements for Parish/Towns Councils.

Agenda item No. 13c

p) Beaufort Wind Ltd – N- Power Community Fund

Members noted that the agreement was signed in 2004 for a period of 20 – 25 Years.

**072/09 Members Reports****a)(i) Big Lottery Peoples Millions**

Councillor Rowland reported that the funding application had passed the first stage and the next stage would be announced in July/August 2009. Quotations for play equipment were being received from specialist contractors and she was preparing a project plan. Members asked for a further update at the next Town Council meeting.

a)(ii) County Durham Foundation – Wind Farm Grant Panel

The Clerk is awaiting a response from EDF (Tony Scorer), Members agreed for the Clerk to chase up the response and to report to the next Town Council meeting.

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**072/09 Members Reports**

**a)(iv)Litter bins at the Millennium Green**

The Clerk had met with Mr John Bevells (DCC) and put to him the points raised at the previous Town Council meeting. Mr Bevells will discuss the concerns with colleagues/management and report back to the Clerk. Members asked for the Clerk to report to the next appropriate Town Council meeting.

**a)(v)Thornley Road Cemetery**

Members had been made aware by County Councillor Bailey that staff from DCC would be meeting a local monumental stonemason regarding the positions of some of the headstones. Clerk to report to the next appropriate Town Council meeting.

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**092/09 Clerk's report**

**a)DCC – Highway Maintenance Scheme, High Street (traffic lights system)**

The Clerk was awaiting a response from DCC, Clerk to chase up the response and report to the next appropriate Town Council meeting.

**e)Tow Law Millennium Primary School – Travel Planning Working Party**

Agenda item No. 13f

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**093/09 Members Reports**

Job Centre Plus

The Clerk was awaiting a response from Job Centre Plus, Clerk to chase up the response and report to the next appropriate Town Council meeting.

**095/09 Possible relocation of the Council's Office/meeting room**

Agenda item no 15

**096/09 Councillor Training – Power of Well Being**

The Clerk was awaiting details from the County Association (Steve Ragg). Clerk to inform the two Councillors once arrangements have been finalised.

**097/09 N – Power Community Fund**

Chairman/Clerk to arrange a meeting of the Hill Top Communities Sub Committee and to include this item on the Agenda.

**104/09 Planning Matters**

Councillor Graham left the meeting while the next item was discussed Councillor Day acted as Chairman.

**a)Application 3/2009/0045 – Unit 1, Inkerman Road, Inkerman**

Members agreed to approve the application.

Councillor Graham returned to the meeting

Councillor Graham resumed as Chairman.

Councillor Day left the meeting while the next item was discussed.

**b)Application 3/2009/0200 – Tow Law Association Football Club, Ironworks Road.**

Members agreed to raise concerns/objections to the application.

Councillor Day returned to the meeting.

Councillor Green left the meeting while the next item was discussed

c) Application 3/2009/0231 – 74 Deerness Estate, Tow Law

Members agreed to approve the application.

Councillor Green returned to the meeting.

#### **105/09 Accounts for payment**

That approval be given for the payment of vouchers 10 to 13 in the sum of £1337.39.

#### **106/09 Area Action Partnerships (AAP)**

No further updates. Councillor Bailey mentioned that Councillor Brian Stevens is available should any member have any concerns regarding the AAP.

#### **107/09 Wellness on Wheels Gymnasium**

Members noted the balances of the Statement of Accounts dated 24<sup>th</sup> April 2009 (£2225.94).

Members also requested further Financial information (balance sheet/Income/Expenditure Accounts), Councillor Grogan would arrange for this information to be made available as soon as possible. The meeting was informed that the grant paid to the Town Council from WVDC was a one-off payment, Members agreed for the Clerk to contact the trex committee to further clarify the situation. Members also agreed to place this item on the next appropriate Town Council meeting.

#### **108/09 Chairman's Report**

The Three Towns Community Partnership "Community Games 17<sup>th</sup> July 2009". The Chairman reported on a meeting he had attended with the Clerk at the Spectrum Leisure Complex, Willington on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2009. The event was being organised by the Slam Community Development Trust in Partnership with Greater Willington Town Council, Tow Law Town Council, Steering Group of Crook Town Council and Willington Community Action.

The event would take place at the Spectrum Leisure Complex, Willington on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2009 starting at 10.00am and concluding at 2.00pm. It was proposed to invite year 6 pupils of 12 schools in the AAP Boundaries (2 from Tow Law). There will be a small parade and opening ceremony in replication of the forthcoming Olympics (2012) followed by a range of sporting events. The event will close with a closing ceremony and presentation.

The main expense of the event was transport to/from the schools. Members agreed to fund the cost of providing transport for the local schools to attend/participate in the event. Clerk to make the necessary arrangements with a local Transport Company.

#### **109/09 Clerk's Report**

Councillor Rowland left the meeting while the next item was discussed

a) Application by Miss Jessica Rowland, 54 High Street for funding from the N-Power Community Fund towards the costs of Dancing fees, shoes, costumes and travelling costs associated with attending the Pauline Cook School of Dance at Consett. The Clerk read out a Thank you letter from Miss Rowland for the donation (£125) she received in the last financial year. He also presented the file on events and awards/certificates she has recently obtained. Members agreed to donate £125 to Miss Rowland from the N – Power Community Fund towards the costs associated with her dancing at the dance school. Councillor Rowland returned to the meeting.

**109/09 Clerk's Report continued**

b) Durham Constabulary – keeping regularly updated on policing issues. Members agreed that the Clerk should receive the update report via e-mail and inform members by placing the item/s on the agenda for the next Town Council meeting (as appropriate).

c) The Boundary Committee For England – further electoral review of County Durham. Members noted that the request for a change in Parish Boundary does provide evidence of Community links between communities within and surrounding the current Tow Law Parish. As such, the Boundary Committee can take the letter into account when considering the boundaries of Electoral divisions. A copy of the executive summary detailing the Committee's report will be sent to the Town Council.

d) CDALC – Double Taxation 2010/11; request for Data. Members agreed for the Clerk to complete the Template for the 2009/10 budget split into the relevant Services provided by the Council.

e) Tow Law Town Council – Annual Report 2008/09. Members agreed for the Clerk to make the necessary arrangements for the photocopying of the document and the delivery to each household in Tow Law. Clerk to report the costs to the next meeting of the Town Council.

f) Tow Law Millennium School – Minutes of a special meeting of the Travel Planning Working Party (update on the crossing patrol service). Members noted that the next meeting was 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2009.

g) Link County Durham – Getting involved (issues are alcohol, dementia/Alzheimer's services and provision of talking therapies). Details are available from the Town Clerk.

h) Tow Law Environmental Improvement Scheme – Minutes of an Initial Consultation meeting. Details are available from the Town Clerk.

i) Link County Durham – Article for the Council's Notice Board "Have your say". Members agreed for the article to be placed on the Council's Notice Board.

**Items for Information:-**

j) 2d Summer Magazine 2009. Copy available from the Town Clerk.

k) Hedleyhope Herold; news from Hedley hope fell; issue no 8. Copy available from the Town Clerk.

l) CDALC – Durham Association News; May 2009; issue no 25. Copy available from the Town Clerk.

**110/09 Members Report**

Councillor Gale – West Durham Wind Farm Committee – Funding to be announced in the second week of July.

**111/09 Date of next meeting.**

The next meeting of Tow Law Town Council is to be held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2009 commencing at 6.30pm.

That pursuant to section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 the Public excluded for the remainder of the Meeting during consideration of the items listed below on the grounds that if they are present during discussion of these items there could be disclosure Of them of exempt information as defined in section 100.

**Confidential items**

**112/09 Possible relocation of Council Office/Meeting Room**

The Clerk reported that he now had the procedure and application form for obtaining a loan from the Public Works Loan Board. The Loan would be based on purchasing and renovation costs to turn a residential home in High Street into an Office/Meeting Room for the Town Council.

Members agreed:-

- a) For Councillor Stevens to carry out an initial Survey and provide detailed drawings on recommended schemes for the conversion of the property.
- b) For the Clerk to contact the selling agents to inform them of the situation of the Council (ie Interest subject to the usual conditions)
- c ) For the Clerk to produce a Financial Statement which would show the reason for/against the possible relocation (present PWLB Interest Charge is 4% over a 30 to 40 year repayment period).
- d) For the item to be placed on the Agenda for the next Town Council meeting.

The meeting finished at 7.40pm

Signed by the Chairman.....Page 6