

## **TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the meeting of **Tow Law Town Council** held on Tuesday **16<sup>th</sup> March 2010** in the Community Centre commencing at **6.30pm**

**Present:** Councillors P Graham (Chairman), A. Blacker, J. Day, J. Gale, A. Green, C Hayton, G Stevens and L. Taylor

**Also Present:** County Councillor J Bailey, W Stelling, PcsO Richard Strong, D Leatherdale (Wear Valley Mercury and G F Smith (Clerk)

**Apologies:** Councillors L. Brown, R Grogan and L. Rowland also County Councillor P Jopling,

### **034/10 Co-option of Colin Hayton as a Councillor**

Members agreed to co-opt Colin Hayton as a Councillor. Councillor Hayton signed the Acceptance of Office of Councillor form witnessed by the Clerk/Proper Officer and accepted by members.

### **035/10 Declaration of Interest**

None were received.

### **036/10 Police Report**

PcsO Richard Strong presented the report to the meeting followed by a question and answer session. CCTV system checked recently and is working satisfactory. The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2010

### **037/10 Presentation by Sandy Denny AAP Co-ordinator, DCC**

Sandy Denny updated the members on the work being carried out by The Three Towns AAP and encouraged members to get involved with the Area Forum meetings and Working Groups?????. She is also hopeful of holding regular surgeries at the Community Centre.

The Clerk informed Sandy of a number of projects that were being discussed at Town Council meetings and were hopeful to put funding applications to the AAP board. The schemes include:-

- a) Provision of additional dog waste bins
- b) Road/Path safety in Smith Street
- c) Extension/Internal alterations at the Trex Gymnasium
- d) Joint Youth Provision for Tow Law and Hilltop Villages
- e) Fencing at allotments sites
- f) Car parking in Tow Law (Doctors surgery/Bond's Foundary/Co-operative)

### **038/10 County Councillor's Report**

**Councillors Bailey reported on the following:**

- a) Boundary Committee
- b) Drop kerb near Doctors Surgery
- c) Meeting with Keith Jameson (TBA) regarding Campbell/Station Streets

### **039/10 Representation by Residents**

None

### **040/10 Minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2010**

Members agreed to accept the apology from Councillor Grogan. Therefore the minutes to be amended to show this alteration.

Subject to the above amendment it was agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman

**041/10Matters arising****Page 1****Matters Arising (022/10)**

Junction at Campbell/Station Street

Councillor Bailey to arrange a meeting with Keith Jameson (DCC)

**Clerk's Report 056/09**

d) Statement of Community Engagement – Councillor Training for Power of Wellbeing awaiting details from Steve Ragg (CDALC).

**Page 2****f) DCC – Parish Paths Partnership Applications 2009**

Work is still ongoing with pupils of the two primary schools on footpath. A meeting with the design team (DCC) is scheduled for 23<sup>rd</sup> March at County Hall to discuss the maps and notice boards design etc.

**Councillor Vacancy (127/09)**

Agenda item no. 2

**Accounts (163/09)****Purchase of Laptop and Projection Equipment**

Latest quotation received for 2 Laptops @ £347.96 each + vat 1 projector @ £283.04 + vat and Microsoft Office 2007 plus anti-virus software @ £200.00 each + vat. It was agreed for the Clerk to chase up the other outstanding quotation and if the prices are lower/higher, that the Clerk in discussion with the Chairman place an order for the equipment with the lowest priced quotation.

**Clerk's Report (169/09)**

f) Enterprise PLC/CE Electric - Trees at Tow Law

No further update. Clerk to report to the next appropriate Town Council meeting.

**Planning Matters (008/10)**

47a High Street.

The Clerk is trying to arrange a meeting with the agent to view the property for office and meeting room for the Town Council. Clerk to report to the next Town Council meeting.

**Area Action Partnership (010/10)**

Agenda item No. 5

**Clerk's Report (014/10)****a) Allotment Site rear of Dan's Castle**

Meeting of the Allotment Sub Committee to be arranged. Councillor Blacker to meet with the Clerk on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March to agree a suitable meeting date.

**Winter Maintenance/Footpath Clearance 023/10**

Agenda Item No. 4

**Page 3****Tow Law Town Plan (027/10)**

Agenda Item No. 13

**Clerk's Report (031/10)**

b) Application for funding – Lucie Spence

Meeting of the Finance Committee to be arranged. Councillor Rowland to meet with the Clerk (asap) to agree a suitable meeting date.

e)DCC – Sustainable design supplement planning document – Consultation copies of document sent to all Councillors.

f)DCC – Contaminated Land Strategy – Consultation Copies of document sent to all Councillor.

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i)Great North Air Ambulance – Application for funding awaiting further financial details

j)Learning Library – Application for funding awaiting further details

k)S G Baker Ltd – Provision of sand-less sandbags

Clerk to obtain further details/prices and report to the next appropriate Town Council meeting.

n)The Boundary Committee for England – further clarification on electoral division Boundaries for Tow Law and Crook. Letter sent to the Boundary Committee on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2010. Members were reminded to fill in their response sheet (closing date 26<sup>th</sup> March 2010). A meeting with some of the representatives of the Hilltop Villages to place with the Chairman Councillor Rowland and the Clerk to this meeting. Option one was the preferred choice. Joint youth provision for Tow Law and the Hill Top Villages was discussed with Jenny Mountain, Councillor Rowland ??? Further meetings to take place and for the group to prepare an application for funding from the AAP (Councillor Rowland to be the Lead person)

**042/10 Winter Maintenance/Footpath Clearance**

The Chairman and Clerk to meet and formulate a report for the next Town Council meeting.

**043/Planning Matters**

a) 3/2010/0047 – British Legion Hall, Campbell Street

DECISION – NO OBJECTION

b) 3/2009/0475 – 5/6 High Street.

DECISION – NO OBJECTION

c) 3/2010/0077 – Thornley Villa, Ironworks Road

DECISION – NO OBJECTION

**044/10 Accounts for Payments**

That approval be given for the payment of vouchers 70 to 74 in the sum of £1299.15

**045/10 Tow Law Town Plan**

Work had commenced on site by DCC. Concerns were raised regarding dropped kerbs, bus stop/shelter, public toilets facilities and cement cover used by Northumbrian water. It was agreed

**028/10 Trex Gymnasium**

No report/update

**029/10 Chairman's Report**

No report

**030/10 Members Report**

Councillor Green reported on the AAP Board meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2010

**031/10 Clerk's Report**

**N-Power Community Fund – Members noted that the balance in this fund was £732.62**

A) Application from the N-Power Community Fund for North East Truth (Dean Rose) to start up a local newsletter. Members agreed not to support this application.

B) Application from the N-Power Community Fund for Lucie Spence for a contribution towards dance fees. Members agreed to donate £125 subject to a presentation to the Finance Committee by Lucie on her achievements so far and her future expectations.

C) Application from the N-Power Community Fund for Tom Wilkinson for a contribution towards his final year dissertation in Indonesia with a Conservation group.

Members agreed not to support this Application.

D) Application from the N-Power Community Fund for Marnie Stephenson for a contribution towards a student trip to Peru to build a multifunctional facility in the deprived areas on the outskirts of Lima. Members agreed not to support this Application.

E)DCC - Sustainable Design Supplementary Planning Document – Consultation period ends 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010. Members agreed for the Clerk to copy relevant parts of the document and send copies to all Councillors.

F)DCC - Contaminated Land Strategy – Consultation period ends 1<sup>st</sup> March 2010. Members agreed for the Clerk to copy relevant parts of the document and send copies to all Councillors.

**Signed by the Chairman.....Page 3**

G)Standard Board for England – Notifications to Parish & Town Councils concerning complaints about their Members and the Standard Committee (England) Regulations 2008.

Members agreed to wait further details from the County Durham Associations of Local Councils.

H)Standard Board for England – The Role and appointment of Parish and Town Council representatives

to the Standards Committee and the Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008.

Members agreed to wait further details from CDALC.

I) Great North Air Ambulance – Application for funding. Clerk had requested further financial information.

This item to be reported to the next appropriate Town Council meeting.

J) Learning Library – Application for funding. Clerk has requested further information on the service provider and further financial information. This item to be reported to the next appropriate Town Council meeting.

K) SG Baker Ltd – Provision of sand – less sandbags. Clerk to make further inquiries of other suppliers and report to the next appropriate Town Council meeting.

### **Items for Information:-**

L) Link County Durham – copy of AGM Report

M) DCC – County Durham Environment Award 2009

N) Guiding for Adults – Letter of Thanks (flower beds arranged for Durham City)

O) David Craggs – Thank you letter for donation

P) Durham Association Newsletter; December 2009; issue no.28.

Q) Land Registry – Registering your land; a guide for Town & Parish Councils

### **Additional Items:-**

R) The Boundary Committee for England – further clarification on Electoral Division Boundaries for Tow Law and Crook. A copy of the report was circulated at the meeting, There were two options to choose from:-

**Option One** – Places the majority of Crook in a two member division. The Western section of Crook is combined with Tow Law, The Hill Top Villages and the Rural Area in a two – member division. Hunwick would have a one-member division.

**Option Two** – The western part of Crook becomes a single-member division, while the remainder of Crook is combined with Tow Law, The Hilltop villages and the Rural Area in a three member division. Hunwick would have a one member division.

**Members noted that the feedback form was incorrect by showing the options in reverse. The Clerk would contact the Boundary Committee and re-issue any amended feedback form.**

Members agreed to the following:-

1) To vote for option one (each Councillor completing a feedback form)

2) To arrange a meeting with the Hilltop villages with Satley, East Hedley Hope and Cornsay Parish Councils to discuss the options.

### **032/10 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Tow Law Town Council will be Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2010 in the Community Centre commencing at 6.30pm.

**THAT PURSUANT TO SECTION 100A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 THAT THE PUBLIC BE 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.**

### **033/10 Minutes of a Special meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2010**

Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

The Meeting finished at 8.50pm

**Signed by the Chairman.....Page 4**