

## TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of **Tow Law Town Council** held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> **December 2010** in the Community Centre commencing at **6.30pm**

**Present:** Councillors P Graham (Chairman), T. Batson J. Gale, A. Green, C Hayton L. Rowland and L. Taylor

**Also Present:** G F Smith (Clerk).

**Apologies:** Councillors L. Brown, J. Day and County Councillors J. Bailey, P. Jobling

### **161/10 Declaration of Interest**

Councillor Gale and Hayton for agenda item no 13 – Millennium Green Trust.

### **162/10 Police Report**

No Report

### **163/10 County Councillor's Report**

No report

### **164/10 Representation by Residents**

None Present

### **165/10 Minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2010**

Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

### **166/10 Matters arising**

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#### **County Councillors Report (147/10)**

a) Drains at Railway Street and High Street

The road gullies had been cleared by DCC (as arranged by County Councillor Bailey)

#### **County Councillors Report (130/10)**

Improve security lights etc (County Councillor Jobling)

Copies of the Guidance notes and referral form (Safe Durham Partnership) were circulated at the meeting for each Councillor.

#### **Matters Arising (056/10)**

#### **Allotment site rear of Dan's Castle**

Clerk and Committee Chairman (Councillor Blacker) to arrange a meeting with all Allotment holders in Spring 2011 to discuss setting up an Allotment Association.

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#### **Members Reports (AGM 21/10)**

#### **Footpaths on High Street (Councillor Stevens)**

Work to the Bollards had been passed onto the Highways section (County Councillor Bailey)

#### **Inscriptions on the War Memorial (Councillor Hayton)**

No further progress

#### **Clerk's Report (123/10)**

n) Invitation to visit Open Cast Coal Mine at Park Wall Site

Deferred until 2011

#### **Planning Matters 151/10)**

Application 3/2010/0444 – Thornley Pit House Farm, Bridge Street.

No further details received from the County Planning Officer.

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#### **Trex Gymnasium (154/10)**

DCC – Granting permission for work to be carried out (internal)

Offices from DCC had contacted the Clerk and were made aware of the proposed work. They would be contacting the Trex staff to discuss the alterations.

**Clerk's Report (157/10)**

c) meeting with Credit Union

arranged for next Town Council meeting (18<sup>th</sup> January 2011)

e) DCC – Draft Sports & Leisure Strategy

any comments on this document to the Clerk

h) CDALC – Stray Dog Review (DCC cabinet meeting)

Members agreed for the Clerk to write to DCC informing them of the Council's disappointment that the County Council will not be issuing free doggie bags as from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011. This has been a priority issue at the Local PACT meeting on a regular basis.

j) CDALC – Service Delegation Scheme with DCC

The Town Council was in favour of this scheme and would encourage the County Council to discuss with the Town Council the types of services that could be delegated. Councillor Batson informed the meeting that he would be attending a DCC cabinet meeting to discuss this scheme as an Executive Member of CDALC.

k) CDALC – Charter Review

No further comments

**Members Report (158/10)**

Painting at Auckland Castle Bishop Auckland (Councillor Gale)

Letter sent to the Church Commission

Stanhope Ford, possible closure (Councillor Gale)

Letter sent to Durham County Council

Mobile Vet Service in Tow Law (Councillor Green)

Councillor Green updated the meeting on this service

**Page 4****167/10 Planning Matters**

a) 3/2010/507 – Approval of reserve matters following outline approval for agricultural dwelling at land adjacent to Park Terrace. Members noted the revised site location Plan

**DECISION – No Objection**

b) 3/2010/0514 – Two storey extension to gable at 3 Church Lane

**DECISION – No Objection**

**168/10 Accounts for Payment**

That approval be given for the payment of vouchers 61 to 65 in the sum of £1749.30

**169/10 Tow Law Town Plan**

Copies of the report to the Town Council on proposed footpath routes prepared by pupils from Tow Law Millennium Primary School and Blessed John Duckett R C Primary School. Item to be discussed at the next Town Council meeting. Councillor Rowland requested an electronic version of the report (Clerk to arrange).

**170/10 Trex Gymnasium**

No further update

**171/10 Area Action Partnership**

The application form and guidance notes for the Participatory Budgeting Project were available from the Clerk. Closing date for application is 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010. There is a need to publicise the project in Tow Law and the Hilltop Communities. (Clerk/Assistant Clerk to arrange copies for local organisations).

**172/10 Millennium Green Trust**

No further update

**173/10 Chairman's Report**

Meeting of the Executive Committee (CDALC) on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2010. Next Board meeting (AAP) January 2011.

**174/10 Clerk's Report****Items for discussion:-**

a) DCC – Parish and Town Council sub committee of the Standards Committee.

Members requested a representative from the Committee attend the Town Council meeting in February 2011 for a general discussion about Standards matters and how they affect the Town Council

b) DCC – School admission arrangements September 2012/13; consultation document comments by 16<sup>th</sup> January 2011. Details available from the Clerk.

**Items for Information:-**

- c) Arriva – Bus update; November 2010
- d) Trex Gym – Letter of Thanks for donation

**175/10 Members Report**

a)PACT meeting held 20<sup>th</sup> November 2010 (Councillor Green)

Monitoring Speeding Vehicles

b)New Localism Bill (Councillor Batson)

Members agreed to discuss the setting up of a partnership committee. Clerk to arrange to re-visit the auditors report on the previous partnership arrangements and prepare a report for the next Town Council meeting.

c)Winter Maintenance

Members agreed that although the A68 had been cleared to a satisfactory standard the footpaths and minor roads had no or very little maintenance (snow clearing). The priority areas in Tow Law had not been maintained as per the County Council's priority lists.

It was further agreed for the Clerk to write to the County Council with the above concerns and also a reminder of their lack of action on previous meetings with Officers (ie use of local contractors to clear snow in Tow Law). For the Chairman/Clerk to contact other Parish Councils (Cornsay, Esh, Satley, Willington) to see if they experienced similar problems. The Chairman/Clerk should also contact the Hilltop Villages and see what problems they have experienced. It is hoped to be able to send a joint letter of complaint to the County Council.

The Chairman and Councillor Batson would raise this matter at the Executive meeting of CDALC (Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December)

**176/10 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Tow Law Town Council will be held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2011 in the Community Centre commencing at 6.30pm.

The meeting finished at 7.25pm

Signed by the Chairman.....Page 3