

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of **Tow Law Town Council** held on Tuesday **19th April 2011** in the Community Centre commencing at **6.30pm**

Present: Councillors P Graham (Chairman), J. Gale, A. Green, R. Grogan, W. Railton and L. Rowland

Also Present: County Councillor J. Bailey and G F Smith (Clerk).

Apologies: Councillors L. Brown, C. Hayton, L. Taylor and County Councillor Jopling

060/11 Declaration of Interest

Councillor Rowland declared an interest in agenda item 6 – Police Report (February)

061/11 Minutes of a Special meeting held 13th April 2011

Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman

062/11 Matters Arising

Members agreed to support the expression of interest of the sports facility/leisure complex at Naissmith Grove, Clerk to inform Durham County Council (Steve Howell).

Members also agreed to produce a 3 year plan to incorporate, the new proposed car park, millennium green, the leisure complex/sports facility and the woodland area. Along with the proposed suggestions for funding from the west Durham wind farm site.

063/11 Co-option of Mr W. Railton, 11 Ironworks Road, Tow Law as a Councillor on the Town Council

Members agreed to co-opt Mr Railton; He then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, countersigned by the Clerk as the Proper Officer and witnessed by the Councillors present at the meeting.

064/11 Police Report

A report for February and March were circulated at the meeting.

065/11 County Councillor Report

County Councillor Bailey reported:-

- a)Petition to save the swimming baths at Crook
- b)Drop kerbs in High Street
- c)AAP presentation to young people
- d)106 allocation (meeting to arrange with Steven Reed)
- e)scale drawing required for car park area (Clerk to email details)
- f)Howden-le-wear allotment society – details of open day and contact details of Mr Quinn

066/11 Representation by Residents

NONE

067/11 Minutes of the meeting held on 15th March 2011

Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

068/11 Matters arising

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Members Report (175/10)

b)New Localism Bill – (Councillor Batson)
setting up a Partnership Committee

The Clerk was awaiting details from Jenny Flynn/Jenny Mountain

Planning Matters (026/11)

Planning application by McInerney Homes

Awaiting further information regarding take over and 106 allocation from DCC (Sinead Turnbull)

Members Reports (035/11)

B) CDALC - Feedback on meetings (Councillor Grogan)

The Clerk had requested copies from Steve Ragg (Executive Officer)

e)Smith Street/Wolsingham Road (Councillor Rowland)

Entrance Feature

The Clerk would be arranging a site meeting with an Officer from the County Councils highways (Phil Stanard) and will report back to the next Town Council meeting

f) Entrance feature (flower tubs) at Bridge Street (Councillor Rowland)

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g) Cemetery at Dan's Castle (Councillor Rowland)

Site visit needed

i) BMX Track – drainage problem (Councillor Rowland)

Clerk to contact Dandy Denny (AAP Co-ordinator)

j) Meeting of allotment committee (Councillor Blacker)

Minutes of the meeting held 13th April 2011 were circulated at the meeting.

Members agreed the following:-

- a) Recommend that the allotment rents should be increased by 20% as from 1st August 2011
- b) That the Clerk/Assistant Clerk research possible funding for future fencing works
- c) That the Clerk/Assistant Clerk make arrangements to have all allotment sites measured and agree the site with the allotment holder. (Map details have previously been requested)
- d) That arrangements be made to obtain details of all land ownership in the Tow Law area
- e) Introduce a new tenancy agreement for each allotment holder to sign
- f) For the Clerk to arrange a joint meeting with all allotment holders and members of the allotment committee. (date to be arranged)
- g) to meet on Monday 16th May 2011 to carry out inspection of allotments commencing at 1.00pm (meeting point the Community Centre).

Page 3**Area Action Partnership (048/11)**

c) Representation on the AAP Board – rota system

Councillor Green will attend the next meeting (**26th May**)

Page 4**Chairman's Report (055/11)**

CRB Checks

The Clerk had spoken to Steve Ragg (CDALC) and was awaiting further details/information from the National Association

Clerk's Report (056/11)

a)DCC – response regarding Grot Spot campaign (3 Towns AAP)
awaiting response from DCC and AAP Co-ordinator

Page 5**Members Reports (057/11)**

b)Property details by local Estate Agents (Councillor Gale)

Letter sent to Reeds Raine, No response received

069/11 Planning Matters

None to discuss

07011 Accounts for Payment

That approval be given for the payment of vouchers 01 to 7 in the sum of £4200.44

071/11 Tow Law Town Plan

Awaiting a map from County Council (County Councillor Bailey to chase this matter up)

072/11 Trex Gymnasium

No further updates. Joint Steering Group meeting to be arranged for May 2011 (No date agreed).

073/11 Area Action Partnership

Next Board meeting 26th May 2011 (Councillor Green attending)

074/11 Millennium Green Trust

Checking of equipment outstanding (Councillor Rowland to arrange convenient time with Stephen Moralee (football Club). The Clerk had received a report of a vehicle driving onto the green from the doctor's surgery area. Members agreed for the Clerk to arrange for boulders to be placed across the entrance to stop this action (Councillor Gale to contact supplier).

075/11 North West Wind Farm

Suggested projects to be incorporated into the 3 year plan.

076/11 Chairman's Report

The Chair welcomed Councillor Railton and hoped he would get involved in the committees.

The Chair read out a letter of resignation from Gregg Stevens, the members agreed to accept the resignation and for the Clerk to make the necessary arrangements to have the vacancy advertised (via County Council).

The Chair reported on a request by a Mr Bob Alders (Yorkshire Area) to meet with Members to discuss the for/against of having a wind turbine farm close to the Town. As the meeting would take place in May/June it was agreed to defer this item until after the Annual General Meeting.

077/11 Clerk's Report

The following applications for funding were deferred to the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee for further discussions and recommendations:-

1. N-Power Community Fund

- a) Tow Law Millennium Primary School-performance by M&M Productions of "The Hobbits" (cost£295)
- b) St Josephs Kids Fun Club – arts and crafts materials (£250)
- c) Durham Police – cycle lights

2. Other funding

- d) Victim support – volunteer costs (no financial information)
- e) Samaritans of Central Durham – running costs of the service (no financial information)

3. Correspondence

Items for discussion

f) DCC – proposed changes to the home to school/college transport policy; responses by 10th May 2011
Members agreed to object to the five proposals in the public consultation document and for the Clerk to inform the County Council of their decision.

Clerk to compile a letter for each Councillor

g) DCC – No stopping on school entrance marking order 2011; responses by 29th April 2011) BDO (External Auditor) – Audit for the year ended 31st March 2011; timetable as follows:-

- i) display notice of elections rights from 6th June to 19th June
 - ii) make records available from 20th June to 15th July
 - iii) approve accounts at the Town Council meeting on 21st June 2011
 - iv) Annual Return and supporting documents to be at BDO by 22nd July 2011.
- i) DCC – Overview and Scrutiny review of AAP
- j) Campaign to Protect Rural England newsletter – spring 2011

078/11 Members Report

No matters raised

079/11 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be the Meeting of Electors (to receive the Chairman's report) commencing at 6.30pm in the Community Centre, followed by the Annual General Meeting (Election of Chairman for 2011/12) on Tuesday 17th May 2011

The meeting finished at 7.25pm

Signed by the Chairman.....Page 3