

## TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of **Tow Law Town Council** held on Tuesday **19<sup>th</sup> July 2011** in the Community Centre commencing at **6.30pm**

**Present:** Councillors P Graham (Chairman), A. Blacker, L. Brown, J. Gale, A. Green, R. Grogan, C Hayton and L. Rowland

**Also Present:** County Councillors P Jopling, Bob Plews (Resident) and G F Smith (Clerk)

**Apologies:** Councillors W Railton and L. Taylor and County Councillor J. Bailey

### **100/11 Declaration of Interest**

None Received

**(Councillor Rowland left the meeting)**

### **101/11 Presentations to the Council**

#### **a) Miss Jessica Rowland**

Presented her portfolio which included certificates, photographs, grading and other dance programmes. She informed the meeting that she hoped one day to become a Dance Teacher and would be taking RAD Grade 7 during examination in October.

Members thanked Jessica for her presentation and wished her every success in the future, following by a round of applause.

Members agreed to support her with a cheque for £125 from the N-Power Community Fund.

**Miss Rowland Left the meeting**

**Councillor Rowland returned to the meeting.**

#### **b) Christine Emerson**

Provided details of funding received for her to obtain NVQ Level 3 in youth work (distance learning –electronically). The full cost of the course was £800, £400 had been received from Health Service, £150 from local youth panel (Bill Niblo), £125 N-Power Community Fund. This meant there was a short-fall of £125.

Members agreed to donate £125 (Power of Well Being) and for the cheque to be payable to Tow Law Community Association who would pay the full cost to the relevant learning authority. Christine thanked Members for their support.

Members wished Christine every success with her studies.

**Christine Emerson left the meeting**

### **102/11 Police Report**

No report received

### **103/11 Representation by Residents**

Mr Plews raised the following concerns:-

- a) Allotment site at Dan's Castle
- b) Anti Social Behaviour (Rear of High Street)

### **104/11 County Councillors report**

**County Councillor Jopling reported:-**

- a) Boundary Committee report on the new electoral arrangement for DCC.
- b) Visit to Tow Law Millennium Primary School
- c) Crook Baths.
- d) Housing Review by DCC
- e) Grot Spots
- f) Home Housing (swings missing from play areas in Tow Law)

**105/11 Minutes of the Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2011**

Minutes agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman

**106/11 Matters Arising****Page 1****Matters Arising (062/11)****3 year plan**

Work on the plan is ongoing, Clerk/Assistant Clerk to update at September meeting.

**Section 106 Allocation (081/11)**

Clerk to send any details to all Councillors. Councillor Grogan had arranged for this matter to be placed on the agenda for the next AAP Board meeting.

**Page 2****Members Reports (175/10)**

Localism Bill (Councillor Batson)

Setting up a Partnership Committee

Clerk to report to September meeting. (Files have been located)

**Planning Matters (026/11)**

Planning application by McInerney Homes

No further update, Clerk to contact the Planning Officer at DCC and report to September meeting.

**Members Reports (035/11)**

**e)Smith Street/Wolsingham Road** (Councillor Rowland) - Entrance feature

**Councillor Rowland** updated the Members on a meeting she had with **Phil Stannard (DCC)**

Who will arrange for slow "sign" markings set in red thermoplastic screed to be placed to the existing school warning signs on the B6301. If additional drivers information sign is requested (would have to be funded by school/Town Council/local CC Members).

Provision of Town Nameplates at the 30MPH signs (DCC to fund its erection) Condition of PCC slab paving in Smith Street passed to Colin Hodgson (DCC).

Off-Road parking problem in Smith Street to be formalised and turned into "lay-bys" (funding from Town Council/AAP/Local Members).

Inspection of all Town approaches other than A68 to be carried out at a later date.

**f) Bridge Street** (Councillor Rowland) - Entrance Feature

DCC would not consider moving the stone structures containing the Town name plate.

Planting of the planters passed onto Steven Johnson (DCC).

**Other Areas:-**

Missing coping stones on the garden structure by the monument in Wolsingham Road, passed to Steven Johnson (DCC)

The Co-op in High Street "I have checked the adoption records and can confirm that the Highway maintained at Public expense (adopted Highway) is up to the rear of the existing footway, this means that the service road immediately behind the footway and adjacent to the Co-op is private. Suggest that the Town Council ask them to have the "in" and "out" markings repainted. Also suggest that they erect "no entry" signs to the exit from the shop service road. As long as they are behind the adopted Highway and on Private land then a traffic regulation order is not required".

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

The area has been inspected and some work has been done (removal of branches and grass cutting) other outstanding issues have been reported to Graham Harrison (DCC).

Update at the September meeting.

**j) Meeting of the Allotment Committee** (Councillor Blacker)

The Clerk updated Councillors of an Allotments Committee meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> July 2011 (Councillor Gale (Chair) Councillors Graham, Green, Railton and Rowland attended).

**Millennium Green Site**

Water problems (drainage/pond), Members recommended that a local contractor (John Telford) be employed to carry out investigative site works.

**Members agreed with this recommendation.**

Fencing by footpath to be removed by John Telford whilst on site.

**Clerk** to report parking markings at Trex Gym to DCC.

**Dan's Castle Site**

Members recommended that a local Contractor (Batsons) be employed to trim the 3 vacant allotment sites, road and entrance. **Members agreed with this recommendation.**

Clerk informed the meeting that this work was now complete, 3 allotment sites have been let and Mr Burrows has agreed to share the allotment site.

Clerk has chased up Northumbrian Water for the provision of a metered water supply to the site.

Clerk to purchase a heavy duty padlock with keys for all allotment holders as soon as possible.

**Ridley Terrace Site**

Members recommended that a local Contractor (Batsons) be employed to trim the site entrance road and one allotment site (rented by Robert Wilkinson). Chair/Clerk to discuss with Mr Wilkinson the state of the allotment site (overgrown) and if he wishes to give the allotment up then it would be offered to the person next on the waiting list. **Members agreed with these recommendations.**

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

CRB Checks

Details passed to Steve Ragg (CDALC)

**Clerk's Report (056/11)**

a) DCC – response regarding Grot Spot Campaign (3 Towns AAP)

**Members agreed** with the email; sent by the Clerk on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2011 (No response from County Council).

**Members also agreed:-**

a) For the Clerk to obtain details of AAP funding allocated to Crook, Willington and Tow Law.

b) For the Clerk to write to the Chief Executive (DCC) express the concerns on the fund that was wrongly spent on what is already budgeted for street cleaning, grass cutting, litter picking, public footpaths, fly tipping and clearance of waterways.

**Members Reports (057/11)**

b) Property details by Local Estate Agent (Reeds Raine)

No further response. Clerk to write to Association of Estate Agents.

**Trex Gymnasium (072/11)** - Joint Steering Group

Meeting to be held on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2011. Update at the September meeting.

**Millennium Green Trust (074/11)**

Checking of equipment still outstanding Chair and Councillor Gale to arrange inspection with Stephen Moralee.

**Chairman's Report (AGM 21/11)**

Meeting with Mr Bob Alders (no to Wolds Wind Farm)

Meeting took place on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2011 at the Church Hall commencing at 12.30pm

A thank you card has been received from the group.

**Members Report (AGM 23/11)**

2 (i) proposed extension to doctors surgery (Councillor Rowland)

Remove from the agenda (work is for Langley Park Surgery)

2 (ii) MP surgeries at Tow Law (Councillor Rowland)

MP details on Council's notice board. Clerk registered on MP Web-site to obtain details of surgeries and updates.

**Millennium Green Trust (092/11)**

Banking arrangements

Clerk making progress with Barclays Bank PLC, report to September meeting.

**Councillor Vacancy (093/11)**

Details have been sent to the Hilltop Community Associations report to September meeting.

**Boundary Committee – draft recommendations for DCC (095/11)**

The Clerk reported on a special meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011:-

Members agreed to the proposal for a one member ward for Tow Law (including the Hilltop Villages and Elm Park Terrace). Clerk to inform the Boundary Committee of this decision.

Councillor Hayton had spoken to a number of residents of Elm Park Terrace and they were in favour of being part of the Tow Law Electoral Division as opposed to the Wolsingham Division.

**Page 4****Members Reports (098/11)**

1. Repositioning of seat in Bridge Street (Councillor Hayton)

Clerk to obtain further details and report to September meeting.

2. County Plan (Councillor Gale)

Members agreed with the email sent by the Clerk on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2011 (acknowledgement received from DCC)

**107/11 Planning Matters**

a) Application 3/2011/0007 for Mr I Robson for minor amendments (roof details) to planning application (3/2006/0644) at land adjacent to Northside Court, Smith Street.

**Decision** – Members agreed to raise no objection subject to adjacent resident being consulted (Clerk to check with Planning Officer)

b) Application 3/2011/0142 for Mr A Bowes for a bedroom extension at 54 Deerness Estate

**Decision** – No objections

c) Application 3/2011/0214 for Miss L McConaghie to replace flat roof with sloping tiled roof, erection of brick wall and dwarf lean-to conservatory at 41 High Street

**Decision** – No objections

d) Application 3/2011/0238 for Mr R White to re-pointing of front elevation at 5 Attwood Place - **Decision** – No objections

e) Application 3/2011/0239 for Cannon Atkinson to re-pointing of front elevation at 4 Attwood Place - **Decision** – No objections

f) Application 3/2011/0241 for Mr & Mrs Power for first floor extension, conversion of garage to habitable space. Erection of double garage with storage space above at Brick Flats Cottage

**Decision - details to be sent to all Councillors.**

**108/11 Accounts for payment**

That approval be given for the payment of vouchers 23 to 49 in the sum of £17756.24

Report attached to these Minutes

**109/11 Tow Law Plan**

Clerk to chase this matter up and report to September meeting.

**110/11 Trex Gymnasium**

Councillor Grogan updated the meeting on progress of works being carried out in the gym.

Work was ongoing to develop the gym for school children from Tow Law Primary Schools.

The Chair asked Councillor Grogan to keep the Council up to date with present and any future developments at the gym.

**111/11 Area Action Partnership**

Councillor Green, Grogan, Hayton and the Clerk updated the Members on the AAP Board meeting which was held on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2011. All agreed that the meeting strayed from the agenda to discuss the proposed closure of Crook Baths (not agended) and lasted approx 20 minutes. Councillor Green and the Clerk left the AAP Board meeting at this point (7.15 pm) and Councillor Hayton followed 5 minutes later.

Member agreed for the Char, Vice Chair and Clerk to meet with the AAP Co-ordinator (Sandy Denny) to express the Councillors concerns.

**112/11 Millennium Green Trust**

Clerk is setting up banking arrangement with Barclays PLC.

**113/11 Councillor Vacancy**

Clerk to update at September meeting.

**114/11 Chairman's Report**

The Chair to attend a meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> July to discuss Crook Baths (rescue scheme)

**115/11 Clerk's Report**

The **Clerk** reported on the following:-

**1) N-Power Community Fund** – applications for funding were received and referred to the Finance & General Purposes Committee for further discussion:-

- a) Tow Law Community Project
- b) Friends of the Oaks, Spennymoor
- c) Tow Law AFC Junior (under 13s)
- d) Planning Activities Group (Sure Start Parents)
- e) St. Philips & St. James PCC

**2. Correspondence**

Items for discussion:-

- f) CDALC – nomination for Vice President on the Executive Committee  
Members agreed to support Councillor Batson, Clerk to inform Steve Ragg
- g) County Durham & Cleveland County Training Partnership – Councillor training in September/October; cost £27 per delegate.

Expression of Interest from Councillors Brown, Green, Railton and Rowland

- h) County Durham & Darlington NHS – improving stroke care in the Community, public consultation finishes 11<sup>th</sup> September 2011. Clerk to send details to all Councillors

**11611 Members Report**

1) Councillor **Gale** reported on the following:-

West Durham Wind Farm

Raised concerns regarding the Committee's decision on the application by the Community Association to be deferred for further information. Members were disappointed with this situation and agreed for the Clerk, Councillors Green and Rowland to look at applying for funding projects for the Millennium Green and report to the September meeting.

2) Councillor Grogan reported on the following:-

Section 106 allocations (agenda for the next AAP Board meeting).

**117/11 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of Tow Law Town Council will be held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2011 commencing at 6.30pm in the Community Centre.

The Meeting finished at 8.30pm