

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of **Tow Law Town Council** held on Tuesday **20th September 2011** in the Community Centre commencing at **6.30pm**

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

Also Present: County Councillors J Bailey, Mr Caulfield (Resident) S Denny (AAP Co-ordinator) and G F Smith (Clerk)

Apologies: Councillors P Graham, W Railton and County Councillor P. Jobling

118/11 Declaration of Interest

None Received

119/11 Police Report

No report received

120/11 Representation by Residents

Mr Caulfield raised concerns regarding anti social behaviour on land rear of his property at Wolsingham Road. Councillor Bailey to take up his concern with Officers at DCC.

121/11 County Councillors report

County Councillor Bailey reported:-

- a) Boundary Committee report on the new electoral arrangement for DCC.
- b) Review of Community Buildings
- c) New surface to A68 through Tow Law
- d) McInerney Homes (106 allocation)

122/11 Minutes of the Meeting held on 19th July 2011

Minutes agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman

123/11 Matters Arising from the above minutes

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Matters Arising (062/11)

3 year plan

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

Section 106 Allocation (081/11)

No further update but a presentation by DCC Officers to the AAP Board meeting on 22nd September.

Members Reports (175/10)

Localism Bill (Councillor Batson)

Setting up a Partnership Committee

Files have now been located and for the Clerk to prepare a report for the October meeting

Planning Matters (026/11)

Planning application by McInerney Homes

No further update (See County Councillors report)

Signed by the Chairman.....Page 1

Members Reports (035/11)

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

Councillor Rowland informed the Members that she will be arranging a meeting with Phil Stannard (DCC)

f) Bridge Street (Councillor Rowland) - Entrance Feature

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

A further site visit will be required.

j) Meeting of the Allotment Committee (Councillor Blacker)

The Clerk reported that some rents were still outstanding work to the site at Millennium Green (to arrange with J Telford) application form received from Northumbrian Water for a water supply to the allotments rear of Dan's Castle. Clerk to update at the October meeting.

Page 3**Chairman's Report (055/11)**

CRB Checks

Details passed to Steve Ragg (CDALC), Clerk to chase this matter up.

Clerk's Report (056/11)

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

Following a meeting with Officers from DCC anew system is now in place for the AAP to check with relevant DCC Officers regarding main stream funding. (AAP to enhance area projects). Sandy Denny confirmed that the AAP would be checking with DCC officers regarding budget allocations before any future works are carried out.

Some of the works carried out by Groundworks should have been completed by DCC from mainstream budgets(confirmed by Jimmy Bennett, DCC)

Members Reports (057/11)

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

No further update.

Trex Gymnasium (072/11) - Joint Steering Group

Agenda item no 11.

Millennium Green Trust (074/11)

Checking of equipment

Agenda item no 13

Page 4**Millennium Green Trust (092/11)**

Banking arrangements

Agenda item no 13.

Councillor Vacancy (093/11)

Agenda item no 14.

Members Reports (098/11)

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

Clerk to write to DCC

2. County Plan (Councillor Gale)

Email received from DCC no further action.

f)application 3/2011/0241 – Brick flat cottage

application approved by Planning Officer subject to resizing of garage and frontage of building

Tow Law Plan (109/11)

Agenda item no 10.

Trex Gym (110/11)

Gym session for school pupils
Agenda item no 11

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Area Action Partnership (111/11)
Agenda item no 12

Clerks report (115/11)

1) N Power Community Fund applications

The Clerk reported that the balance on the funding was £1623. Councillor Rowland informed the meeting on outstanding application for this fund and the Members agreed to refer them to the next meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

2g) County Durham & Cleland County Training Partnership
Councillor training

The Clerk informed Members that the Course planned for 19th October was full awaiting dates for the next training sessions.

Members reports (116/11)

West Durham Wind Farm (Councillor Gale)

Councillor Gale informed the meeting that the Community Association had received funding from the Banks Group of £45,000 (after being turned down by the funding committee) towards photovoltaic system for the Community Centre.

Section 106 allocation (Councillor Grogan)

Item on the AAP board agenda for the meeting to be held on 21st September

124/11 Planning Matters

a) Application 3/2011/0283 for Mr P Nichols for a single storey extension to the rear of 6 Highfields. **Decision** – Members agreed to raise no objection

b) Application 3/2011/0286 for Mr P Batson erection of 1 no detached dwelling house on land at plot 2 Smith Street. **Decision** – Clerk to contact the Planning Officer regarding the size of the proposed house.

c) Application 3/2011/0248 for Mr D Burrows replacement of garage including demolishing of existing garage at land to the rear of 96 Dan's Castle. **Decision** – No objections

d) Application 3/2011/0343 for Prof. S Regan repair of stone wall and railings at 3 Attwood Place. **Decision** – No objections

125/11 Accounts for payment

That approval be given for the payment of vouchers 50 to 66 in the sum of £11383.02
Report attached to these Minutes

126/11 Tow Law Plan

The Clerk reported that the notice board has been ordered with DCC

127/11 Trex Gymnasium

Councillor Grogan informed the meeting that the children from Tow Law Primary schools were now using the facilities at the gym.

128/11 Area Action Partnership

Sandy Denny updated the meeting on the work of the AAP, task and finish groups and funding arrangements. The next forum meeting will be held on 17th November 2011. Sandy agreed to provide a report on funding that has been granted to organisations within Tow Law (request from Councillor Rowland) she also informed the meeting on a future health project for Tow Law by Durham Rural Community Council / Durham NHS.

129/11 Millennium Green Trust

Outstanding items:-

1. Banking arrangements
2. Inspection of equipment

130/11 Councillor Vacancy

No applications have been received. Members to contact the Clerk with any proposed nominations for the vacancy.

131/11 Summer Holiday Activities

Christine Emerson reported to the Council on the Summer activities programme that took place during the school holidays.

Members thanked Christine and other volunteers for all hard work and also wish to thank the admin workers for preparing tickets and posters (A Rowland & L Rowland) and Mrs Green and her staff for selling the tickets).

The Clerk produced an Income & Expenditure account for the activities.

Total expenditure £1400.02 Total Income £1400.02

(Bus Fares £300 contribution by Town Council £1100.02).

Christine Emerson left the meeting

132/11 Chairman's Report

The Chair (P Graham) had attended a meeting to discuss Crook Baths (rescue scheme)

133/11 Clerk's Report

Jenny Mountain and 3 young people joined the meeting to discuss the proposed skate park for Tow Law. Members agreed to involve the group in any meetings discussing the Millennium Green area and for the young people to make further enquiries on costings.

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

Items for discussion:

a) BDO (External Auditors) – Items raised on Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2011. Members agreed to the following amendments of the Annual Return Total fixed assets for 31st March 2010 should read £5666. Total fixed asset for year end 31st March 2011 £7801. Trust fund (Annual Governance statement should read yes.

b) ADT – repair to cctv system. ADT has informed the Council that the cctv system will cost £500 to repair. Members agreed for the repair to be carried out as soon as possible and also for the Clerk/Assistant Clerk to look at funding streams to upgrade/renew the present system.

c) DCC – Community Buildings review; consultation events and report. A copy of the report is available from the Clerk/Assistant Clerk.

d) Louise Taylor and Jenny Mountain – allotment rent (plot TC5). The Clerk read out a letter from the two allotment holder dated 12th August 2011 regarding the increase in allotment rent. The Clerk agreed that he had not advised the tenants in writing prior to the twelve month notice of the new rent. Members agreed to wave the increase of £8 in this instant and for the Clerk to inform the two allotment holders that the Council reserves the right to review the rent each year.

2. Items for Information:-

e) Durham Rural Community Council – proposed Health and Wellbeing Partnership funding for Tow Law.

f) Arriva – bus update for August 2011

g) Arriva North East – company fact sheet

h) Link County Durham – update 9th September 2011

i) Local Council review magazine; Autumn 2011

- j) Clerk and Councils Direct magazine; Autumn 2011
- k) Link County Durham – Annual Report for year ended 31st March 2011
- l) Durham Rural Community Council magazine
- m) North Pennines Newsletter; Spring/Summer 2011

134/11 Members Report

- 1) Councillor **Brown** reported on the following:-
Launch of book by the History Society
- 2) Councillor Green reported on the following:-
The pact meeting (updated police report)

135/11 Date of next meeting

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

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 TO THEM OF EXEMPT INFORMATION AS DEFINED IN SECTION 100.
Confidential item

136/11 staffing matter

The Meeting finished at 8.20pm

Signed by the Chairman.....Page 5