

## Tow Law Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2012 in the Community Centre commencing at 6.30pm

Present: Councillors P.Graham(Chairman), T. Batson, A.Blacker, J.Gale, A.Green, R.Grogan,C. Hayton, M. Hird, W. Railton and L.Rowland`

Also Present: County Councillor J. Bailey, County Councillor P. Jopling, PC Mick Rutherford (Durham Police) and G.F.Smith(Clerk)

Apologies: Councillor L. Brown

### **001/12 Declaration of Interest**

Councillor Gale declared an interest in agenda item 13c – Planning Matters; Tow Law Community Association.

### **002/12 Police Report**

PC Rutherford presented the Incidents and Crime Figures for December 2011, followed by a question and answer session.

### **003/12 Minutes of a Special meeting held 24<sup>th</sup> November 2011**

Agreed as a true record, copy attached to these minutes.

### **004/12 Minutes of a special meeting held 29<sup>th</sup> November 2011**

Agreed as a true record, copy attached to these minutes.

### **005/12 Co-option of a Councillors – Michelle Hird, 51 High Street**

Members agreed to co-opt Michelle Hird as a Councillor on the Town Council. Michelle signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Councillor, countersigned by the Council's Proper Officer (Geoff Smith) and witnessed by all Councillors present.

### **006/12 County Councillors report**

County Councillor Jopling reported on the following:-

- A)New recycling and rubbish collections for County Durham residents
- B)Sports Centres and Libraries to be run by Trusts

### **007/12 Representation by Residents**

The Clerk reported the receipt of an e-mail from Mr G Stevens, 2 Railway Street alleging a neighbour pouring chemicals over his tools on the street (reported to DCC 20<sup>th</sup> November), no action taken up to date. Members agreed to chase up the County Council to investigate the complaint.

### **008/12 Minutes of the Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2011**

Minutes agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman

**009/12 Matters Arising**

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**Representation by residents (159/11)**

Poplar Lodge

Councillor Hird reported that a meeting had taken place with owners and staff and both her and Amanda were happy with the explanation given to them.

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**Members Reports (175/10)**

Localism Bill (Councillor Batson)

Setting up a Partnership Committee

Clerk/Assistant Clerk were working towards setting up the committee/constitution/bank details.

**Members Reports (035/11)**

e) Smith Street/Wolsingham Road (Councillor Rowland)

Entrance feature

Awaiting Details from County Council (Phil Stannard)

f) Bridge Street (Councillor Rowland)

Entrance Feature

Awaiting details from County Council (Phil Stannard)

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

Awaiting response from County Council

j) Meeting of the Allotments Committee (Councillor Blacker)

Clerk to make arrangements with the Chair of the committee to discuss an outstanding matter.

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

CRB Checks

Umbrella organisation – North East Regional Employers Organisation. Clerk to contact the organisation to obtain forms etc.

**Members Reports (098/11)**

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

No further progress (DCC)

**Diamond Jubilee Commemorate Medal (151/11)**

Order placed for 500 medals on 30<sup>th</sup> December 2011. Item to be placed on the agenda for the next Town Council meeting.

**Clerk's Report (153/11)**

4) Boundary Commission for England – 2013 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies in England, response sent, copy of e-mail with the clerk.

**Page 3****Members Reports (154/11)**

1. Footpath from Ironworks Road to Doctors Surgery (Councillor Railton)  
Some works were still outstanding. Clerk to contact Bonds Foundry regarding shrubs etc encroaching onto the footpath. Dog fouling bins required for this area (County Councillors to take this matter up with County Council officers).

7. Information on website by local Estate Agent (Councillor Gale)

No further update

**Page 4****Clerk's report (171/11)**

3)DCC- Community Governance arrangements. Letter sent to DCC, no further update.

7)Laptop computer – no further update.

8)Bus trip to visit Santa Claus at Royal Quays

Income £32; cost of bus hire £200. Future bus trips to be discussed by the Finance and General Purposes committee.

9)Pensioners Party at the Community Centre on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2011

Councillor Gale update the meeting, possible changes to be made before this year's event.

**010/12 Setting the Precept for the year 2012/2013**

Members discussed the report prepared by the Clerk which showed the following example percentages of increases:-

No increase, 2.5%, 5%, 7.5%, 10% and 20%, Tax base 609.4.

Members agreed to increase the precept from £24672 to £29606 (20% increase). Typical Council Tax Band D payment of £48.58 per year or £0.934 per week.

Chairman and Clerk to complete the necessary Precept form and send it to Durham County Council by 27<sup>th</sup> January 2012.

**011/12 Precept 2012/2013 Matters arising**

Members agreed to refer the Precept figure to the Finance and General Purposes committee to discuss Income and Expenditure and make recommendations to the next Town Council meeting.

**012/12 Planning Matters**

a) Application 3/2011/0014 By Mr Suddes for amendment to Planning Application 3/2010/0444 at Thornley Pit House Farm, Bridge Street

Decision – No Objections

b)Application 3/2011/0497 by Mrs Anderson for extension of time to application 3/2008/0758 at High West House, land at East Fellside Close.

Decision – No objections

c)Application 2/2011/0439 by Tow Law Community Association to install 48 solar panels to roof at Community Centre, Ironworks Road

Decision – No objections

**013/12 Accounts for Payment**

That approval be given for the payment of vouchers 86 to 102 in the sum of £5257.94,

Report attached to these minutes.

**014/12 Tow Law Town Plan**

Clerk to arrange a meeting with businesses involved in the plan (ie Bonds Foundry (John Forsyth), Co-op, Greggs, BT and Doctors Surgery).

**015/12 TREX Gymnasium**

Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2011 with Steve Howell and Terry Collins (DCC). Further meeting arranged for 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2012 to discuss the next steps with Julie Russell and Nigel Dodds (DCC).

**016/12 Area Action Partnership**

Next AAP Board meeting is Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2012 at the Civic Centre, Crook commencing at 6.00pm (Chair and Vice Chair to attend).

**017/12 Millennium Green Trust**

No further update.

**018/12 Chairman's Report**

No report

**019/12 Clerk's Report**

**A) Correspondence**

- 1) CCTV system in Tow Law. Clerk to obtain prices to upgrade the present system, discussions to involve the Police.
  - 2) CDALC – Small and Medium Local Councils Forum; 17<sup>th</sup> February 2012 at Peterlee (Chair and Clerk to attend).
  - 3) DCC /CDALC – Olympic and Jubilee celebrations. Item to be discussed at the next Town Council meeting.
  - 4) Three Towns AAP – Participatory Budgeting (£8000); next meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2012 at the Civic Centre, Crook
  - 5) DCC - Change to rubbish and recycling collections
  - 6) Application for funding; N-Power Community Fund. Referred to Finance and General Purposes committee for further discussion.
- For information:-
- 7) Clerks and Council Direct magazine; January 2012

**020/12 Members Report**

Localism Bill (councillor Batson)

Councillor Batson updated the meeting on the progress of the Bill (ie Power of Competence and the Standards Board).

**021/12 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of Tow Law Town Council will be held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2012 commencing at 6.30pm in the Community Centre.

**That pursuant to Section 100 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 by them of exempt information as defined in Section 100.**

**Confidential Item**

**022/12 Properties/office accommodation in Tow Law for the Town Council**

Item referred to the Finance & General Purposes committee. The Chair asked Councillor Gale to attend the committee meeting.

The meeting finished at 7.45pm

