

Tow Law Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 21st February 2012 in the Community Centre commencing at 6.30pm

Present: Councillors P. Graham (Chairman), T. Batson, J. Gale, A. Green, M. Hird, and L. Rowland`

Also Present: County Councillor J. Bailey, Lesley Millgate (DRCC) and G. F. Smith (Clerk)

Apologies: Councillors L. Brown, R. Grogan, C. Hayton, W. Railton, L. Taylor and County Councillor P. Jopling,

023/12 Declaration of Interest

None Received.

024/12 Police Report

No Report Received

025/12 Presentation by Lesley Millgate (DRCC)

Lesley presented "Community Led Plans and the Localism Bill" The item covered the following:-

- a)What are Community Plans and Benefits
- b)How to create a Community Led Plan
- c)Associated costs and timescales
- d)Implications of the Localism Bill (Neighbourhood Planning)
- e)Pilot Projects

Following by a question and answer session. Members agreed to further discuss this matter at the next Town Council meeting.

026/12 Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th January 2012

Minutes agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman

027/12 Matters Arising

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Members Reports (175/10)

Localism Bill (Councillor Batson)

Setting up a Partnership Committee

Clerk/Assistant Clerk working towards setting up the committee/constitution/bank details and will report the progress to the next Town Council meeting

Members Reports (035/11)

e) Smith Street/Wolsingham Road (Councillor Rowland)

Entrance feature

Assistant Clerk to chase up DCC and report progress to the next Town Council meeting

Signed by the Chairman.....page 1

f) Bridge Street (Councillor Rowland)

Entrance Feature

Assistant Clerk to chase up DCC and report progress to the next Town Council

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

Assistant Clerk to chase up DCC and report progress to the next Town Council

j) Meeting of the Allotments Committee (Councillor Blacker)

As Councillor Blacker was absent, the Clerk agreed to arrange a Committee meeting as soon as possible to tackle the outstanding matters on all allotment sites.

Chairman's Report (055/11)

CRB Checks

Clerk/Assistant Clerk to arrange for the application forms to be sent from the North East Regional Employers Organisation and provide an update report to the next Town Council meeting.

Members Reports (098/11)

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

Assistant Clerk to chase up DCC and report progress to the next Town Council meeting.

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Members Reports (154/11)

1. Footpath from Ironworks Road to Doctors Surgery (Councillor Railton)

Assistant Clerk to chase up Probation Service and report progress to the next Town Council

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

No further update

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Clerk's report (019/12)

1) CCTV System in Tow Law

Assistant Clerk to update at the next Town Council meeting.

2) CDALC – Small and Medium Local Councils Forum - 17th February 2012

Councillor Graham updated the meeting on the first forum meeting held at Peterlee. Unfortunately the first hour was spent discussing the relationships between the AAP and Parish Councils. Members agreed for the Clerk to write to CDALC (Steve Ragg) expressing their concerns on the amount of time spent on discussing the work of the AAP and Parish Council representation of the AAP Board and hope this will not be repeated in future meetings.

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028/12 County Councillors Report

County Councillor Bailey reported on the following:-

a) DCC Budget Savings

b) DCC no increase in Council Tax for 2012/2013

c) Community Buildings Report

d) County Councillors Fund deducted to £20,000 for 2012/13

e) Provision of dog bins for footpath leading from football club to doctors surgery

f) Provision of Bus Shelter in High Street (opposite new co-op site)

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029/12 Representation by Residents

None present

030/12 Report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 3rd February 2012

NOTE: Councillor Gale proposed a change to the report on properties/office accommodation in Tow Law for the Town Council. Item to be discussed at the next Town Council meeting.

Members agreed the following recommendations for:-

3. Precept/Budgets 2012/13

4. N-Power Community Fund

Copy of the report attached to these minutes

031/12 Olympic Torch/Queen Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

a) Olympic Torch

Assistant Clerk updated the meeting of the visit to Tow Law of the Olympic Torch on 16th June 2012. Due to the Security concerns the route and timing will be announced 2 weeks prior to the event. The Community is to be encouraged to dress the route and also line the route. A small working party has been set up to include the Town Council, The Community Association and the two Primary Schools. Further updates at the next Town Council meeting.

b) Queen Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

Assistant Clerk informed the meeting that £1000 was available from the Three Towns AAP to fund events leading up to the Jubilee Celebrations. The form is to be completed by 1st March 2012. Further updates at the next Town Council meeting.

032/12 Accounts for Payment

That approval be given for the payment of vouchers 103 to 108 in the sum of £1515.94

Report attached to these minutes.

033/12 Tow Law Town Plan

Assistant Clerk updated the meeting on discussions with John Forsyth (Bond's Foundry), further meetings to be arranged as soon as possible, followed by meetings with other businesses involved in The Plan (Co-op, Greggs, BT and Doctors Surgery).

Assistant Clerk also updated the meeting on the information board for the Town Centre, meeting with DCC design team scheduled for Monday 27th February 2012. Update at the next Town Council meeting.

034/12 TREX Gymnasium

Meeting with Officers from (DCC) scheduled for Wednesday 22nd February 2012, Update at the next Town Council meeting.

035/12 Area Action Partnership

The next AAP Board meeting is Thursday 22nd March 2012 at the Civic Centre, Crook commencing at 5.30pm

036/12 Millennium Green Trust

No further update.

037/12 Chairman’s Report

No report

038/12 Clerk’s Report

Inform for Discussion:-

A) £8000 Participatory Budget from the AAP for the Tow Law, Sunnyside, Billy Row and Stanley Crook. Event to be held in week commencing 25th June in the Community Centre, Tow Law. Bids by groups, voting to take place on the night (same as last year).

Members agreed that the £8000 funding should be subject to bids from groups in the area and subject to a scoring system (electronic voting system). Clerk to inform the Hill Top Community Partnership/AAP of this decision. Application forms to be available from the Town Clerk and to be returned to him (date to be agreed).

Items for Information:-

B)County Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Authority – Integrated risk Management Plan; details from the Clerk; responses by 2nd March 2012.

C) Digital UK – switching to digital in September 2012; details from the Clerk.

D) DCC (Electrial Services) – Manager Linda Spence, telephone and email contact details available from the Clerk.

E) Coal Industrial Social Welfare Organisation – details on improving lives in Coalfield communities, available from the Clerk.

Applications for funding (referred to the Finance & General Purposes Committee)

F) Great North Air Ambulance –

Applications for funding from N-Power Community Fund (referred to the Finance & General Purposes Committee):-

G)Tow Law Brownies (Joanne Burrows) contribution towards insurance costs (24@£16.75)

H) Tow Law Rainbows (Joanne Burrows) contribution towards insurance costs (20@£16.75)

039/12 Members Report

National Council (NALC) - Councillor Batson

Councillor Batson had been elected as Vice Chairman of the NALC Policy Committee

040/12 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Tow Law Town Council will be held on Tuesday 20th March 2012 commencing at 6.30pm in the Community Centre.

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The meeting finished at 7.55pm