

## Tow Law Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2012 in the Community Centre commencing at 6.30pm

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

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

**Apologies:** Councillors T. Batson, C. Hayton, W. Railton, L. Taylor and County Councillor P. Jopling,

**041/12 Declaration of Interest**

Councillor Gale declared an interest in agenda item 17j (Clerk's Report) – Tow Law Community Association

**042/12 Police Report**

No Report Received

**043/12 Minutes of the Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2012**

Minutes agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman

**044/12 Matters Arising**

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**Community Led Planning (025/12)**

Deferred to meeting of Planning Committee

**Members Reports (175/10)**

Localism Bill (Councillor Batson)

Setting up a Partnership Committee – referred to outstanding items report

**Members Reports (035/11)**

e) Smith Street/Wolsingham Road (Councillor Rowland)

Entrance feature – referred to outstanding items report

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f) Bridge Street (Councillor Rowland)

Entrance Feature – referred to outstanding items report

g) Cemetery at Dan's Castle (Councillor Rowland) - referred to outstanding items report

j) Meeting of the Allotments Committee (Councillor Blacker) – meeting arranged for 21<sup>st</sup> March 2012

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

CRB Checks (umbrella organisation – North East Regional Employees Organisation) – referred to outstanding items report

**Members Reports (098/11)**

1. Repositioning of seat in Bridge Street (Councillor Hayton) – referred to outstanding items report

**Members Reports (154/11)**

1. Footpath from Ironworks Road to Doctors Surgery (Councillor Railton) – referred to outstanding items report

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2. Information on website by local Estate Agent (Councillor Gale) – Clerk to write to CDALC in the hope of some action. County Councillor Bailey to contact Manager of Reeds & Raine (Crook).

**Clerk's report (019/12)**

1) CCTV System in Tow Law – Invoice received for Annual Maintenance Charges 2012/2013, Members agreed to review this agreement. Quotation (verbal) received to repair camera 2, Members agreed not to arrange for this repair to be carried out but for the Clerk/Assistant Clerk to arrange for quotations to review the present system and to report to the next Finance & General Purposes Committee.

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**Report of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2012 (030/12)**

Changes to the Minutes “The committee recommended to the Town Council that Members should view some of the properties vacant in Tow Law”. Members voted on this recommendation, 4 votes for 4 votes against, the Chair used the casting vote (against). Therefore the decision was not to accept the recommendation.

**Olympic Torch/Queen Diamond Jubilee Celebrations (031/12)**

Torch will visit Tow Law on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June, Starts at Inkerman (17.14) and finish at Smith Street.

Medal Presentation (Jubilee Celebration) is to take place Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June in the Community Centre at 2.30pm. All Councillors were encouraged to come along and help with the presentation.

**045/12 Minutes of a Special Meeting held 7<sup>th</sup> March 2012**

Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman

**046/12 Matters arising from the above minutes**

Clerk reported that he had sent the response to the County Council

**047/12 County Councillors Report**

County Councillor Bailey reported on the following:-

- a) Dog bins for Tow Law
- b) New bins for recycling
- c) P B Budgeting (AAP)
- d) 3 Towns AAP Youth Awards to be held 7<sup>th</sup> April 2012 at Helme Park Hotel commencing at 7.00pm
- e) Bus shelter for High Street (Councillor Bailey had discussed this matter with Councillor Foster and was hopeful of a new bus shelter being provided by DCC)
- f) Crook Town Council
- g) Funding applications for Park Wall opencast site, report to the next Town Council meeting.

**048/12 Representation by Residents**

None present

**049/12 Planning Matters**

None to report

**050/12 Accounts for Payment**

That approval be given for the payment of vouchers 109 to 112 in the sum of £1327.32

**051/12 Tow Law Town Plan**

Discussions are still ongoing with County Council's design team

**052/12 TREX Gymnasium**

Costs received from DCC (Nigel Dodds)  
Referred to Special Town Council meeting.

**053/12 Area Action Partnership**

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

**054/12 Millennium Green Trust**

Referred to Special Town Council meeting.

**055/12 Chairman's Report**

Attended CDALC meeting

**056/12 Clerk's Report**

**Application for Funding (N-Power Community Fund)**

- a) Brad Hopps
  - b) Tow Law Football Club
- Referred to the Finance & General Purposes Committee

**Items for discussion:-**

- c) Provision of dog bags – costs £7.19 per 1000 (boxes of 2000). Members agreed to purchase 20 boxes at a cost of £287.60 + vat using the County Durham Parish Councils Purchasing scheme organised by Great Aycliffe Town Council.

**Items for information:-**

- d) ADT Fire and Security PLC – CCTV Annual Maintenance charges 2012/13
- e) Olympic Torch relay – details of street routes  
[www.durham.gov.uk/olympictorchrelay](http://www.durham.gov.uk/olympictorchrelay)
- f) Clerks and Councils Direct Magazine; March 2012
- g) Local Council Review Magazine, spring 2012
- h) BDO External Auditors – Audit Briefing ; winter 2012
- i) DCC – Childrens Network Directory – available from the Clerk
- j) Tow Law Community Association – increase in office rent referred to Special Town Council meeting
- k) Letter from Katie Ward (aged 10) – asking for some more seaside trips. “we went to one last year that trip was fabulous”.
- l) Litter Free Durham – details on “Big Spring Clean Campaign” 16<sup>th</sup> April to 11<sup>th</sup> May 2012

**057/12 Members Report**

a)McInerney Homes site at Tow Law (Councillor Hird)

Councillor Hird raised concerns at the site of the McInerney Homes site in Tow Law, which is presently under the Ownership of the Liquidators.

Members agreed for the Clerk to write to the Liquidators asking for them to arrange to have the site tidied up, as soon as possible

b)Council Garage site rear Railway Street/Alpine Way (Councillor Green)

Councillor Green raised concerns regarding a skateboard ramp that had been placed on the above garage site and also young people gathering, playing music/drinking alcohol/fire/anti-social behaviour/breaking glass. The area was owned by Home Housing. Councillor Hird updated the meeting that she had spoken to Home Housing who were dealing with these concerns.

c)Park Wall Opencast site – Funding (Councillor Grogan)

Councillor Grogan asked if there were any groups from Tow Law that had applied for funding from this scheme. Councillor Gale said that the Community Association (Jenny Mountain) had been unsuccessful with the funding bids.

Councillor Bailey would check this matter with the Funding Committee and report to the next Town Council meeting.

**058/12 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of Tow Law Town Council will be held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2012 commencing at 6.30pm in the Community Centre.

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The meeting finished at 7.30pm