

Tow Law Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of Tow Law Town Council held on **Tuesday 17th April 2012** in the Community Centre commencing at 6.30pm

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

Also Present: PC M. Rutherford (Durham Police) and G. F. Smith (Clerk)

Apologies: Councillors A. Blacker, W. Railton, County Councillors J. Bailey and P. Jopling.

059/12 Declaration of Interest

Councillor **Gale** declared an interest in agenda item 15 (h) - Clerk's Report
Councillor **Hird** declared an interest in agenda item 4 – matters arising, allotment report

060/12 Police Report

Pc Rutherford presented the report (incidents and crimes) for March 2012; copies for January/February are available from the Clerk, followed by a question and answer session.

Members agreed for the Clerk to write to the Chief Constable to express their thanks to PCSO Strong for the work he carried out in Tow law and looked forward to working with his replacement.

061/12 Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th March 2012

Add Councillor Grogan to the attendance list, subject to this amendment the Minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

062/12 Matters Arising

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Members Reports (035/11)

j) Meeting of the Allotment Committee (Councillor Blacker)

Report of meeting held 21st March 2012 was circulated at the meeting.

Members agreed the following:-

The Allotment TT007 be split into two Allotments (D. Laing and D. Burrows to share)

- That a fence and gate be erected (cost approx £250) at the site.
- Tenancy agreement to be sent out to all Allotment Holders dated 17th April 2012 stating "All other agreements are NULL and VOID".
- Clerk to chase up Northumbrian Water for costs and installation details for the Allotment Site rear of Dan's Castle.
- Clerk to chase up Contractor for costs and work schedule regarding water problems from the pond onto the Allotment site adjacent to Millennium Green.
- Clerk to write to all Allotment Holders to arrange a meeting to discuss the possibility of setting up an Allotment Association.
- Inspection of sites to be arranged at the next Committee meeting.
- Allotment rent review to take place prior to 1st September 2012

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Clerk's report (056/12)

c) Provision of dog bags – order placed with CDALC

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Members Reports (057/12)

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

Clerk has written to receivers (KPMG) – no response

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

Clerk to obtain more details on approved applications from the fund (Town Council was to receive favourable consideration from UK Coal).

063/12 County Councillors Report

No report

064/12 Representation by Residents

None present

065/12 Planning Matters

None to report

066/12 Accounts for Payment

That approval be given for the payment of vouchers 1 to 10 in the sum of £3210.59

067/12 Tow Law Town Plan

Discussions are almost finalised with DCC Design Team, should be completed by the end of May 2012. Car Park Committee to meet with Bonds Foundry and other organisations as soon as possible.

068/12 TREX Gymnasium

Special Town Council meeting to be convened as soon as possible, awaiting further details from DCC (Nigel Dodds)

069/12 Area Action Partnership

The next AAP Board meeting is 24th May 2012 at the Civic Centre, Crook commencing at 6.00pm.

070/12 Millennium Green Trust

Special Town Council meeting to be convened as soon as possible

071/12 Chairman's Report

Councillor Graham announced that he would not be standing for re-election as Chairman of the Town Council.

072/12 Clerk's Report

Application for Funding (N-Power Community Fund)

Items for information:-

A) BDO External Auditors – Audit for year ended 31st March 2012

➤ Audit date 20th July 2012

- Display Notice (Electors Rights) from 4th June to 17th June
- Make records available from 18th June to 13th July
- Approve accounts by 30th June
- Approve audited annual return by 30th September 2012

B) HMRC – Employer Annual Return by **19th May** 2012

C) 2D Newsletter; issue 1; 2012

D) DCC – Children's Network Newsletter; April 2012; issue no 15

E) Report from Jenny Mountain – positive alternatives to alcohol abuse and awareness in the Tow Law area.

F) Application to N-Power Community Fund by Tow Law AFC Juniors for running costs for 2012/13 season. Referred to Finance and General Purposes Committee.

G) General Power of Competence – training course for Clerk and Assistant Clerk 3rd May at Ferryhill.

H) Tow Law Community Association – application to increase rent as from 1st April 2012. Members discussed the possible alternatives to the present accommodation for the Clerk and Town Council. Councillor Gale agreed to take these proposals to the AGM of the Community Association. Members agreed for three Councillors to sit on the Management Committee of the Community Association (Councillors Batson, Brown and Hird). Members also agreed to pay the rent of £825 (excluding proposed increase) for the quarterly rent due 1st April 2012.

073/12 Members Report

Lack of play equipment in Tow Law (Councillor Brown)

The Clerk/Councillor Rowland responded regarding lack of funding from various funding bodies (Big Lottery/Playbuilders etc,) work was still ongoing in developing a site on the Millennium Green.

074/12 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Tow Law Town Council (AGM) will be held on Tuesday 15th May 2012 following the Annual Meeting of Electors which commences at 6.30pm in the Community Centre.

The meeting finished at 7.30pm