

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a special meeting of Tow Law Town Council held on 7th November 2012 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.30pm.

Present: Councillors J. Gale (Chair), T. Batson, A. Blacker, L. Brown, P. Graham, A. Green, C. Hayton and M. Hird.

Also present: G F Smith (Clerk)

Apologies: Councillor L. Rowland

178/12 Declaration of Interests
None

179/12 Christmas Trees 2012
The Clerk had received a request from two Councillors (Green and Hayton) to withdraw the minute agreeing to cancel the provision of Christmas trees for 2012 (minute 174/12 (b) dated 16th October 2012). A vote followed to rescind this minute in order to further discuss this matter, three voted for this action, therefore the minute would stand.

Councillor Batson joined the meeting

Members agreed to discuss this matter further with alternative ways of providing one tree, the original 65 trees by alternative means of contributing by residents and the use of the N-Power Community Fund. The area in High Street opposite the Co-op had been designated for the Christmas tree area during work carried out by the County Council (URRI Scheme). Following a recent meeting with a County Council officer there appears to be some confusion as to the actual ownership. Other sites were mentioned but because of timescale and cost of tree, light bulbs and electricity supply it was agreed not to pursue these actions for this year.

Members did agree to:-

- a) Increase the Christmas competition prizes from £250 to £500 from the N-Power Community Fund, giving more residents a chance to win a prize. Clerk to consult with Chair, Vice Chair and Chair of Finance on the number and value of prizes.
- b) Increase publicity of the Christmas competition (ie Newsletter and posters).
- c) Make progress with establishing that area in High Street for one large Christmas tree in 2013.

180/12 Members reports
Councillor Brown raised a number of concerns regarding the Hedleyhope Fell. Members agreed that these matters should be brought to the attention of East Hedleyhope Parish Council.

181/12

Clerk's report

Councillor vacancy – The Clerk reported that he had received a nomination from Councillor Hird for Emma Hindmoor, 45 Bridge Street, Tow Law to be considered for the vacancy following the resignation of Councillor Railton. Members agreed to interview her at a special Town Council meeting to be held prior to the next ordinary meeting (20th November).

The meeting finished at 7.20pm