

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 20th November 2012 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6:30pm.

Present: Councillors J. Gale (chairman), P. Graham, A. Green, C. Hayton, E. Hindmoor, M. Hird and L Rowland

Also Present: G. F. Smith (Clerk), G. Scott (DCC) and C. Umpelby (Resident)

Apologies: Councillors L. Brown

- 184/12 Declaration of interest**
Councillor Hird declared an interest in Agenda Item 25A – Clerk’s Report.
Councillor Gale declared an Interest in Agenda Item 25D – Clerk’s Report
- 185/12 Presentation by Mr Gavin Scott (DCC) on “Neighbourhood Planning – What does it mean for your Community?”**
Topics covered included the following:-
 - The Localism Act and Planning
 - The National Planning Policy Framework
 - The County Durham Plan
 - The County Durham Plan and Neighbourhood Plans
 - Neighbourhood Development Orders
 - Community Right to Build
 - The Role of Durham County CouncilFollowed by a question and answer session. The Chairman thanked Mr Scott for his presentation.
Mr Scott Left the meeting
- 18612 Minutes** of the ordinary meeting held on **16th October** 2012 agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
- 187/12 Matters arising**
None
- 188/12 Minutes** of a Special Meeting held on **7th November** 2012 agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman
- 189/12 Matters Arising**
None
- 190/12 Minutes** of a Special Meeting held on **20th November** 2012 agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman
- 191/12 Matters Arising**
Emma Hindmoor (45 Bridge Street, Tow Law) having been elected (co-opted) to the Office of Councillor signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, countersigned by the Proper Officer of the Council (Town Clerk) and witnessed by those Councillors present at the Meeting.
- 192/12 Police Report**
No report received.
- 193/12 County Councillors Report**
No report received.
- 194/12 Representation by residents**
None

- 195/12 Planning matters**
A) Planning Applications
 Application 3/2012/0443 by Mr G. Craggs for single storey rear extension at 83 High Street, Tow Law – **Decision – No Objections**
B) Neighbourhood Planning
 Members agreed for the Clerk to write to DCC informing them of their interest in applying for funding to help produce a Neighbourhood Plan for Tow Law.
- 196/12 Accounts for payment**
 That approval is given for the payment of vouchers 62 to 71 on the sum of £4589.07. Copy of report attached to these minutes.
- 197/12 Councillor Vacancy (Councillor Grogan)**
 Members noted that “The notice of vacancy in the office of Councillor” had been placed on the Council’s Notice Board on 26th October 2012. Closing date for requests for an election was 15th November 2012, no requests had been received. Members agreed to receive the nomination of Clare Umpelby, 28 Alpine Way, Tow law and for the Clerk to arrange a Special Meeting for an interview.
- 198/12 Tow Law Town Plan**
 The Clerk was arranging a Contractor to install the new Notice Board. The Clerk had arranged to place the notice board on the Council’s Insurance Policy. Outstanding meeting with Bond’s Foundry regarding the Car Park site.
- 199/12 Trex Gymnasium**
 No further progress.
- 200/12 Area Action Partnership**
 Next AAP Board Meeting 29th November 2012 at The Civic Centre, Crook, commencing at 6.00pm (Chair, Vice Chairman and Clerk attending, vacancy for one other Councillor to attend (Cllr Hindmoor?))
- 201/12 Millennium Green Trust**
 Councillor Rowland updated the meeting on her work with Helen Horner of Proludic Ltd on developing the Millennium Green Site (i.e. Play area, seating areas, outdoor gym equipment and lighting), further updates as the project develops. Councillor Rowland also updated the meeting on her work on developing a volunteer group to carry out projects on the site (i.e. litter picking, tying up etc), further updates as the project develops. Members agreed to support both schemes
- 202/12 Dispensations (To Councillors before the Council discusses or sets its Precept to enable Councillors to legally set the Precept).**
 Members agreed for the Clerk to prepare a report to the January Town Council Meeting for members to consider
- 203/12 Funding Opportunities**
 Assistant Clerk to produce a report to the January Town Council Meeting for Members to consider
- 204/12 Town and Parish Councils event held 29th October 2012**
 The Chairman updated the meeting on a very disappointing meeting at Bowburn which included presentations on the following:-
- Community Buildings Project (Coxhoe)
 - Working Together (Parish/Town Councils and DCC)
 - Localism and Parish Councils
 - Neighbourhood Planning
 - County Durham Partnership

- 205/12 Council Tax Support Scheme and Council Tax Base 2013/14**
Members noted the letter received from DCC dated 11th October 2012.
Final details to be announced on 5th December 2012.
- 206/12 Chairman's report**
The Chairman raised a number of concerns regarding the ESB International West Durham Windfarm Community Benefit Fund administered by County Durham Community Foundation. The funds supports Community and voluntary groups and schools, priority is given to the villages of Cornsay, Cornsay Colliery, Hamsteels, East Hedleyhope and Satley or to the wider Community within a ten mile radius of the site, if the Project directly benefits the residents of the above areas.
Members agreed to invite the Fund Manager (Brenda Dye) to attend a Special Town Council Meeting in December to discuss the criteria and priority areas including Tow Law.
- 207/12 Clerk's Report**
1. Items for discussion
i) Application for funding – Tow Law Parent/Children Group
Members agreed:-
To contribute towards transport costs to visit Stadium of Light in December/January after completing food, fitness and fun course through Sunderland AFC from the N Power Community Fund.
Members agreed to donate £250 towards the Project.
ii) Application for funding – Tow Law First Scouts Group
To contribute £50 towards cost of minibus to take Beavers to Cubs and Scouts District Carol Service 11th December 2012. (N-Power Community Fund)
Members agreed to donate £50 towards this Project.
iii) Application for funding – Tow Law Youth Project for funding towards Michael Walker to complete an Arts award Bronze and Silver adviser Training Course.
Members agreed to donate £125.00 (N-Power Community Fund)
iv) Tow law Community Association contribution towards cost of a Pantomime "Yellow Brick Road" on 2nd December in the Community Centre.
Members agreed to donate £250.00 towards this Project. (N-Power Community Fund)
2. Items for information:-
v) Winter Salting Routes 2012/13
vi) Clerks and Councils Direct Magazine; November 2012
vii) DCC (Planning) – Refusal of Planning Permission for Anaerobic digestion plant at High Hedleyhope farm, East Hedleyhope.
viii) HMRC – Getting ready for real time information from April 2013
ix) BDO (External Auditor) – Changes to Extranet for Local Councils
x) War Memorials Trust Magazine; November 2012
- 208/12 Members Reports**
Tow Law Town Partnership (Councillor Green)
Councillor Green outlined her idea to set up a Tow Law Town Project Partnership to work alongside/with the Town Council and other organisations.
The partnership would employ a person (approx 8 hours per week) to work on town projects, completing funding application forms, follow up work on each project and produce progress reports for meetings.
The person appointed would have contact with the AAP and Town Council.
The Clerk informed the meeting that the previous Partnership had £587.29 in their bank account (Barclays) and the AAP had awarded £1080.00 from the Participatory Budget funding scheme.
Following a discussion in which Members agreed that Councillor Rowland was doing a good job (voluntary) on many of the above mentioned tasks they proposed not to progress this idea but for the Clerk/Assistant Clerk to prepare a report on the use of the £1667.29 funding to be used by the newly formed volunteer group for Millennium Green.

209/12

Date of next meeting

The next ordinary meeting of Tow Law Town Council will be held on Tuesday 15th January 2013 commencing at 6:30pm in the Community Centre.

The meeting finished at 8.20pm.

Signed by the Chairman.....page 4