

## TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2013 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6:30pm.**

**Present:** Councillors J. Gale (chairman), T. Batson, A. Blacker, L. Brown, P. Graham, A. Green, C. Hayton, E. Hindmoor, M. Hird, L Rowland and C. Umpelby

**Also Present:** G. F. Smith (Clerk)

**Apologies:** Councillors L. Taylor, PCSO Lauren Blackett and County Councillor J. Bailey

- 001/13 Declaration of interest**  
Councillor Rowland agenda item 7 – County Durham Community Foundation
- 002/13 Minutes** of the ordinary meeting held on **20<sup>th</sup> November** 2012 agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
- 003/13 Matters arising**  
None
- 004/13 Minutes** of a Special Meeting held on **11<sup>th</sup> December** 2012 (Councillor Vacancy) were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman
- 005/13 Matters Arising**  
Councillor Umpelby signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Councillor, countersigned by the Clerk and witnessed by the Councillors present at the meeting.
- 006/13 Minutes** of a Special Meeting held on **11<sup>th</sup> December 2012 (County Durham Community Foundation)** were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman
- 007/13 Matters Arising**  
None
- 008/13 Police Report**  
No report received. The Clerk reported that PCSO Blackett would be moving to Wolsingham, Members wished to thank her for the good work she has carried out in the Community. Her replacement would be PCSO Stewart Liddle.
- 009/13 County Councillors Report**  
Councillor Jopling - No report  
Councillor Bailey – The Clerk reported on repairs of Pot Holes and AAP Funding (£500k) for crook Projects in February.

- 010/13 Representation by residents**  
 The Clerk reported on a petition received from residents regarding a lack of a Civic Christmas Tree in Tow Law. Members were aware of the financial position of the Council's finances in 2012/13 and the problems relating to the land ownership for the proposed site for the Christmas tree. Members agreed to discuss the matter when they consider the budget for 2013/14.  
 No residents were present at the meeting.
- 011/13 Dispensation**  
 The Town Council agreed to grant a dispensation to all Councillors which will obviate any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest they may have in any business of the Authority where that business concerns the setting of Council Tax or a Precept under the Local Government Finance Act 1992.  
 This Resolution ends on the day before the next relevant Annual Meeting of the Council (a relevant Annual Meeting is the Annual Meeting that is held by the Council in a year of Ordinary Elections (2<sup>nd</sup> May 2013).
- 012/13 Council Tax Base and Setting the Precept for 2013/14**  
 Members discussed the various options (standstill, +5% and +10% on present Precept £29606).  
 It was agreed:-  
 a) to increase the Precept by 10% for the year 2013/14 calculation (£29606 + 10% 2961 = 32567 less DCC grant £7504 = £25063), therefore the Precept will be £25063. subject to the following:-  
 i) the Council agree a budget based on the above figures  
 ii) The Council look closely at all Income/Expenditure for 2013/14  
 iii) The Council reconsiders the provision of Christmas trees for 2013.  
 Note this was agreed by all Councillors at the meeting
- 013/13 Planning matters**  
**A) Planning Applications**  
 i) Application 3/2012/0478 by Mr E. Todd for change of use from Public House to flat at the Old Station Inn, 63 High Street, Tow Law  
**Decision – No Objections**  
 ii) Application 3/2013/0527 – **Item withdrawn**  
 iii) Application 3/2013/001 by Mr. D. Gains for erection of 4 dwellings (resubmission) at plot 1 and 2 rear of North Road, Tow Law  
**Decision – No Objections**  
 iv) Application 3/2012/0539 by Mr R. Bell for extension to existing agricultural building at land South of North Road, Tow Law  
**Decision – No Objections**  
**B) Neighbourhood Planning – No further update**
- 014/13 Accounts for payment**  
 That approval is given for the payment of vouchers 72 to 91 on the sum of £2560.99. Copy of report attached to these minutes.

- 015/13      Tow Law Town Plan**  
No further update
- 016/13      Trex Gymnasium**  
No further update
- 017/13      Area Action Partnership**  
Next AAP Board Meeting 17<sup>th</sup> January 2013 at The Civic Centre,  
Crook, commencing at 6.00pm
- 018/13      Millennium Green Trust**  
No further update  
Councillor Rowland reported that the Volunteers Group had not met.
- 019/13      Chairman's report**  
No report
- 020/13      Clerk's Report**  
**N-Power Community Fund**  
a) application for funding from Tow Law Junior Football Club – deferred  
to Finance and General Purposes Committee
- 021/13      Members Reports**  
None
- 022/13      Date of next meeting**  
The next ordinary meeting of Tow Law Town Council will be held on  
Tuesday **19th February** 2013 commencing at 6:30pm in the  
Community Centre.

The meeting finished at 7.15pm