

## TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

### **Minutes of the meeting of Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2013 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.30pm.**

**Present:** Councillors J. Gale (Chairman), T. Batson, A. Blacker, L. Brown, R. Grogan  
E. Hindmoor, M. Hird, L. Rowland, P. Stokes and C. Umpelby

**Also Present:** County Councillor J. Hart, PC M. Rutherford (Durham Police) Mrs H.  
Horner (Produlic Ltd) and G. F. Smith (Clerk)

**Apologies:** Councillors J. Fowler and A. Green

**133/13 Declaration of interest**  
None

**134/13 Minutes of a the Ordinary meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2013**  
Amendments page 3 minute 126/13  
Should read “ The Clerk updated the Members on a meeting (8<sup>th</sup> July) attended by the Chairman, Vice Chair and the Clerk with Barrie Alderson and Paul Irwin of the County Council regarding the transfer from DCC to the Town Council of the above building and grounds (including football field and BMX track), awaiting response from Durham County Council. Subject to the above amendments the minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**135/13 Matters arising**  
None

**136/13 Police Report**  
Report for the month of August 2013 was circulated at the meeting, followed by a question and answer session. Next PACT meeting 26<sup>th</sup> September 2013, present priorities are dog fouling and littering, a speed matrix has recently been deployed in Tow Law.

**137/13 Presentation by Helen Horner of Proludic Ltd “Tow Law Play Strategy”**  
Helen presented detailed proposed drawings for the following schemes:-  
a) Millennium Green – including fitness area, teen area, toddler area and junior area (also includes benches/seats and lighting columns for pathways)  
b) Alpine Way – 2 bay swings and summit net  
c) Deerness Estate – multiplay unit, combination swing, speed Gyro picnic table  
d) Pennine View – multiplay unit, combination swing and horse springer  
e) Attlee Estate – details to be agreed  
Members agreed for Councillor L. Rowland to work with Proludic Ltd (Helen Horner) to try to obtain funding for the above proposed schemes before carrying out any further public consultation.  
Further discussion at the next Town Council meeting

- 138/13 County Councillor Report**  
 County Councillor Hart reported on the following:-  
 Speeding traffic calming (in line with Billy Row enhanced signage)  
 Overhanging bushes at Ironworks Road – **resolved**  
 Rats at Grove Road - investigated  
 Section 106 funding - update  
 Waste bin on Millennium Green – **resolved**  
 Anaerobic digester at High Hedley Hope farm. East Hedley Hope –  
 objections to discharge of 6 conditions
- 139/13 Representation by residents**  
 None
- 140/13 Planning matters**  
 A) Planning Applications  
 i) Withdrawn – application CMA/3/54 temporary siting of metrological mast  
 at High West Moor farm, Tow law  
 ii) application 1/2013/08/DRC discharge of 6 conditions following the  
 refusal of planning permission by DCC and granted by the Secretary of  
 State  
 Deision – Members agreed to object to the conditions being discharged  
 for cleaning protocol, construction activity, operational activity, schedule of  
 materials, site investigations, tree planting scheme, noise monitoring  
 protocol and HGV routing protocol.
- 141/13 Accounts for payment**  
 That approval be given for the payment of vouchers 34 to 49 in the sum of  
 £3027.42.Copy of report attached to these minutes.
- 142/13 Expenditure report from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013**  
 Members accepted the report of the Clerk, details as follows:-
- |                           |                        |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Cost Heading              | £.p                    |
| Staff Costs               | 7807.62                |
| Admin Expenses            | 355.33                 |
| Office rent               | 1800.00                |
| N-Power Community Fund    | 1400.00                |
| Audit Fees                | 82.25                  |
| Councillor/Staff Training | 322.04                 |
| Allotments                | 42.07                  |
| Miscellaneous             | 1427.96                |
| Holiday Activities        | 350.00                 |
| Vat                       | <u>54.00</u>           |
| <b>Total</b>              | <b><u>13641.27</u></b> |
- 143/13 Annual Return (Audited) for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013**  
 Members agreed to approve the Audited Annual Return for the year ended  
 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013 and for the Notice of Conclusion of Audit to be placed on  
 the Council's Notice board and web site.

- 144/13      Tow Law Town Plan**  
 The Chairman had held discussions with Graeme Hoggins of the Home Group regarding the siting of the Walks Information Board on their land on the corner of Church Lane/Alpine Way.  
 Members agreed to pay the legal fees to complete the formal agreement to allow the board to be erected on their (Home Group) site
- 145/13      Sports Recreation Centre**  
 No further update from DCC
- 146/13      Area Action Partnership**  
 Last AAP Board meeting held 12<sup>th</sup> September (Chairman unable to attend)  
 Next AAP Board meeting 28<sup>th</sup> November 2013 at Crook commencing at 6pm.  
 Your money Your area Your views event (funding schemes) to be held on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2013 at Crook Primary School. Councillor Grogan reported that he had been selected to sit on the evaluation panel for the above proposed funding schemes.
- 147/13      Millennium Green Trust**  
**Reports by Councillor Hird and Rowland**  
 The Volunteer Group were looking at the following:-  
 Working with the Heart of Durham volunteer group  
 work carried out on the pond area  
 Cutting grass and raking the area (arson fire on site)  
 Completed funding application form sent to Northumbrian Water – awaiting decision.  
 Wild flower planting had commenced (Beavers) + local school children  
 Spring Clean event – winner of the draw (£20) County Councillor Hart, donated to the volunteer group  
 Next litter pick event 29<sup>th</sup> September 2013.
- 148/13      Chairman's report**  
 Reported in agenda items AAP/Town Plan
- 149/13      Clerk's Report**
1. Section 106 money for Tow Law held by Durham County Council. Members were concerned with the recent release of Section 106 monies held by Durham County Council. It was agreed for County Councillor Hart/Clerk/Assistant Clerk to make further enquiries regarding the ex Mcininery homes site and report to the next appropriate Town Council meeting.
  2. NALC National Pay Award (1%) from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 Members agreed to pay the new pay scale.
  3. Wet n' Wild Trip 29<sup>th</sup> August 2013 The Clerk read out a letter from Jenny Mountain (young person support/development worker), TLCA on the above event which had 36 attending (2 workers/2volunteers). Members agreed to defer this matter to the Finance Committee for further discussion on future funding.
  4. Notice Board at Community Centre  
 The Clerk reported that the notice board had been damaged/vandalised and was in need of being replaced. Members agreed for the Clerk to make the necessary arrangements

**150/13**

**Members Reports**

Councillor Batson reported on his election as Chairman of the Sustainable Communities Board (NALC) in London

Councillor Umpelby raised the following concerns:-

a) Parking of vehicles near crossing areas in High Street (near the War Memorial) and possible need for bollards to be erected. It was agreed to report this matter to the Police and County Council's Highway's section.

b) fencing erected obstructing alleged public footpath at Highfields Estate/Deerness estate

Assistant Clerk to contact Elaine Crow (DCC) Public Rights of Way Officer at DCC to:-

i) obtain a map of public footpaths in the Tow Law area

ii) discuss the above concern raised by Councillor Umpelby and report to the next Town Council meeting

**151/13**

**Date of next meeting**

The next Special meeting of Tow Law Town Council will be held on Thursday **19<sup>th</sup> September 2013** commencing at 6:30pm in the Community Centre.

The next Ordinary meeting of Tow Law Town Council will be held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2013 commencing at 6.30pm in the Community Centre.

The meeting finished at 8.45pm

Signed by the Chairman.....page 4