

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 18th February 2014 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.30pm.

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

Also Present: Janine Ann Ross-Blakey, Philip Blakey (Sunderland), Damion Anderson, Lorraine Anderson (residents), County Councillor J. Hart and G. F. Smith (Clerk)

Apologies: Councillor L. Brown, J. Fowler and A. Green

Councillor Grogan raised a concern that Councillor Batson had failed to give reasons for his apology to attend the last two Town Council meetings.

Before the meeting commenced the Chairman wished to remind Councillors of the following:-

- **Correct procedure to attract his attention to enable a Councillor to speak at a Town Council meeting.**
- **Showing respect to all Councillors during discussions.**
- **Stopping of Secondary meetings during debating.**
- **Only one Councillor to speak at any one time during the meeting.**
- **Allow the Chair, Clerk or other Councillor the chance to respond to the question and not to continue challenging the issue.**

020/14 Declaration of interest

Councillor J. Gale – agenda item 17 (a) Clerk's Report

021/14 Commemorating Centenary of 1st World War

The Clerk updated Members on a meeting of the Committee (Councillor Gale, Grogan, Stokes and the Clerk) held on 17th February 2014:-

- Organisations to contact – Schools, Churches, British Legion (Colin Hayton), History Society, Reenactment groups and Community Association (Jenny Mountain).
- Councillor Grogan updated the meeting on a proposed two day event on 2/3rd August 2014 by the History Society, additional helpers would be required.

Note: Councillor Grogan had spoken to Jenny Flynn regarding use of the Community Centre for this event, but was informed that it was closed for the annual maintenance programme. The Society may have to re-locate to the Church Hall.

- Possible funding opportunities – County Councillor, AAP, Heritage Lottery and War Memorials Trust.

Members agreed the following:-

- a) That the Town Council be the co-ordinating body for all communities to engage in WW1 Commemorations.
- b) The Tow Council to apply for funding for the renovation and conservation of the War Memorial in the Town.
- c) For the Clerk/Assistant Clerk to work additional hours on the above projects and the payment to be claimed from AAP Funding (£1080) for partnership working (already obtained/in bank balance).
- d) That the Town Council not a committee make the decisions on this project.

022/14

Presentation by Janine Ann Ross-Blakey and Philip Blakey “Banner Group for Tow Law”.

Janine explained that she is creating a banner for Tow Law (a replica of the original Black Prince Banner) at her own expense with the hope of getting the residents of Tow Law to join her to form a Banner Group for Tow Law. The idea is to restore four banners more professionally and regularly taking part in the Miner’s Gala each year. The main idea is to have the banners on display at the two schools and Community Centre, Replica Banners to be made at a cost of approximately £200 to be used by the local school children at events (including annual events at Beamish) and the setting up of a local Banner Group in Tow Law.

Janine Ann Ross-Blakey and Philip Blakey left the meeting

Members agreed:-

- For the Clerk/Assistant Clerk to contact officers at the Miner’s Hall, Redhills Durham regarding the four original Banners.
- The Town Council to contribute £50 (County Councillor Hart to contribute £50) towards creating “Replica Banners”.
- Item to be placed in the next edition of the Council’s Newsletter asking for volunteers to join a Banner Group etc.

023/14

Presentation by Damion Anderson, 5 Attlee Estate

Damion explained his reasons why he had applied for funding from the N-Power Community Fund to help upgrade his motor cross bike to enable him to race for the North East Moto Cross Club and hopefully ride for the North East at National levels. He also circulated photographs, certificates and trophies he has taken part in.

Members thanked Damion for his presentation

Damion and Lorraine Anderson left the meeting

Members agreed:-

- To donate £125 from the N-Power Community Fund to Damion for his project
- For Damion to consider further sponsorship from the Town Council to promote Tow Law (stickers on crash helmet, gloves etc), subject to sponsors agreement.

024/14

Minutes of a the Ordinary meeting held on 21st January 2014

Amendment page 2 minute 008/14 accounts for payment

Remove vouchers 59 to 69 (November) and “should read” that approval be given for the payment of vouchers 73 to 86 in the sum of £3603.25. Copy of report attached to these minutes”.

Subject to the above amendment the minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

025/14

Matters arising

i) Councillor Stokes reported that the temporary mast at High West Farm had been removed.

ii) Repair to Clock at Community Centre to be carried out on Wednesday 19th February (at 9.30am).

026/14

Police Report

No report received.

- 027/14 County Councillor Report**
County Councillor Hart reported on the following:-
- Planning application (3/2013/0464) requested to be determined by Committee
 - Bus shelter at Dan's Castle
 - Draft DCC Play Strategy
- 028/14 Representation by Residents - None**
- 029/14 Planning matters**
A) Planning Application – None
B) Neighbourhood Planning
The Clerk had circulated the following:-
- The 3 key milestones in Neighbourhood Planning and sources of support
 - Neighbourhood planning – service level agreement DCC
- Members agreed to invite a member of the County Council's Spatial Policy Team to advise and direct the town council on the next steps in the Neighbourhood Planning process (i.e. carry out the pre-submission consultation and publicity/formation of draft plan etc.)
- 030/14 Accounts for payment**
Amendment "voucher 87 should read TLCA office rent 1/1/14 to 31/3/14 £900.00" subject to the above amendment approval be given for the payment of vouchers 87 to 94 in the sum of £2786.75. Copy of report attached to these minutes
- 031/14 Tow Law Town Plan**
A) Car Park
No further updates from DCC (Jill Angus), County Councillor Hart and Clerk to chase this up as a matter of urgency
B) Play Areas
Councillor Rowland updated the meeting, further report to the next Town Council meeting.
- 032/14 Area Action Partnership**
A) Next AAP board meeting – 13th March 2014 at Crook (6pm)
b) Meeting with Sandy Denny (AAP Co-ordinator) – Members updated
- 033/14 Millennium Green Trust**
Councillor Hird reported on the following:-
- Feedback to Branchout (Northumbria Water)- funding body
 - Beavers and Cubs to carry our regular litter picks
 - Next litter pick to take place on Sunday 23rd February 2014 at 1-30pm
 - Reminder to Chief Constable (Durham Police) regarding litter pick
 - Reminder to Police Commissioner (Ron Hogg) regarding litter pick
- The Clerk read out a letter from Christine Wilson, 63 Dan's Castle, Tow Law Dated 10th February 2014 regarding the condition of the footpaths and also the absence of appropriate lighting on the Millennium Green and two alleged incidents on 23rd January 2014 at 1-45pm and 4th February 2014 at 5-55pm
Members agreed to receive the letter and wait to see if there are any further developments.

034/14 Chairman's report

The Chair reported that he and the Clerk had recently visited the Castlebank Residential Home to present the Council's cheque (£250 from the N-Power Community fund) to the Manager of the establishment.

035/14 Clerk's Report

A) Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on Tuesday 4th February 2014 were circulated at the meeting.

Members agreed with the recommendations:-

1. Christmas Tree (Civic)

- i) Clerk to obtain quotation for electricity (mains)
- ii) Review types of lights, i.e. solar/battery/main supply/coloured bulbs
- iii) Involve Schools (i.e. carol service)
- iv) Involve other organisations (i.e. Greggs/Co-op) for refreshments
- v) Agree who is going to do which jobs (ask Richard Batson etc) regarding the erection of the tree and removal
- vi) Information in Council Newsletter before the event
- vii) Encourage the idea of "Tree of Remembrance"

2. Christmas Trees (Households)

- i) Continue with this event i.e. providing trees

3. N-Power Community Fund Applications

- i) Invite Damion Anderson to the next Town Council meeting to make a short presentation on his application.

ii) Donate £100 to following projects:-

- a) Support a "one act panto" to be held in the Community Centre in December 2014.

- b) Support for the Easter Holiday programme (workshops for sport and dance).

- c) Support a textile group who meet on the 4th Saturday of each month in the Community Centre.

- d) Support a Youth Group in making their own skate ramps during club sessions in the Community Centre.

4. N-Power Community Fund Application form

Amend the application form to include (from 1st April 2014):-

- Presentation on proposals by applicants
- Further information on groups (i.e. numbers involved)
- Need for feedback (What was the money spent on)
- Need for evidence (Photos reports etc)

B) N-Power Community Fund – application from Beth Liddle, 39 Wolsingham Road. Members agreed not to support this application.

036/14 Members Reports

Councillor Rowland reported on the following:-

- Foodbank
- Employability workshops
- Council Website

037/14 Date of next meeting

The next Ordinary meeting of Tow Law Town Council will be held on Tuesday 18th March 2014 commencing at 6.30pm in the Community Centre.

The meeting finished at 8.45pm