TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE – 12TH JULY 2005

PRESENT: Councillor P.Graham (Chairman)

Councillors T.Batson, A.Green, E.Morris, & C.Rand

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Councillor J.Day

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

There were no declarations to report

3. **COMMUNITY FUND APPLICATION**:

The meeting considered as Appendix 1 the application on behalf of the Community Association for assistance towards the cost of arranging two one-day outings to Hamsterley Forest for young people of primary and secondary age groups. The estimated cost of the two trips, including coach hire, use of a guide and cycle hire was £572 including VAT. Following discussion, and having regard to the Town Council's policy in the administration of the Community Fund, it was:

Recommended: That the sum of £250 be awarded towards the cost of the outings

4. TOWN CLERK'S HOURS OF DUTY:

The meeting discussed as Appendix 2 the report by the Clerk on this matter, which had been referred by the Council for the Committee's consideration.

The report was drawn up following the joint recommendations by the National Association of Local Councils and the Society of Local Council Clerks, as to the hours of duty for Clerks of Town & Parish Councils of varying sizes, number of meetings etc. The report indicated the financial implications of an increase in the number of hours worked over and above the present 10. Following discussion, and in view of the Council's stated ambition of extending the scope of its activities, it was

Recommended: That the Clerk's hours of duty be increased to 15 per week, to be reviewed after six months and thereafter at yearly intervals.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT:

The Clerk presented a Statement of Account for the first quarter of the financial year. The report indicated an available balance at the end of June of £18459.97 of which the sum of £5121.00 was in respect of the ring fenced fund for future maintenance of the play areas taken over from Wear Valley District Council (£3000), and the Community Fund (£2121. The amount remaining available to the Town Council was accordingly £13338.97 with the second

half-year Precept payment of £7500 becoming available at the end of September.

Recommended: That the information given in the financial report be Noted.

6. COMMUNITY FUND STATEMENT:

The Clerk presented a Statement of Account relating to the Fund, indicating that at the end of June, three payments totaling £752 had been made, leaving an available balance of £2121 for distribution.

Recommended: That the information given be Noted.

7. OTHER BUSINESS:

Councillor Batson and the Clerk reported on their forthcoming meeting, along with the Vice Chairman of the Council, with Chris Tunstall, Assistant Chief Executive (Environmental Change) of Durham County Council. The meeting had been convened to discuss various proposals which had been made during the Foot & Mouth outbreak for the regeneration of Tow Law, and a report would be made to the Town Council at its meeting on 19th July.

Recommended: That the information given be Noted.

8. <u>FUTURE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS</u>:

It was Agreed that a further meeting of the Committee be held on Tuesday 6^{th} September 2005 at 7 p.m.