

## TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2017 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.30pm.**

**Present:** Councillors J. Gale (Chair), T. Batson, A. Blacker, J. Fowler, M. Hird, A. Lamb, T. McFadden, F. Nicol, C. A. Wilson

**Also Present:** County Councillor J. Hart, G F Smith (Clerk) M Lowe, S. Carter (Durham County Council), and R. Manchester and C. Batson (Residents)

**001/17 Apologies**

Councillor P. Stokes (unwell)

**002/17 Declaration of interest**

Councillor **Hird** declared an interest in item **16** – Millennium Green

**003/17 Neighbourhood Planning – Presentation by Mr. Michael Lowe (DCC)**

Mr Lowe presented a report on Neighbourhood Planning followed by a question and answer session.

The Chairman thanked Mr Lowe and Mr Carter for attending the meeting and presenting a very informative report.

Both officers left the meeting

Members agreed to further discuss this matter at the next Town Council meeting (setting –up a workshop and financing the process).

**004/17 Minutes of a the Ordinary meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2016**

Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman

**005/17 Matters Arising**

- **Tow Law Play Area**

Awaiting response from Natural England, Clerk to discuss with Proludic Ltd to avoid a price increase and to place an official order for the equipment immediately after the agreement from Natural England.

- **CCTV**

Copies of land owners consent required by the Clerk (County Councillor Hart to pass details onto the Clerk asap). On receipt of the above consents the Clerk raises an Official order as follows:-

- a) Baydale Ltd (£12070.00 + vat)
- b) DTA Consulting Engineers (£1250.00 + vat)
- c) Durham County Council – N.G.A. line.

- Land at Tow Law (proposed car parking rear of Co op) agreed to lease the land from Durham County Council at £200 per annum (this amount will be met from County Councillor's Hart members Initiative Fund for up to five years (rent until suitable purchase price from DCC)

- N Power Community Fund application by Tow law Millennium Primary School for a Pantomime in November 2016. The Chairman and Vice Chairman had approved to donate £250 to this application. Members approved their actions.

- Town's Councils Web Site had now been updated (Councillor Lamb requested to meet with the Web Site Manager (Mr Rider), Clerk to arrange.

- Facebook, awaiting details from Steve Ragg (CDALC) regarding necessary Policies that must be in place beforehand, Clerk to report to the Council as soon as possible.
- Town Council Newsletter – Clerk hopeful to produce a copy by the end of February. Items from Councillors to the Clerk by the next Town Council meeting.
- Good Councillors Guide Book – delivered to all Councillors.

**006/17 N- Power Community Fund**

The Clerk reported that the balance in the account was **£1586.73**.  
 The Clerk read an application from the Art Group which meets in the Community Centre for funding to start up stained glass making. The funding would help towards glass cutters, grinding wheel, fusing iron, some stained glass and tin foil edging.  
 The group had already received a grant in this financial year to set-up the group.  
 Members wished to support this application and agreed to donate £250 from the Council’s reserve funds.

**007/17 Police /Pact Report**

- Next meeting in Willington
- No further updates

**008/17 County Councillor Report**

County Councillor Hart reported on the following:-

- County Council Finance (Precept 2017/18)
- Trex cctv – April 2017 (approx)
- Councillor Batson raised the following report with County Councillor Hart – Durham Works Programme – Youth Employment Initiative. Members agreed to support this project (clerk to obtain further information)

**009/17 Representation by Residents – None**

**010/17 Setting the Precept 2017/2018**

Members agreed to no increase in Band D Tax Rate  
 (stay at £71.56 p.a.)  
 Precept £32824.57  
 Grant £4328.00  
 Total **£37152.57**

Details in the next edition of the Council’s newsletter, noticeboard and web Site.

**011/17 Chairman’s Report**

Councillor Gale reported on the following: -

- Vandalism on Millennium Green (report by Police)
- Opening event at Tow Law Fell (Picture frame of Newspaper report presented to Councillor Hird to be placed in the Clerk’s Office.
- Walks brochure stand required for Greggs in High Street, agreed to purchase replacement.

012/17

**Planning matters**

- 1) Planning Applications  
DM/16/03900/FPA by Mr P Blackett for replacement single storey rear extension and garage at 10 Bridge Street, Tow Law  
**DECISION – No objections**
- 2) DM/16/03844/AD by Food Programme Delivery Orchid Group for installation of signs with some illumination at the Co-op, 47a High Street, Tow Law  
**DECISION – No objections**
- 3) DM/16/03783/FPA by Mrs E Hamilton for garage and parking with Granny flat over at Thornley Villa, Ironworks Road, Tow Law  
**DECISION – No objections**
- 4) DM/03849/FPA by Mr T Watson for replace hayshed with smaller modern agricultural type building at land and buildings to the West of Browns Houses, Inkerman Road, Tow Law  
**DECISION – No objections**

013/17

**Accounts for payment**

- A) Members gave approval for the payment of vouchers 63 to 75 in the sum of £6501.50
- B) Expenditure Costs 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016

<b>Details</b>	<b>£.p</b>
Staff Cost	12200.43
Admin Expenses	167.25
Office Rent	2700.00
Environment	785.46
Allotments	37.35
Miscellaneous	2717.70
Community Fund	3850.00
Audit Fees	265.00
Donations	269.25
Web Site Fees	119.96
Christmas Activities	650.00
Vat	439.89
<b>Total</b>	<b>24202.29</b>

014/17

**Road Traffic Calming measures in Tow Law**

Councillor Wilson updated the meeting on actions she had carried out (Police and County Council Officer). Councillor McFadden responded to some of the actions, the Chairman stopped any further discussion on this matter. At this point Councillor Wilson verbally resigned as a Councillor on the Town Council and left the meeting.

015/17

**Planting trees in Tow Law**

Councillor Lamb updated the meeting on some proposals to plant trees in various locations in Tow law. Members agreed for a more comprehensive report to be produced for the next Town Council meeting.

016/17

**Tow Law Millennium Green**

Councillor Hird reported on the following:-

- Planting of fruit trees/bushes on the 15<sup>th</sup> February by pupils of Millennium Primary School.
- Drainage problems – to be further discussed at the next Town Council meeting.
- Funding Income/Expenditure from AAP – to be further discussed at the next Town Council meeting.

017/17

**Clerk's Report**

The Clerk reported on the following:-

- Next Smaller Council Forum, 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2017 (2pm) at Shildon (Purdah period on Agenda)
- Letter from DCC – Register of Electors 2016 (published 1<sup>st</sup> December); copy in Clerk's Office.
- Thank you letter from Tow law Millennium Primary School for the donation towards Pantomime at the School in November 2016.

018/17

**Members Reports**

**Councillor McFadden:-**

- Christmas Tree 2016 (Disappointing)
- Christmas Tree 2017 – meeting with the Clerk after the meeting.
- Electricity supply for Tree/s this year – discuss with the Clerk after the meeting.
- CCTV – already discussed earlier in the meeting.

**Councillor Lamb:-**

- Christmas Party held in December 2016; successful but £100 loss, disappointed with the lack of Town Council representative. Thank you to Councillor Nicol for the work carried out on the evening.
- Repairs to play areas in Tow Law – to be placed on the agenda for the next Town Council meeting.

**Councillor Fowler: -**

- Parking problems at the Co-op premises/car park area/High Street (Landlord details from the Clerk).
- Dog fouling (Private property) – reporting details from the Clerk (DCC Environment Health).

019/17

**Date of next meeting**

The next Ordinary meeting will be held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2017 commencing at 6.30pm in the Community Centre, Tow Law.

The meeting finished at 9.15pm

Signed by the Chairman.....page 4