

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 15th April 2025, commencing at 6.30pm in the Community Centre, Tow Law.

PRESENT: Councillors F. Nicol (Chair), T. Bland, M. Craggs, J. Fowler, E. Mather and P. Stokes(late).

ALSO PRESENT: County Councillor R. Manchester and G. F. Smith (Clerk).

069/25 APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Councillors P. Eastwood, K. Duffy, M. Dyer, and J. Gale,

070/25 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor Nicol declared an interest in agenda items Nos 10 Tow Law Community Centre, and item 11 Tow Law Food Bank.

Councillor Craggs declared an interest in agendas items Nos 8 Allotments, No 10 Tow Law Community Association and item No. 11 Tow Law Food Bank.

071/25 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 15th October 2024

The minutes were agreed by the Councillors and signed by the Chair.

072/25 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 18th March 2025

Minutes were agreed by the Councillors and signed by the Chair.

073/25 ACTION LIST – Were circulated prior to the meeting, agreed as a true record by the Councillors.

074/25 COMMUNITY FUND

The following applications were received and will be discussed at the next Town Council meeting:-

Tow Law Community Association – Repair to clock.

Tow Law Millennium Primary School – Summer School.

Beaufort Wind Farm – Remittance Advise dated 14/04/2025 paid into Council's Bank account £5381.24 (Community Fund for 2025/26).

Signed.....Chair

075/25 REPORT BY THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Because of the Purdah Period the Chair and Vice Chair had no report.

076/25 ALLOTMENTS

The Clerk was making further investigations regarding the sale of the Pigeon Loft Sites on Millennium Green and will report back to the Town Council as soon as possible.

077/25 LAND REAR OF HIGH STREET

Pot holes still outstanding. Weed Killer required to combat the excessive weeds on the site.

Contact made with Contractor to carry out 2 visits per year to maintain the Gorse and weeds.

078/25 TOW LAW COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Councillor Nicol reported on the delivery/installation of the new laptops and batteries for the solar panels. Car Parking was complete. Poster for VE Day being produced and circulated.

079/25 TOW LAW FOOD BANK

Councillor Nicol reported that demand for the service is still very high, people are becoming desperate (New Legislation).

080/25 POLICE/PACT/SPEEDWATCH

Speed watch reports for Monday 14th April 2025:-

Sunniside (The Paddock) Durham to Tow Law (Radar) 47 vehicles 9 speeding

Tow Law to Durham (Matrix) 31 vehicles 9 speeding

Tow Law Dan's Castle Durham to Tow Law 106 vehicles 4 speeding

Tow Law to Durham (Radar) 75 vehicles 7 speeding

Smith Street, Tow Law Satley to Tow Law (Radar) 22 vehicles 3 speeding

Tow Law to Satley (Matrix) 35 vehicles 4 speeding

081/25 COUTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

County Councillor Manchester reported on the following:-

- Seat on Millennium Green (Purdah).

082/25 BANK ACCOUNT (on-line banking) – Councillor Nicol to visit local bank branch to progress application.

Signed.....Chair

083/25 PLANNING MATTERS None

084/25 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The Clerk reported the following:-

- payments vouchers 01 to 07 sum of £3867.84

Members agreed to pay the above accounts.

085/25 CCTV IN TOW LAW

E Mail received from DCC (Control & CCTV Manager) have decided to keep the Tow Law CCTV Cameras in place and Care Connect will fund these going forward. These cameras are extremely useful for the prevention of crime and safety to the Public. There will be no further costs to Tow Law Town Council involved and any CCTV requests from the Police and other authorities should be submitted in the same manner.

Members noted the situation and were very pleased with the outcome.

086/25 BEEHIVE COKE OVENS

The gorse plants required further treatment and trimming back (still outstanding), Clerk to contact the Contractor regarding the setting-up of a yearly contract to maintain the Gorse each year (two visits).

087/25 TOW LAW MILLENNIUM GREEN

Documents sent to the Charity Commission, awaiting response.

Inspection of Play Equipment (Sovereign Design Play Systems Ltd), Due to meet with the Chair on Monday 14th April 2025 (awaiting response).

088/25 FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

No progress, Clerk to chase up details received from Councillor Mather.

089/25 VE DAY 8th MAY 2025

Councillor Nicol booked the Community Centre for an Afternoon Tea event/Open Day (Saturday) plus some form of children entertainment, beacon to be lite.

090/25 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk reported on the following:-

- Expenditure Report 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025 (for information only)
- Precept Remittance advice £48618.00 paid into the Council's bank Account 01/04/2025(for information only).

Signed.....Chair

091/25 MEMBERS REPORTS

Councillor Stokes – Dandelions.

Councillor Nicol :-

- Anti Social Behaviour Play Area rear of Community Centre.
- Filling Rubbish Bins
- Co-op Car Park, four pot holes (private land?)
- Sign for Car Park (needs re-aligning) DCC?
- Empty Building (private)

092/25 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 20th May 2025 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.30pm

The meeting finished at 7.00pm

Signed.....Chair