

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2022, commencing at 6.30pm in the Community Centre, Tow Law.

Present: Councillors P. Stokes (Chair), T. Ball, C. Batson, M. Craggs, P. Eastwood, J. Fowler  
E. Mather and F. Nicol.

Also Present: County Councillor R. Manchester, D Willock (Resident) and G. F. Smith (Clerk).

052/22 Apologies

Councillors: T. Batson, M. Dyer and K. Geraghty-Shewan.

053/22 Declaration of Interests

Councillor Stokes declared an interest in Agenda item No. 9 Tow Law Community Association.

Councillors Craggs and Nicol declared an interest in agenda item 9 – Tow Law Community Association and item 10 – Tow Law Food Bank.

054/22 Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2022

The minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

055/22 Action List

Action List

Members agreed to update the list.

056/22 Community Fund – No applications received.

057/22 Joint Report by the Chairman and Vice Chair

- AAP Board Meeting
- Agreed to write to Housing Solutions objecting to the proposed change to mixed use tenants (unsafe).
- Funding Theme Activities.

058 /22 Allotments

The Clerk awaiting a response from Northumbrian Water

Signed.....Chairman

059/22 Land rear of High Street, Tow Law

The Chair reported on the following:-

- He had received only one quotation. Members agreed to accept the quotation from Abtech Consulting Ltd to carry out an Ecological Appraisal of the above site at a cost of £839.00 +VAT and for the Chair to meet representatives on site, as soon as possible.

060/22 Tow Law Community Association

The Chair reported on the following:-

- New central heating boiler being installed.

061/22 Tow Law Food Bank

Councillor Nicol reported on the following:-

- The numbers visiting the food bank continues to be very busy

062/22 Police/Pact/Speed Watch Reports

The Clerk/Councillor Mather reported on the latest Speedwatch figures:-

23/02/2022 Bridge Street 53 vehicles; 4 speeding, Dan's Castle 58 vehicles; 1 speeding, Smith Street 15 vehicles; 0 speeding, Wolsingham Road 14 vehicles; 0 speeding.

063/22 Councillor Vacancy

The Clerk reported that there was still one vacancy for a Councillor, Members agreed for the Clerk to place a Notice of Vacancy on the Council's web site and noticeboard.

064/22 Section 106 Allocation of Funds

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting regarding the outstanding Section 106 Funding for Tow Law (£9428.72). Members agreed to use this funding for ditches, fencing and drain access to the entrance at Millennium Green. County Councillor Manchester to take this forward to the appropriate DCC Officer.

065/22 Facebook

Clerk to arrange a meeting of Councillors to discuss this matter, Clerk to e-mail all Councillors with appropriate date after this meeting.

Signed.....Chairman

066/22 County Councillors Report

County Councillor Richard Manchester reported on the following:-

- Speedwatch - Wolsingham Road
- Bus Stop replacement outside Co-op – replacement scheduled for April 2022
- School Crossing Patrol – need for a replacement
- Boundary Review
- Millennium Green – repairs to play area gates
- Play Areas – Inspection Reports

067/22 Representation by Residents - None

068/22 Bank Account (online banking)

Councillor T. Batson is unwell but suggested that he would meet up with the Clerk next week at the Co-operative Bank PLC at Chester-le-Street to progress this matter.

Members agreed to look into an alternative Bank (Barclays PLC) to provide this service to the Town Council.

069/22 Planning Application – None received.

070/22 Accounts for Payment

Vouchers 90 to 94 amounting to £1896.37 to be paid.

071/22 Training requirements

The Clerk had contacted Mr Steve Ragg (CDALC), he had agreed to attend the next Town Council meeting in April. The cost of the training sessions were £250.00 per session. He had four sessions available, Councillor Training; Chairmanship Training; AGAR Training and Budget Setting Training.

Councillor Mather requested details of the training sessions as some Councillors may have recently attended the courses.

072/22 CCTV in Tow Law

The clerk had sent two reports prior to the meeting:-

CCTV Charges for 2022/.2023

Maintenance 3 cameras @ £306.39 per annum =£919.17

Recording Channel 3 @ £283.87 =£851.61

Admin £62.54

Signed.....Chairman

NGA per line/per annum x 3 lines £387.48

TOTAL £2220.80

Service Level Agreement Care Connect (DCC) and Tow Law Town Council

Contract period one year from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022

SLA may be extended for a further 12 months period. The SLA may be terminated by either party by giving not less than three months written notice to the other party during the SLA period.

Members agreed to give this matter further consideration and research into the background papers etc. Item to be place on the agenda for the next Town Council meeting.

073/22 Tow Law Millennium Green

Councillor Stokes reported on the following:-

- Quotations for cleaning the ditches and repairs to the decking is still outstanding.

Councillor Nicol reported on the following:-

- Repairs to gates at the play area is still outstanding

Councillors Craggs and Nicol reported on the following:-

- Planting of Bulbs (about to flower).

074/22 Beehive Coke Ovens

Councillor Stokes reported on the following:-

- Roots from Gorse (outstanding).
- Repair to Information board (outstanding) (County Councillor Manchester to contact DCC Printing Section)

075/22 Play Areas in Tow Law – County Councillor Manchester to provide an update at the next Town Council meeting.

076/22 Platinum Jubilee Event

Councillor Stokes reported on the following:-

- Tree planting scheduled for November.
- Provision of medals for school children AGREED (Councillor Nicol to obtain numbers of school children).

Signed.....Chairman

077/22 Clerks Report

- Reports circulated prior to the meeting; Report one Expenditure Report (unaudited) 1/4/2021 to 31/3/2022, Total £49823.74. Report two detailed expenditure (unaudited) 1/4/2021 to 31/3/2022.  
Both reports noted.

078/22 Members Reports

Councillor Fowler raised the matter of the entrance/exit at the Co-op in High Street.

Councillor Stokes would chase this matter up and report to the next Town Council meeting.

079/22 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2022 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.30pm.

CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

080/22 working hours of the Clerk

The meeting finished at 7.58pm.

Signed.....Chairman