

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

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

PRESENT: Councillors F. Nicol (Chair), T. Ball, M. Craggs, E. Mather, P. Stokes and D. Willock.

ALSO PRESENT: County Councillor R. Manchester, G. F. Smith (Clerk) and Tanya McFadden (resident).

259/22 APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Councillors C. Batson, M. Dyer and J. Fowler.

260/22 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor Stokes declared an interest in agenda item no. 11 Tow Law Community Association.

Councillors Craggs and Nicol declared an interest in agenda items no. 11 Tow Law Community Centre and agenda item no. 12 Tow Law Food Bank.

Councillor Craggs also declared an interest in agenda item no. 9 Allotments.

261/22 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 18th October 2022

The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chair.

262/22 ACTION LIST

The Action List was circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting. Annual Return for year ended 31/03/2022 Item placed on the Council's web site. Gov.uk Domain change – Members agreed to change the domain name for the Town Council and Councillors. Clerk to arrange change over during the December 2022/January 2023 break. Meeting with Home Group – Awaiting response from Home Group. Corporate Trustees training – Awaiting details from CDALC.

263/22 COUNCILLOR VACANCY – Interview with Tanya McFADDEN OF 4 DEERNESS ESTATE, TOW LAW

Members asked her 6 questioned. Tanya retired from the Council Chamber whilst the Councillors discussed the appointment. Members agreed to appoint Tanya at the next Town Council meeting (17th January 2023). Clerk to inform Tanya.

Signed.....Chair

264/22 COUNCILLOR VACANCY

Following the death of Councillor Terry Batson Members agreed to inform the DCC Electoral Services Officer to produce a Notice of Vacancy. Mr Jeff Gale had expressed an interest in re-joining the Town Council.

265/22 COMMUNITY FUND

The Clerk updated the meeting on an application from Tow Law Millennium Primary School for children to attend a local pantomime at Bishop Auckland's Town Hall. Members agreed to donate £250.00 towards the costs of the organisation, from the Council's Community Fund.

266/22 JOINT REPORT BY THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

- AAP Meeting.

267/22 ALLOTMENTS

The Clerk reported that he was still in discussions with Northumbrian Water, original application form has been re-sent out again (original sent to NWA in December 2021).

268/22 LAND REAR OF HIGH STREET, TOW LAW

Councillor Stokes updated the meeting – Planning Application had been sent to DCC – pending. Quotation received for works £23,870.00.

269/22 TOW LAW COMMUNITY CENTRE

Councillor Stokes updated the meeting – Grant received from DCC for £250.00 for fruit trees.

270/22 TOW LAW FOOD BANK

Councillor Nicol updated the meeting – still very busy.

271/22 POLICE /PACT/SPEEDWATCH REPORTS

PACT – next meeting Friday 11th November 2022

SPEEDWATCH – November details to be carried out on 16th November 2022.

272/22 CHRISTMAS TREES

Members agreed for the Town Council to supply Main Tree (£385.00 + VAT) and smaller other trees (£15.00 each + VAT) from the supplier RB Tree and Landscapes, Tow Law. Members also agreed to donate up to £200.00 towards the supply of chocolate selection boxes, Clerk to arrange the finances.

SIGNED.....Chair

273/22 FACEBOOK

Clerk had met with David Rider and Councillor Craggs to progress this matter urgently. Volunteers were required to assist Councillor Craggs (Councillors Nicol, Ball and Mather).

274/22 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

County Councillor R. Manchester reported on the following:-

- Levelling-up
- Mayoral Arrangements (Devolution)
- Boundary Review
- Budget Setting.

275/22 REPRESENTATION BY RESIDENTS – No Report.

276/22 BANK ACCOUNT (on-line banking) – still awaiting response from Co-op Bank.

277/22 PLANNING MATTERS

Planning Application DM/22/03194/FPA by Mr A. Barrass to replace existing “shop front” with blue PVC frame units in a like for like design at 16/17 Castle Bank, Tow Law.

DECISION – No objections.

278/22 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Vouchers 47 to 58 amounting to £5251.54; to be paid.

279/22 REMEMBRANCE SERVICE AT TOW LAW

The Chair updated the Council on the service on Sunday 13th November 2022. The Chair had authorised the £60.00 payment to the Bugler and the repayment of £34.00 to the British Legion Poppy Appeal, Clerk to adjust accounts accordingly.

280/22 SEATS

Item to be removed from the agenda.

281/22 CCTV IN TOW LAW – No further update. Clerk to chase up response from DCC.

282/22 TOW LAW MILLENNIUM GREEN – No further updates.

Signed.....Chair

283/22 BEEHIVE COKE OVENS

Councillor Stokes updated the meeting – update on the information board and gorse bushes,

284/22 REFUSE COLLECTION IN TOW LAW – Councillor Willock updated the meeting, work still in progress.

285/22 CLERK’S REPORT – No updates.

286/22 MEMBERS REPORTS – No updates.

287/22 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 17th January 2023 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.30pm.

IN PRIVATE

288/22 CLERK’S SALARY AWARD FROM 1st APRIL 2022

The Clerk reported on a recent letter from NALC informing Members of the increase in salary of the Clerk of 6.91% as from 1st April 2022. Members agreed for the payment of the award to be paid with the December 2022 pay and the monthly pay of £1474.83 on subsequent monthly pays.

The meeting finished at 8.00pm.

SIGNED.....Chair