

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 17th January 2023, commencing at 6.30pm in the Community Centre, Tow Law.

PRESENT: Councillors F. Nicol (Chair), C. Batson, T. Bland, M. Craggs, M. Dyer, P. Eastwood, J. Fowler, P. Stokes and D. Willock.

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

001/23 APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Councillors T. Ball and E. Mather.

002/23 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor Stokes declared an interest in agenda item no. 12 Tow Law Community Association.

Councillors Craggs and Nicol declared an interest in agenda items no. 12 Tow Law Community Centre and agenda item no. 13 Tow Law Food Bank.

Councillor Craggs also declared an interest in agenda item no.10 Allotments.

Councillor D. Willock declared an interest in agenda items No. 13 Tow Law Food Bank and Agenda item No. 24 Refuse collection in Tow Law.

003/23 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 15th November 2022

The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chair.

004/23 ACTION LIST

The Action List was circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting.

005/23 COUNCILLOR VACANCY – To appoint Tanya Bland OF 4 DEERNESS ESTATE, TOW LAW DL13 4AR

Councillor Bland signed the Declaration of Appointment of Councillor, countersigned by the Clerk. She took her seat in the Council Chamber. The Clerk handed Councillor Bland a copy of the DCC Declaration of Interests Form for her to complete and return to the Clerk.

Signed.....Chair

006/23 COUNCILLOR VACANCY

The Clerk reported that there were no applicants for an election, therefore the Council can co-opt a candidate. Clerk to place an advert on the Council's notice boards and web site, details to be reported to the next Town Council meeting. Mr Jeff Gale had expressed an interest in re-joining the Town Council.

007/23 COMMUNITY FUND – No applications received.

008/23 JOINT REPORT BY THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

- ASB in the Town.

009/23 SETTING THE PRECEPT 2023/2024

The Clerk had circulated a report prior to the meeting showing the suggested calculations for the Council Tax for 2023/2024. The following Councillors abstained to vote – Councillors Bland and Willock. The remainder of the Councillors all voted to increase the Precept to £43752.09 (5% increase) plus the LCTS Grant from DCC of £1994.00, therefore total to receive from DCC is £45746.09.

Members also agreed to proactively source funding from other organisations to fund some of the suggested projects.

010/23 ALLOTMENTS

The Clerk reported that he was still in discussions with Northumbrian Water, and that he was hopeful to see progress for the water supply to the allotment site by the end of this month.

011/23 LAND REAR OF HIGH STREET, TOW LAW

Councillor Stokes updated the meeting – Still awaiting Planning permission from DCC.

012/23 TOW LAW COMMUNITY CENTRE

Councillor Nicol updated the meeting – a youth club had commenced tonight (5.00 to 7.00pm).

Councillor Stokes informed the meeting that lots of activities in the Centre during the Christmas period . List of activities to be produced very soon.

013/23 TOW LAW FOOD BANK

Councillor Nicol updated the meeting – still very busy, donation of toys received.

SIGNED.....Chair

014/23 POLICE /PACT/SPEEDWATCH REPORTS

PACT – meeting this Friday 20th January 2023, 6.30pm in the Community Centre, Tow Law.

SPEEDWATCH – No updates

015/23 FACEBOOK

Clerk to chase up this matter (urgently).

016/23 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

County Councillor R. Manchester reported on the following:-

- Levelling-up
- Mayoral Arrangements (Devolution) – letter to be sent regarding highlighting the Town Council's concerns on lack of consultation etc.

017/23 REPRESENTATION BY RESIDENTS – No Report.

018/23 BANK ACCOUNT (on-line banking) – still awaiting response from Co-op Bank. Councillor Stokes had provided contact details of the Co-op Bank services to the Clerk.

019/23 PLANNING MATTERS

Planning Application DM/22/03556/FPA by Star Investment Properties for land North of 4A Thornley Road, Tow Law for a detached house and garage.

DECISION – No objections.

020/23 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Vouchers 59 to 66 amounting to £10168.55 and vouchers 67 to 70 amounting to £2500.95; to be paid.

021/23 CCTV IN TOW LAW – No further update. Clerk to chase up response from DCC.

022/23 TOW LAW MILLENNIUM GREEN – No further updates due to poor weather conditions.

023/23 BEEHIVE COKE OVENS

Councillor Stokes updated the meeting – update on the information board 9(details to be sent to the Clerk) and gorse bushes (contractor should be appointed).

Signed.....Chair

024/23 REFUSE COLLECTION IN TOW LAW – Councillor Willock updated the meeting, work still in progress.

Members raised the following with Councillor Manchester:-

- Refuse bin outside the shop in High Street (moved)?
- Refuse bin at Trex Gym (outside court area)
- Bottle Bank on Millennium Green area?
- State of Car Park outside the Co-op site in High Street (Landlord?).

025/23 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk had circulated an Expenditure Report 1st April 2022 to 31st December 2022 Total £35502.86 plus VAT £1022.76 = £36525.62. Members agreed to accept the report.

026/23 MEMBERS REPORTS

Councillor Bland:-

- Electricity supply for Christmas Tree in High Street
- Planting of Daffodil bulbs (permission required from DCC)

Councillor Willock:-

- Tow Law boundary signs (contact DCC)

Councillor Dyer:-

- Honour to Councillor Terry Batson (tree and plaque) – item to be placed on the agenda for the next Town Council meeting.

027/23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 21st February 2023 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.30pm

The meeting finished at 8.00pm.

SIGNED.....SIGNED.....Chair

