

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

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

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

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

220/23 APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Councillors P. Eastwood, J. Gale and E. Mather.

221/23 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor Stokes declared an interest in agenda item no. 6 Community Fund application towards Winter Lantern parade and no. 10 Tow Law Community Association.

Councillors Craggs and Nicol declared an interest in agenda items no.10 Tow Law Community Association and agenda item no. 11 Tow Law Food Bank.

Councillor Craggs also declared an interest in agenda item no.8 Allotments.

Councillor D. Willock declared an interest in agenda items no. 8 Allotments, No. 11 Tow Law Food Bank and agenda item No. 19 – Road Safety.

222/23 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 19th September 2023

The minutes were not agreed and the Clerk agreed to make the changes proposed by Councillor Stokes.

223/23 ACTION LIST

The Action List was circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting, they were not agreed and the Clerk agreed to make the changes proposed by Councillor Stokes.

224/23 COMMUNITY FUND

Application received from Jenny Flynn for funding towards the cost of transport to Children from Tow Law to the Winter Lantern Parade at Crook On 26th November 2023.

Members agreed to fund this project from the Community Fund for £250.00

Application received from the Solan Connor Fawcett Trust, based at Spennymoor towards running costs of this project, which assists families in the Tow Law area

Signed.....Chair

Members agreed to donate £250.00 towards this project. Councillor Willock abstained from voting.

225/23 JOINT REPORT BY THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

- High Hill House – Ongoing problems (getting worse).
- Joint meeting with Local M.P. (Charging Points)
- Social Housing

226/23 ALLOTMENTS

Allotment Tenancy Agreements

The Clerk had circulated amended copy for Members to discuss at the October Town Council meeting.

Councillor Craggs reported on a meeting of the Allotments Working Group (CDALC). Members agreed to meet with the allotment Holders to discuss the proposed tenancy agreement and revised allotments rent in early November (confirmed for the 6th November 2023 in the Community Centre at 6.00pm)

Members also agreed to join the National Allotment Society, Clerk to progress.

227/23 LAND REAR OF HIGH STREET, TOW LAW

Councillor Stokes reported on a quotation for filling-in the potholes on the Car Park site at a cost of £500, Members agreed to accept this quote and for Councillor Stokes to inform the contractor to arrange for the work to be completed as soon as possible.

Councillor Stokes requested that the Clerk contact the Councils Insurance Company regarding claiming for slips, trips and accidents on the site and report to the next Town Council meeting.

228/23 TOW LAW COMMUNITY CENTRE

Councillor Stokes updated the meeting that the Centre was still very busy.

229/23 TOW LAW FOOD BANK

Councillor Nicol updated the meeting that the Food Bank was still very busy.

230/23 POLICE /PACT/SPEEDWATCH - No reports

231/23 FACEBOOK – No update.

Signed.....Chair

232/23 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

County Councillor R. Manchester reported on the following:-

- Funding for the Play Area.
- Precept Consultation
- Car Park sign(outstanding)
- Bus Services
- Road Closure in Tow Law – Resurfacing (October21/28)

233/23 REPRESENTATION BY RESIDENTS – None received.

234/23 BANK ACCOUNT (on-line banking) – No response from Co-op Bank. Clerk to arrange to transfer the account into an electronic banking service with another bank.

235/23 PLANNING MATTERS – None received.

236/23 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

No cheque book available,.

237/23 ROAD SAFETY- COUNCILLOR WILLOCK

Councillor Willock updated the meeting, the following were still outstanding:-

- Police survey to be completed.
- Agreement has been reached on repainting the road with a sign “dangerous corner”.

238/23 CCTV IN TOW LAW – Clerk was awaiting response from Durham Police.

239/23 TOW LAW MILLENNIUM GREEN - Deferred to the next Town Council meeting.

Declaration of Trust Document

The Clerk to circulate a copy of the amended document to all Councillors for comments, to be discussed at the next Town Council meeting in November 2023.

Charity Commission Document

The Clerk had submitted a request for charitable status to the Commission and was awaiting a response, to be discussed at the next Town Council meeting in November 2023.

Barclay's Bank Account

The Clerk was awaiting details from the Charity Commission regarding registration status, and will contact the Bank. To be discussed at the next Town Council meeting in November 2023.

Signed.....Chair

240/23 BEEHIVE COKE OVENS

Councillor Gale was absent from the meeting, update at the next Town Council meeting.

241/23 FIND & FIX PROJECT FOR TOW LAW

The Chair reported that the works were completed.

242/23 LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME

The Clerk had completed the registration document, awaiting confirmation.

243/23 COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP FUND

Awaiting details of the next round of bids (consider The Mart site and/or Millennium Green Site).

244/23 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH COMMUNITY SAFETY CHARTER

The Clerk had completed the on-line application form, confirmation received.

245/23 FUNDING OPPERTUNITIES

Branch out funding – Councillor Craggs to meet up with the Clerk to complete an application form.

246/23 REMBERANCE DAY SERVICE

The Clerk had been unable to contact the RBL organiser but would continue with the research.

Councillors Fowler and Bland volunteered to make contact with the local volunteers and let the Chair/Clerk know of any updates.

247 CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

Members agreed to accept the quotation fro RB Tree and Landscaping for supplying one premier cut Norway Spruce 4.8 to 5.4 metres and deliver to site at £395.00 plus vat.

Also agree was to supply and insert into brackets 225 number 4foot Norway Spruce Trees at £15.00 each.

Members agreed to support the” Switch on lights” ceremony on Friday 1st December 2023, for refreshments and gifts for the children from funds from the Community Fund (£250) and Council Reserves (£250). Councillor Bland to arrange and pass over receipts to the Clerk.

248/23 CLERK’S REPORT – No report

Signed.....Chair

249/23 MEMBERS REPORTS

Councillor Stokes:-

To include the Skill Mill on the agenda for the next meeting.

To arrange for the Bugler to attend the Remembrance Service at the Cenotaph on Sunday 12th November 2023, Clerk to arrange if possible.

Councillor Willock:-

To include the "D-DAY" Celebrations on the agenda for the next Town Council meeting (November).

250/23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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

The meeting finished at 8.05pm.

SIGNED.....Chair