

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2021, commencing at 6.30pm in the Community Centre, Tow Law.

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

Also Present: County Councillor R. Manchester and G. F. Smith (Clerk).

158/21 Apologies

Councillors M. Dyer, J. Fowler and K. Geraghty-Shewan.

159/21 Declaration of Interests

Councillor Stokes declared an interest in agenda item 10 – Tow Law Community Association.

Councillors Craggs and Nicol declared an interest in agenda item 10 – Tow Law Community Association and item 11 – Tow Law Food Bank.

Councillor T. Batson declared an interest in agenda item 8 Allotments (quotation from Batson Groundcare Ltd).

Councillor C. Batson declared an interest in agenda item 20 Christmas Activities (quotation from RB Tree and Landscapes Ltd).

160/21 Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021

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

161/21 Matters Arising/Action List

a)Matters Arising - None

b)Action List

Members agreed to update the list.

Signed.....Chairman

162 /21 Community Fund

Councillor T. Batson raised concerns (Standing Orders) regarding discussion/decisions of the applications presented to the meeting without notice, no seconder to the proposal. All other Councillors present at the meeting agreed for the applications to be received and read out by the Clerk.

a)Application by FollowGeorge, the Clerk had discussed the application with Louise Tomlinson and confirmed that the application was to be used for equipment and reduction of course fees.

Members agreed to donate £250.00 from the Community Fund.

B)Scrapbank Recycled

Donation towards a textile banner project, banner to be "housed" in the Community Centre.

The Members agreed to donate £250.00 towards this project from the Community Fund.

c)1<sup>st</sup> Tow Law Scouts

Donation towards the running costs of this group (Insurance etc).

Members agreed to donate £250.00 towards this project from the Community Fund.

d)Tow Law Art Group

Donation towards supplies of canvas, oils, tools and lino cut boards.

Members agreed to donate £250.00 towards this project from the Community Fund.

163/21 Joint Report by the Chairman and Vice Chair

- AAP Board Meeting.
- Housing matters.

164/21 Audited Annual Return documents for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021

The documents were received on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021, E-mailed to Councillors on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021. The documents were approved. The Clerk requested that all Councillors respond (where necessary) to e-mails sent out for their attention.

Members agreed to the 6 responses to the External Auditors report, copy to be placed on the Council's web site and attached to these minutes.

Signed.....Chairman

#### 165 /21 Allotments

The Clerk read out correspondence from Northumbrian Water for a water supply to the allotment site rear of Dan's Castle.

Members agreed for the sub-committee to discuss the quotation with the Council's contractor and report to the next Town Council meeting.

Councillor T. Batson left the meeting before discussions on the next item.

The Clerk read out a quotation from Batson Groundcare Ltd for the supply of one gate post (lift off hinge and set-aside, break out existing gate post and replace with new post) at a cost of £785.00 plus VAT.

Members agreed to accept the quote and arrange for the work to be carried out as soon as possible.

Councillor T. Batson returned to the Meeting.

The Chairman requested that Councillors Craggs and Mather arrange to carry out measuring all allotment plots (Clerk to send out e-mail received from CDALC regarding charges by other Parish Councils) and report to the next appropriate Town Council meeting.

#### 166/21 Land rear of High Street, Tow Law

The Chair reported that he had received the Ecology report from DCC. Councillor T. Batson to produce a drawing of the site required by the Planning Officer. Clerk to arrange for the planning application fees to be paid (when required).

Members agreed for the Match funding (£10,000) to be met from the Council's Reserves.

#### 167/21 Tow Law Community Association

The Chair reported on the following:-

- All activities back to meeting in the Community Centre.
- Disabled group meeting on a Sunday.
- Police Hub "difficulty to engage group".

#### 168/21 Tow Law Food Bank

Councillor Nicol reported on the following:-

- Back to meeting on a Thursday in the Community Centre.

Signed.....Chairman

169/21 Police/Pact/Speed Watch Reports

No updates from the Police.

Councillor Mather reported on the Speed watch scheme:-

5th October Police Van at Dan's Castle to Wolsingham, 31 vehicles; 1 speeding

Matrix at Tow Law to Darlington, 33 vehicles; 4 speeding

Police Van Smith Street, 15 vehicles; 1 speeding

170/21 County Councillors Report

County Councillor Richard Manchester reported on the following:-

- Plan for Levelling Up funding (more information to follow)
- Cattle Mart site

171/21 Representation by Residents - None

172/21 Bank Account (online banking) – No progress

173/21 Planning Matters - None

174/21 Accounts for Payment

Vouchers 51 to 57 amounting to £2937.21; to be paid.

175/21 Training Requirements

Members agreed to use Mr Steve Ragg, CDALC to lead the workshops and Councillors to hold a special meeting to assess training requirements for Councillors.

176/21 CCTV in Tow Law

Members agreed for the Clerk to write to the Chief Executive of DCC to request a "face to face" meeting with officers of Care Connect , meeting to be held in the Community Centre.

177/21 Christmas Activities-Christmas Trees

The Clerk read out a quotation from RB Tree and Landscapes Ltd for supplying 166 x 4ft Spruce Trees @ £15.00 each plus VAT and 1No. Large Tree for High Street @ £385.00 plus VAT.

Members agreed to accept both quotations.

Signed.....Chairman

178/21 Remembrance Service – Poppy Wreath

Wreath arranged with local Organiser (British Legion).

Councillor Stokes to lay the Wreath at the service.

179/21 Tow Law Millennium Green

Councillor Craggs reported on the bulb planting (supplied by DCC), school children to help plant the bulbs in half term holiday

180/21 Beehive Coke Ovens

Councillor Stokes reported on the following:-

- The Ovens were “stable”
- Information board to be repaired (outstanding).

181/21 Play Areas in Tow Law

County Councillor Manchester reported that the matter was ongoing.

182/21 Platinum Jubilee Event

Councillor Stokes reported on the following:-

- Beacon to be lit by County Councillor Manchester.

183/21 Clerks Report – No report

184/21 Members Reports

Councillor T. Batson – Tree planting (A68).

Councillor Mather – Provision of Meals (Sunniside Community Centre) – funding from AAP and NHS .

185/21 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 6.30 in the Community Centre, Tow Law.

The meeting finished at 8.45pm

Signed.....Chairman