

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 19th September 2023, commencing at 6.30pm in the Community Centre, Tow Law.

PRESENT: Councillors F. Nicol (Chair), M. Craggs, K. Duffy, P. Eastwood, J. Gale, E. Mather, P. Stokes and D. Willock.

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

192/23 APOLOGIES

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

193/23 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor Stokes declared an interest in agenda item 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.

194/23 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 18th July 2023

The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chair.

195/23 ACTION LIST

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

196/23 COMMUNITY FUND – No applications received.

197/23 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

Signed.....Chair

198/23 ALLOTMENTS

Allotment Tenancy Agreements

Copies of the Town Councils and Durham County Councils agreements had been sent to all Councillors, it was agreed to use the DCC copy as a master copy with some amendments. The Clerk to circulate amended copy for Members to discuss at the October Town Council meeting.

199/23 LAND REAR OF HIGH STREET, TOW LAW

Councillor Stokes reported that the bird mouth fencing was complete and the invoice for the work was handed to the Clerk for payment.

200/23 TOW LAW COMMUNITY CENTRE

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

Members agreed to donate a further £2000 (Food Bank) and £200 (Youth Nights) and to discuss the balance at the November Town Council meeting.

201/23 TOW LAW FOOD BANK

Councillor Nicol updated the meeting – still very busy.

202/23 POLICE /PACT/SPEEDWATCH - No reports

203/23 FACEBOOK – Councillor Craggs to review.

204/23 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

County Councillor R. Manchester reported on the following:-

- Funding for the Play Area.
- Precept Consultation
- Car Park sign
- Wind Farm Terminals
- Wolsingham – Road Safety
- High Hill House
- Bus Services
- Road Closure in Tow Law – Resurfacing (October?)
- Seat donation by the family of the late Councillor Colin Hayton, Members agreed with the request and for the seat to be positioned on the South side of the A68 looking towards the valley.

Signed.....Chair

205/23 REPRESENTATION BY RESIDENTS – None received.

206/23 BANK ACCOUNT (on-line banking) – response from Co-op Bank. The Clerk had visited the branch at Chester-le-Street and made progress, update to the next Town Council meeting.

207/23 PLANNING MATTERS – None received.

208/23 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

No cheque book available, Clerk had contacted the branch at Chester-le-Street and resolved the problem and the cheque book will be sent out as soon as possible.

209/23 ROAD SAFETY- COUNCILLOR WILLOCK

Councillor Willock updated the meeting, on the following:-

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

210/23 CCTV IN TOW LAW – Clerk had discussed outstanding items he was referred to Durham Police regarding the number plate recognition system. Clerk to update at the next Town Council meeting.

211/23 TOW LAW MILLENNIUM GREEN

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 October 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 October 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 October 2023.

212/23 BEEHIVE COKE OVENS

Councillor Gale and the Clerk to visit the site and report any progress (Gorse and Information Boards) to the next Town Council meeting in October 2023.

Signed.....Chair

213/23 FIND & FIX PROJECT FOR TOW LAW

The Chair reported that some of the works were completed. The Clerk to speak to Dean Henry (DCC) regarding confirmation that the Town Council would be agreeable to planting of the beds but accept no responsibility /ownership of the flower beds.

214/23 LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME

The Clerk had completed the registration document.

215/23 COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP FUND

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

216/23 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH COMMUNITY SAFETY CHARTER

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

217/23 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk had circulated a report on the issues of number of dog poo bags purchased in the last few years, Members agreed to monitor the situation and continue with issuing the bags from the Community Centre.

218/23 MEMBERS REPORTS

Councillor Craggs:-

Funding – Members agreed for the Clerk to comment on all funding opportunities which arise and place an item on the meeting agenda for discussion at the Town Council meeting. Members agreed for Councillor Craggs/The Chair/The Clerk to progress the funding application for the AAP Tree Funding and Hedgerow Packs.

Councillor Nicol:-

- Flower Bed – Yes to planting the bed, but no to taking responsibility of the Flower Box.
- Remembrance Service - The Chair asked the Clerk to contact the local British Legion Poppy Appeal organiser regarding the wreaths and poppies and the local Church for the service details on 12th November 2023 and report back to the Chair.

219/23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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

The meeting finished at 8.10pm.

SIGNED.....Chair