

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 20th February 2024, commencing at 6.30pm in the Community Centre, Tow Law.

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

ALSO PRESENT: G. F. Smith (Clerk).

031/24 APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Councillors K. Duffy, M. Dyer, J. Fowler, E. Mather and County Councillor R. Manchester.

032/24 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.

033/24 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 16th January 2024

The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chair.

034/24 ACTION LIST

The Action List was circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting, they were agreed.

035/24 COMMUNITY FUND

The Clerk read out a letter from Laura Boulton, Tow Law Millennium Primary School asking for a donation towards funds for pupils to have an animal experience, to welcome an animal handler into the School, experience to take place within the summer term.

Members agreed to donate £250 from the Community Fund, proposed by Councillor Willock and seconded by Councillor Craggs. It was suggested to use Haven Saviour as the animal handler.

Signed.....Chair

036/24 JOINT REPORT BY THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

- High Hill House – Ongoing problems. Two residents in the building.
- Two objections from Statutory Organisations (plus individuals) against the Windmill site, delaying Planning Permission.
- Meeting regarding funding attended by Councillor Stokes.

037/24 SETTING THE ESTIMATES FOR 2024/2025

Report delayed until March meeting.

038/24 ALLOTMENTS

Allotment Tenancy Agreements had been delivered to all allotment holders, five returned.

Requests had been made to change the agreement (pigeon lofts) and reflect past agreements for alterations to clauses/site updates etc, Clerk to correspond to all allotment holders and report to the next appropriate Town Council meeting for recording purposes.

039/24 LAND REAR OF HIGH STREET, TOW LAW

Fillings to the potholes (was still outstanding), but the Contractor would carry out the work as soon as possible. Councillor Stokes requested rubbish bins to be placed on the site, report to County Councillor Manchester.

040/24 TOW LAW COMMUNITY CENTRE

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

041/24 TOW LAW FOOD BANK

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

042/24 POLICE /PACT/SPEEDWATCH

Speedwatch Report:-

Dan's Castle to Tow Law (van) 61 vehicles 4 speeding; Sunnyside (The Paddock) to Durham (van) 52 vehicles 0 speeding; Sunnyside (opposite The Paddock) to Tow Law (matrix) 48 vehicles 3 speeding.

043/24 FACEBOOK

Councillor Craggs updating page, requested further information.

SignedChair

044/24 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT - No report received

Still outstanding Car Park sign (County Councillor Manchester).

045/24 REPRESENTATION BY RESIDENTS – None received.

046/23 BANK ACCOUNT (on-line banking) – Clerk to check with Co-op Bank regarding completion of authorisation details.

047/24 PLANNING MATTERS

Application DM/24/00155/TEL by Cornerstone for replacement of 12 metre high tower with a 20 metre high monopole and upgrading equipment at Thornley Pit House Farm, Bridge Street, Tow Law.

DECISION No objections.

048/24 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Accounts 77 to 81 ; value £1841.74 be approved for payment.

049/24 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”.
- Councillor Willock to issue reminders.

050/24 CCTV IN TOW LAW – Clerk was still awaiting response from Durham Police. Contact to be made next week for an update and inform Councillors of any progress.

051/24 TOW LAW MILLENNIUM GREEN

Declaration of Trust Document, Clerk to contact Jenny Flynn (outstanding Trustee) to progress this matter.

Charity Commission Document – report to the next Town Council meeting.

Barclay's Bank Account – update report to the next Town Council meeting.

Inspections of Play Area

The Clerk to contact County Councillor Manchester for an update and report to the next Town Council meeting.

Signed.....Chair

052/24 BEEHIVE COKE OVENS

Councillor Gale updated the meeting, National Lottery Grant for England Heritage form completed awaiting feedback. Councillor Stokes asked for an update on the cutting back of the Gorse.

Councillor Gale requested that the Gorse be not cut back but Councillor Stokes reminded all Councillors that it was the Town Council's responsibility to cut back the Gorse at least three times per year.

053/24 COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP FUND

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

Place on agenda when updates arise.

054/24 FUNDING OPPERTUNITIES – None this month.

055/24 THE SKILL MILL – COUNTY DURHAM YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICE

The Clerk had contacted the Supervisor to obtain the costs for clearing the ditches on Millennium Green. E-Mail sent 1/2/2024, send a reminder.

056/24 D DAY 80 6th JUNE 2024

Councillor Willock provided an update report, further updates nearer the event.

057/24 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk reported on the following:-

- Resignation letter from Councillor Caroline Batson, Clerk to contact DCC Electoral Services to report the vacancy and for them to issue a Notice of Vacancy, details to follow.
- Application for CDALC Executive Committee nomination received from Councillor Stokes. Members agreed to support the application for the "Three Towns" geographical area. Suggest alternative each year with Greater Willington Town Council.

058/24 MEMBERS REPORTS

Councillor Stokes:-

- Spring Clean Week, Councillors Nicol and Craggs will be arranging dates to carry out litter/tidy up in Tow Law area.

Councillor Bland:-

- Electricity supply to the Municipal Christmas Tree, details to a future Town Council meeting.

Signed.....Chair

Councillor Nicol:-

Budget report by DCC – due to the absence of County Councillor Manchester this item will be discussed at the next Town Council meeting.

059/24 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 19th March 2024 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.30pm.

The meeting finished at 7.45pm

Signed.....Chair