

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 20th September 2022, commencing at 6.30pm in the Community Centre, Tow Law.

PRESENT: Councillors F. Nicol(Chair), M. Craggs, P. Eastwood, E. Mather, P. Stokes

And D. Willock.

ALSO PRESENT: County Councillor R. Manchester and G F Smith (Clerk) and Tanya McFadden (Resident)

198/22 APOLOGIES

Councillors T. Ball, C. Batson, T. Batson, M. Dyer and J. Fowler also gave apologies for this meeting.

199/22 Sad Note

Member and Staff stood in silence to show respect following the recent death of H M The Queen.

2000/22 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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

Councillors Craggs, Nicol and Willock declared an interest in agenda item no 12 Tow Law Community Association and item 13 Tow Law Food Bank.

Councillor Willock also declared an interest in agenda items 23 Seats and item 28 Refuse Collection in Tow Law.

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

201/22 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 19th JULY 2022

The Minutes were agreed and signed by the Chair.

202/22 ACTION LIST

The Action List was not available for circulation.

203/22 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR

Councillors Craggs and Stokes were nominated for the position of Vice Chair. A vote by a show of hands took place, the count was even. The Chair used her casting vote.

Councillor Stokes was declared as Vice Chair for the ensuing year.

Signed.....Chairman

204/22 COUNCILLOR VACANCY

The closing date for a request for an election to fill the said vacancy was Thursday 21st July 2022. The Clerk reported that no election was called, therefore the Council could co-opt. Members to let the Clerk know of any interested party (Miss McFadden put her name forward for consideration)

205/22 COMMUNITY FUND

No new applications received. The application from Durham Hospitals Radio was still outstanding.

206/22 JOINT REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIR

The Chair and Members discussed the ongoing problem of ASB in Tow Law, Pact meetings, AAP meetings and Community Protection Order.

207/22 Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2022

The Clerk reported that he had discussed the progress of the External Auditors report and would forward it onto Members once he receives the copy (e-mail).

208/22 ALLOTMENTS

The Clerk reported that he was still in discussion with a Development Service Advisor at Northumbrian Water regarding the application for a service connection sent to the office in December 2021, discussions are still ongoing.

Gate post at Ridley Terrace allotment site complete.

New padlock and keys for allotment site rear of Dan's Castle (issued to allotment holders).

209/22 LAND REAR OF HIGH STREET, TOW LAW

Councillor Stokes raised the following:-

- Appointment of Architect to provide a topographic/level/photographic survey of the site (£900), within 10 days of commissioning.
- HMA design works (£4700) within 10 days of completion of survey, submission of Planning Application
- Members approved for the above works to commence as soon as possible.

210/22 TOW LAW COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Attendances at the Fun & Food events during the summer holiday period was excellent (149 children and parents).

AGM to be held on Thursday 22nd September 2022

Signed.....Chairman

211/22 TOW LAW FOOD BANK

Councillor Nicol reported that the Food Bank was still very busy.

212/22 POLICE/PACT/SPEEDWATCH REPORTS

Councillor Nicol reported on the PACT meetings

Councillor Mather reported on the Speed watch scheme.

213/22 SECTION 106 ALLOCATION OF FUNDING

Remove from agenda, until further information/updates.

214/22 FACEBOOK – Councillor Craggs to discuss with David Rider.

215/22 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

County Councillor Manchester reported on the following:-

- Levelling-up
- Mayoral arrangements
- Boundary review

216/22 REPRESENTATION BY RESIDENTS – Miss McFadden raised a number of concerns:-

Christmas Trees

Car parking at the Co-op

217/22 BANK ACCOUNT (ONLINE BANKING)

Application forms completed, awaiting confirmation from Co-op Bank.

218/22 PLANNING MATTERS

a) Planning Application DM/22/02249/FPA by the Medical Group for the installation of 2 No Air Source Heat Pumps to rear of Charlton House, Tow Law

DECISION – No objections

b) DM/22/02244/FPA by Mr G Batson for the demolition of existing poultry shed and replacement with new agricultural shed.

DECISION – Members raised a number of concerns but would not make a formal contact with the Planning Officer.

DECISION – No objections

b) NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING – No update, use of Facebook to publicise the project.

Signed.....Chairman

219/22 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Vouchers 27 to 38 amounting to £5859.42; to be paid.

220/22 Financial Reports

The Clerk reported on the following accounts:-

Expenditure Report 1st April to 30th September 2022

TOTAL £20,047.30

Community Fund balance as at 21st June 2022 £11,274.87

The Clerk read out an e-mail from the Community Association (grant).

Members agreed to donate the following from the above fund:-

£4000 to cover the running costs of the Foodbank in the Community Centre.

£1440 to cover the running cost of the Youth Hub Sessions in the Community Centre.

221/22 SEATS

Councillor Willock update the meeting on progress of this report. Thre seats to be re-located, further discussions at the next Town Council meeting.

222/22 CCTV IN TOW LAW No update.

223/22 TOW LAW MILLENNIUM GREEN

Councillor Nicol reported on the following:-

Hole damage on the site

Damage to dog signs

224/22 BEE HIVE COKE OVENS

- Repairs to Information Board (Councillor Stokes to contact DCC Design Team).
- Councillors Stokes/Fowler to contact the contractor regarding treatment of the Gorse plants (outstanding).
- Clerk to contact Historical England regarding possible funding for the site (outstanding).

225/22 PLAY AREAS IN TOW LAW – No update, (remove from agenda until further information/update)

226/22 REFUSE COLLECTION IN TOW LAW

Councillor Willock updated the meeting (DCC Policy document required), to be further discuss at the next Town Council meeting.

Signed.....Chairman

227/22 CLERKS REPORT

CDALC Annual General Meeting on Saturday 8th October 2022. Councillor Nicol and Craggs to attend.
Clerk to send details to each Councillor.

228/22 MEMBERS REPORTS

Councillor Nicol – Dog Poo Bags

Book of Condolence in the Community Centre

Housing Group (Home Group) to be invited to attend a Town Council meeting to

Update Councillors on the Housing Allocation Scheme.

Councillor Stokes – Newsletter (copy required ASAP)

Corporate Trustees (Millennium Green) training.

Councillor Mather – Training Session Play/Sport/Fitness Area Management 9th November 2022 at

Murton. Member agreed for Councillor Mather to attend and the Council to

Pay any fees.

229/22 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 18th October 2022

Meeting finished at 8.02pm

Signed.....Chairman