

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023, commencing at 6.30pm in the Community Centre, Tow Law.

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

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

054/23 APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Councillor M. Dyer.

055/23 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor Stokes declared an interest in agenda item no. 11 Tow Law Community Association.

Councillors Craggs and Nicol declared an interest in agenda items no. 11 Tow Law Community Centre and agenda item no. 12 Tow Law Food Bank.

Councillor Craggs also declared an interest in agenda item no.9 Allotments.

Councillor D. Willock declared an interest in agenda item No. 12 Tow Law Food Bank.

056/23 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 21<sup>st</sup> February 2023

The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chair.

057/23 ACTION LIST

The Action List was circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting. Responses received from:-

- Changes to Domain (wait until full Council appointed), Corporate Trustees (Clerk to circulate available dates to all Councillors); Face book (registered and operational); CCTV in Tow Law (response from DCC); Co-op Bank Account (response received from Co-op Bank confirmation of cheque signatories required).
- Grass Cutting Contract Clerk to contact an additional quotation from local contractor.

Chair chased up response from :-

- Home Group and informed the meeting of the discussions.

Signed.....Chair

058/23 Councillor Vacancy

Notice of Vacancy – has expired, Council may co-opt. Clerk to prepare a notice for the Notice Boards and Web Site, with closing date of Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023, interviews to be held at April’s Town Council meeting.

059/23 COMMUNITY FUND – No applications received.

060/23 JOINT REPORT BY THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

- Discussions with Home Group
- High Hill House – Male visitors/tenants, Risk Assessments (concerns), danger to lone women, Chair to contact local MP and the local Press.

061/23 HONOUR TO COUNCILLOR TERRY BATSON (TREE & PLAQUE)

It was decided to suspend this matter until Councillor Dyer was available for further discussions.

062/23 ALLOTMENTS

The Clerk reported that he was still in discussions with Northumbrian Water, and that he was hopeful to see progress for the water supply to the allotment site by next week. The contractor wished to increase the original quotation (dated 3/8/2021) by a further £280.00, Members agreed with the revised quotation and for Paul Batson to commence on site within one week.

063/23 LAND REAR OF HIGH STREET, TOW LAW

Councillor Stokes updated the meeting – Two quotations received (£23870 and £26470) for the works to the Car Park area. Members agreed for an interim clearance of the site within the next two weeks (estimate £2000).

064/23 TOW LAW COMMUNITY CENTRE

Councillor Stokes informed the meeting that lots of activities continue in the Centre. List of activities to be produced very soon. King’s Coronation event being planned for 8<sup>th</sup> May 2023. Big Help Out event being arranged for 8<sup>th</sup> May 2023 (treat for children).

065/23 TOW LAW FOOD BANK

Councillor Nicol updated the meeting – still very busy.

SIGNED.....Chair

066/23 POLICE /PACT/SPEEDWATCH REPORTS – No update available.

067/23 FACEBOOK

System up and running. Members supplied Councillor Craggs with possible events etc to include.

068/23 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

County Councillor R. Manchester reported on the following:-

- Tree planting rear of Community Centre.
- Play Area inspections by DCC (details to be sent to the Clerk).
- Consultation on the future of the AAPs.
- Dog Bin at Weardale Crescent?

069/23 REPRESENTATION BY RESIDENTS – No Report.

070/23 BANK ACCOUNT (on-line banking) – response from Co-op Bank. Awaiting details of confirmation of Authorised signatories and authorisation of on-line banking arrangements

071/23 PLANNING MATTERS

Planning Application DM/23/00429/FPA for proposed external roller shutter and box at 82 High Street, Tow Law by Mr J. Dillion.

RESOLVED – No objections to this application.

072/23 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Vouchers 76 to 79 amounting to £2067.95; to be paid.

073/23 CCTV IN TOW LAW – response from DCC, the image quality is still very good , the cameras are in good working condition. Clerk to discuss with DCC regarding updating of cameras and number plate recognition system..

074/23 TOW LAW MILLENNIUM GREEN

Councillor Stokes updated the meeting on:- Ditches/Drainage; One dangerous tree(removed); Toplary of Hedges; Decking in need of repairs, pond is full, more rubbish bins required, meadow/woodland meadow requires attention

Signed.....Chair

075/23 BEEHIVE COKE OVENS

Councillor Stokes updated the meeting – He was in hospital for some time and the works are still outstanding on the information board (details to be sent to the Clerk) and gorse bushes (contract should be drawn up).

076/23 CLERK'S REPORT – No report.

077/23 MEMBERS REPORTS

Councillor Mather:-

- Grant from N Power Grid of £18,500 for roof panels for Sunnyside Community Centre.

Councillor Fowler

- Coronation Bunting etc (ordered)

078/23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2023 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.30pm

The meeting finished at 7.45pm.

SIGNED.....Chair