

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024, commencing at 6.30pm in the Community Centre, Tow Law.

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

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

089/24 APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Councillors T. Bland, K. Duffy and J. Fowler.

090/24 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor Nicol declared an interest in agenda items No. 7 Report by the Chair and Vice Chair, and agenda item no. 11 Tow Law Food Bank.

Councillor Stokes declared an interest in agenda item No. 10 Tow Law Community Association.

Councillor D. Willock declared an interest in agenda items No. 11 Tow Law Food Bank and agenda item No. 19 – Road Safety and agenda item No. 25 D Day 80 Commemoration/celebration.

Councillor Craggs declared an interest in agendas items Nos 8 Allotments, No 10 Tow Law Community Association and item No. 11 Tow Law Food Bank.

091/24 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024

The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chair.

092/24 ACTION LIST

The Action List was circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting, they were agreed. Clerk agreed to review future reports and amend accordingly.

093/24 COMMUNITY FUND

The Clerk confirmed that the Community Fund from Bealfort Wind Ltd of £5257.94 had been received into the Council's Bank Account on the 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

Signed.....Chair

093/24 COMMUNITY FUND (continued)

The Clerk read out an application from the 1<sup>st</sup> Tow Law Rainbows to attend the Camp House in Spennymoor to learn life skills and meet other Rainbows in a different environment.

Members agreed to donate £100 from the Community Fund to this application.

The Clerk read out a letter from the 1<sup>st</sup> Tow Law Guides to join with Langley Park Guides for an adventure week-end at Weardale. Funding to help towards transport costs.

Members agreed to donate £150 from the Community Fund to this application.

The Clerk read out a letter from the 1<sup>st</sup> Tow Law Brownies for a “Brownies Holiday” (these girls were Rainbows at the time of Covid so missed out on sleepovers. Cost of the venue (Camp House, Spennymoor) and activities supplies

Members agreed to donate £150 from the Community Fund to this project.

The Clerk read out a letter from Hayley Anderson, High Street, Tow Law for a donation towards the fun day for children and adults on 15<sup>th</sup> June at Tow Law Football Club.

Members agreed to donate £250 towards this project from the Community Fund.

Following the settlement of the Windfarm funding Members reviewed the Minute 064/24 Donation to Blessed John Duckett Primary School for new production lights to put on their plays etc.

Members agreed to donate £150 from the Community Fund to this project.

094/24 SETTING THE ESTIMATES

The Clerk supplied Members with a draft report for further discussions , Members noted the contents and agreed to review costs of CCTV with a view to cancelling the contract , Clerk to write to Care Connect a confirmation letter of this proposed action. Also Members agreed to look at Christmas Tree costs /Funding.

095/24 JOINT REPORT BY THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

- High Hill House – Ongoing problems.
- Two gardens very messy, needs tidying up.

096/24 ALLOTMENTS

Awaiting details from CDALC on changes to the agreement (pigeon lofts), also waiting past agreements for alterations to clauses/site updates etc, and report to the next appropriate Town Council meeting.

Signed.....Chair

097/24 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 reported that a caravan was parked on the car park area and “fly-tipping” had taken place on the site, he would investigate and report back to the Town Council.

098/24 TOW LAW COMMUNITY CENTRE

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

099/24 TOW LAW FOOD BANK

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

100/24 POLICE /PACT/SPEEDWATCH

Speed watch Report provided by Councillor Mather, as below:-

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024, Bridge Steer to Tow Law (matrix) 166 vehicles; 8 speeding; Dan’s Castle to Tow Law (matrix) 120 vehicles,; 1 speeding; Smith Street to Satley (matrix) 77 vehicles; 6 speeding.

101/24 FACEBOOK

Councillor Craggs updating page, requested further information.

102/24 COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT -

County Councillor Manchester reported on the following:-

- Still outstanding Car Park sign
- Windmills site – no further update.

103/24 REPRESENTATION BY RESIDENTS – None received.

104/23 BANK ACCOUNT (on-line banking) – Clerk had checked with Co-op Bank regarding completion of authorisation details(outstanding details for Councillor Nicol. Matter in hand with Co-op Bank and should be “live” from end of April 2024.

105/24 CCTV IN TOW LAW

Members had agreed to temporary suspend the termination of the CCTV contract to consider future funding (AAP or Police Authority)

106/24 TOW LAW MILLENNIUM GREEN

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

Charity Commission Document – as above

Signed.....Chair

Barclays Bank Account – as above

Inspection of Play Area – awaiting details from County Councillor Manchester.

107/24 PLANNING MATTERS No applications received

108/24 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Accounts 01 to 06; value £2628.07 be approved for payment.

109/24 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.
- Recent accident in the area (details sent to all Councillors).

110/24 BEEHIVE COKE OVENS

The gorse plants on site (still outstanding), Clerk to chase up with Contractor.

111/24 FUNDING OPPERTUNITIES

Rural Communities Green Space – The Chair agreed to set-up a working party (Councillors Stokes, Craggs and Willock) to check for other funding sources (electric contact points?)

112/24 THE SKILL MILL – COUNTY DURHAM YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICE

The Clerk to contact the Supervisor again and set-up another meeting with him on site (the meeting on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024 was cancelled due to illness).

113/24 D DAY 80 6<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2024

Councillor Willock will provide an update report to the next Town Council meeting.

114/24 CLERK’S REPORT

The Clerk reported on the following:-

- The Notice of Vacancy had been issued, no requests were received to hold an election. Members agreed to leave the vacancy until the next elections in May 2025.
- Clerk had contact Councillor Stokes no further update regarding the nomination for the CDALC Executive Committee.
- E-mail management – Members agreed to obtain further information/funding for the use of .gov.uk domain for each Councillor and the Clerk and report to the next Town Council meeting.
- County Durham Association of Local Councils overview of the Association copy available for all Councillors.

Signed.....Chair

- Members agreed to accept the Grass Cutting Contract for the year 2024. To be provided at the same cost (£165 per cut) as last year by Cut and Strim Garden Services, Tow Law.

115/24 MEMBERS REPORTS

Councillor Craggs:-

- Cycle Shelter – Refer to the Community Association.

116/24 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2024 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.30pm with the Meeting of Electors followed by the Annual General Meeting followed by the monthly ordinary meeting.

CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

117/24 Clerk's Revised working pattern

Members had agreed to the Clerk working in the office in the Community Centre from 1.00pm to 4.00pm (3 hours) Monday to Friday (5 days), total 15 hours worked each week plus one hour each week to be banked for the monthly Town Council meetings, total working hours 16 per week; this is a reduction of 6 hours per week and will be reflected in the savings to the Staff Costs.

The Clerk agreed to the hours of work and to be reflected in the Contract of Employment.

The meeting finished at 7.50pm

Signed.....Chair