

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

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

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

P.Stokes and D. Willock.

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

177/24 APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Councillors T. Bland, K. Duffy and M. Dyer.

178/24 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor Nicol declared an interest in agenda items No.9 Tow Law Community Association, and agenda item no. 10 Tow Law Food Bank.

Councillor Stokes declared an interest in agenda item no. 9 Tow Law Community Association.

Councillor Craggs declared an interest in agendas items Nos 7 Allotments, No 9 Tow Law Community Association and item No. 10 Tow Law Food Bank.

Councillor Willock declared an interest in agenda items no. 10 Tow Law Food Bank, no. 18 Road Safety and item 24 VE Day 2025.

179/24 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 18th June 2024

The minutes required amendment to the Annual Return document "Accounting Statement 2023/24".

180/24 ACTION LIST

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

181/24 COMMUNITY FUND – None received

Signed.....Chair

182/24 JOINT REPORT OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

- Attended AAP meeting
- Attended PACT meeting
- New M.P. to discuss empty houses in Tow Law

182/24 ALLOTMENTS

A)Pigeon Loft Agreement to amend, Councillor Mather to supply amended document.

B)ALLOTMENT UPDATES

1)TC 1,2 and 3 Rear of Dan's Castle

Tenancy Agreement signed by Mr R. McFadden

Joint Tenancy with Mr J. Henderson, 40 Dan's Castle

Amendments:- Parking of Trailer, Sheds, Hen Run, Greenhouse and Container.

2)TC 4 Rear of Dan's Castle

Tenancy Agreement signed by Mrs M. Craggs

Amendment:- 1 fruit cage with current bushes, 2 greenhouses, 3 gooseberry bushes (note: the gooseberry bushes in particular do go over the edge but the adjacent allotment holder is quite happy and has agreed that he does not mind, In return he can pick any fruit that grows in his side.

3)TC5 Rear of Dan's Castle

Tenancy Agreement signed by Mrs L. Rowland

Joint tenancy with Mr G. Evans

4)TC6 Rear of Dan's Castle

Tenancy Agreement signed by Mr D. Bradley

Amendment:- Shed

5)TC8 rear of Dan's Castle

Tenancy Agreement signed by Ms Michelle Hird

Amendments:- Chicken Shed, Tool Shed and Trailer in entrance for all allotment holder to borrow, to take rubbish away from site.

Signed.....Chair

182/24 ALLOTMENTS (continued)

6)TC 9 Rear of Dan's Castle

Tenancy Agreement signed by Mr D. Laing

Amendments:- Potting Shed/Greenhouse, Chicken Shed/Run, 4 Fruit Trees, 1 Fruit Bush, 3 Shrubs (acting as wind breakers and cover of fence on footpath).

7)TC 10 Rear of Dan's Castle

Tenancy Agreement NOT signed

Members agreed for the Clerk to issue a Notice of Termination.

Response to questions:- Provision of Top Soil – Not agreed, Cutting back of overhanging trees – not agreed Increase in Rent – Council agreement to review all rents and Rabbiting on the Bee Hive Coke Oven Site – not agreed Town Council/Natural England.

8)RT1 Rear of Ridley Terrace

Tenancy Agreement signed by Mr E. Nelson

9)RT 2 and 3 Rear of Ridley Terrace

Allotment Holder in hospital, operation on his legs.

10) RT4 Rear of Ridley Terrace

Tenancy Agreement signed by Mrs S. Wilkinson

Joint tenancy with Mr David Raine

184/24 LAND REAR OF HIGH STREET, TOW LAW

Fillings to the potholes (was still outstanding).

185/24 TOW LAW COMMUNITY CENTRE

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

186/24 TOW LAW FOOD BANK

Councillor Nicol updated the meeting that the Food Bank was still very busy. Funding of £13,000 received from the AAP to run the Food Bank commencing in September 2024.

187/24 FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

Members agreed to the Clerk completing a Funding Application for the supply and delivery of the Municipal Tree (up to £2000).

Signed.....Chair

188/24 POLICE /PACT/SPEEDWATCH – PACT meetings to meet every two months.

189/24 COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT -

County Councillor Manchester reported on the following:-

- Electric Points (small electrical goods)
- Play Area – working on the designs
- Welfare support
- AAP Boundaries (proposed to include Tow Law with Weardale).

190/24 REPRESENTATION BY RESIDENTS – None received.

191/23 BANK ACCOUNT (on-line banking) –

Councillor Nicol. And Fowler to complete request with the Co-op Bank.

192/24 CCTV IN TOW LAW

Clerk to write to the Durham Police and Crime Commissioner’s office to take over the monitoring cost of DCC as from this year?

193/24 TOW LAW MILLENNIUM GREEN

Declaration of Trust Document – Forms sent to the Charity Commission

Charity Commission document – to complete and forward onto the Charity Commission.

Barclays Bank Account – Councillor Gale signed the authorisation letter to Barclays Bank PLC

Inspection of Play Area - Cost received from Sovereign Play for £399.00 (one off payment for 5 years cover with 2 operational inspections per year with a report. Members agreed to proceed with operational inspections by Sovereign Play.

194/24 PLANNING MATTERS No applications received

195/24 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Accounts 21 to 28; value £3291.36 be approved for payment.

196/24 ROAD SAFETY- COUNCILLOR WILLOCK

Councillor Willock updated the meeting, the following were still outstanding:-

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

Signed.....Chair

197/24 BEEHIVE COKE OVENS

The gorse plants had been treated and trimmed back..

198/24 FUNDING OPPERTUNITIES - check Windmii/AAP sites?

199/24 THE SKILL MILL – COUNTY DURHAM YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICE

Millennium Green – 10 metres of trench work exposed, Skill Mill to advise on costs ASAP. Clerk to chase up response.

200/24 D DAY 80 6th JUNE 2024

Councillor Willock provided an update report on the Fish & Chips and funding. Event went well, but felt let down by the lack of Councillors attending the event?

VE Day 2025 – 8th May 2025 – light beacon? Saturday event? Music? Community Centre. Set up a sub-committee to take this work forward.

“VE Day 2025” – to be placed on the agenda for the next Town Council meeting.

201/24 CLERK’S REPORT

The Clerk reported on the following:-

- E-mail management – The Clerk reported on the update of funding for .gov.uk from WJP Software Ltd:-
- Membership of National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners Ltd , Members agreed for the Town Council to join as a Local Authority member at a cost of £55.00 plus VAT, Clerk to raise the cheque.
- Correspondence from Dawn Knight, Community Safety Co-ordinator, Durham Police and Crime Commissioners Office regarding her role in the office and contact details.
- CDALC - Consultation on Local Network/AAP Boundaries
- CDALC – Register of Interests Members home addresses – survey to complete

202/24 MEMBERS REPORTS

Councillor Stokes:-

- Replica of Miners Banner
- Banner Group?

Councillor Willock:-

- Town Council Facebook page – contributions?

Signed.....Chair

203/24 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 17th September 2024 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.30pm

CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

204/24 Clerk's Revised working pattern

Item to be discussed at the next Town Council meeting

The meeting finished at 7.55pm

Signed.....Chair