

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2023, commencing at 6.55pm in the Community Centre, Tow Law.

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

ALSO PRESENT: County Councilor R. Manchester, G. F. Smith (Clerk) and Kirsty Duffy.

105/23 APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Councillor M. Dyer.

106/23 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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

Councillors Craggs and Nicol declared an interest in agenda items no.9 Tow Law Community Centre and agenda item no. 10 Tow Law Food Bank.

Councillors Nicol, Craggs and Willock also declared an interest in agenda item no.7 Allotments.

Councillor D. Willock declared an interest in agenda item No. 10 Tow Law Food Bank and Agenda item No. 22 Road Safety.

107/23 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 18<sup>th</sup> April 2023

The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chair.

108/23 ACTION LIST

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

The Clerk – Corporate Trustees – Arrange meeting for Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2023

The Chair chased up response from :-

- Home Group/MP and informed the meeting of the discussions.

Signed.....Chair

#### 109/23 COMMUNITY FUND

The Clerk read out a letter received Kirsty Duffy, Co-opted Governor, Tow Law Millennium Primary School requesting funding for a trip to the Weardale Railway Santa Express on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2023, total cost is £1500.00.

Members agreed to donate £250.00 from the Community Fund to the project.

The Clerk also read out a letter received from Hayley Anderson, 4 High Street, Tow Law for a fun/sports day for the children and adults of the community to be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2023 at Tow Law Football Club.

Members agreed to donate £250.00 from the Community Fund to this project.

#### 110/23 JOINT REPORT BY THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

- Ongoing discussions with Home Group /MP/ Crime Commissioner/MySpace/Local Press.
- High Hill House – Ongoing problems.

#### 111/23 ALLOTMENTS

The Clerk read out a letter received from Jeff Hindmoor, Allotment Holder “When will the water be connected? It looks like another year of no water for the allotments and before you put up the price of the allotment rents. I think you should visit the site and look at what we are paying for ie water tap, one screw holding it on, cable ties and duck tape holding the pipe onto a piece of old fence post not to mention the state of the trench that was dug up and the rubbish that came out of it , just left lying around, its a right mess?

Members agreed for Councillor Gale and the Clerk to meet up with the contractor on site.

Councillor Willock update the meeting on the Allotments Committee visit to the allotments sites and the review of allotments rent.

Councillor Willock agreed to forward details to the Clerk for him to forward onto the allotment holders so they are aware of what is happening before the Council meet to discuss this matter (June 2023).

#### 112/23 LAND REAR OF HIGH STREET, TOW LAW

Councillor Stokes updated the meeting: –

A quotation had been received from RJC Landscape and Building Maintenance, Stanhope for £4145.00 to dig out the area, remove soil, landscape the area, road base coat suitable for driving/parking on, fencing around cherry trees and protect from vehicles . Members agreed to accept this quotation.

Signed.....Chair

113/23 TOW LAW COMMUNITY CENTRE

Letter received from Jenny Flynn, Secretary, TLCA asking for support (financially) for the Food Bank and the Youth Night, the two projects cost £6000.00 (Food Bank) and £600.00 (Youth Night) = Total £6600.00 for one year. Members agreed to donate one third of the costs £2200.00 and review this again in three months time in the hope that some funding for a longer term could be found.

114/23 TOW LAW FOOD BANK

Councillor Nicol updated the meeting – still very busy, soup and food sessions, numbers expanding.

115/23 POLICE /PACT/SPEEDWATCH REPORTS - No figures available.

Next Police Pact meeting on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 6.30pm in the Community Centre, Tow Law.

116/23 FACEBOOK

Councillor Craggs unable to produce a first edition asked David Rider to assist.

117/23 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

County Councillor R. Manchester reported on the following:-

- A68 Highway Resurfacing.
- Boundary Commission
- Funding for the Play Area.

118/23 REPRESENTATION BY RESIDENTS

Letter received from Jeff Hindmoor, Bridge Street, Collection of the Coronation Flags and Bunting – Councillor Fowler to arrange for the contractor to arrange tidy up.

119/23 BANK ACCOUNT (on-line banking) – response from Co-op Bank. Still Awaiting details of confirmation of Authorised signatories and authorisation of on-line banking arrangements.

120/23 PLANNING MATTERS

DM/23/01250/FPA Planning Application for demolition of garage and construction of a three bedroomed dormer bungalow at Garage site 6 Thornley Terrace, Tow Law by Mr M. Reay.

DECISION – No objections.

Signed.....Chair

121/23 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Vouchers 08 to 18 amounting to £4323.14; to be paid.

122/23 CCTV IN TOW LAW – Clerk to further discuss with DCC regarding updating of cameras and number plate recognition system.

123/23 TOW LAW MILLENNIUM GREEN

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

Site visit to be arranged (Health & safety concerns).

124/23 BEEHIVE COKE OVENS

Councillor Stokes updated the meeting – works are still outstanding on the information board (details to be sent to the Clerk) and gorse bushes (contract should be drawn up). Councilor Gale agreed to take over the management of the site from Councillor Stokes.

125/23 ROAD SAFETY

Councillors Willock updated the meeting on developments regarding speed limits at the road ends, review of traffic at this point by mobile speed caneras.

126/23 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk reported on the Local Councils Award Scheme which was an item from NALC regarding the scheme and thought it appropriate for the Tow Council to support/apply for this award, further discussions at the next Town Council meeting.

Tow Law Football Club

The Clerk read out an e-mail from Neil Carpenter following discussions at Tow Law Town AFC committee. Use of Council Notice Boards to display posters to assist with ticket sales for events in the clubhouse. Clerk agreed to review the use of notice boards for "Community Use". Councilors Nicol and Stokes would discuss the notice board outside the Community Centre (presently damaged) with the Community Centre's committee.

127/23 MEMBERS REPORTS - None

Signed.....Chair

128/23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2023 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.30pm.

The meeting finished at 8.30pm.

SIGNED.....Chair