

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2024, commencing at 6.30pm in the Community Centre, Tow Law.

PRESENT: Councillors F. Nicol (Chair), M. Craggs, J. Fowler, P.Stokes and D. Willock.

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

Residents: A. Bradley, R. Lynn and A. Dixon.

205/24 APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Councillors T. Bland, K. Duffy, M. Dyer, P. Eastwood, J. Gale and E. Mather.

206/24 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.

207/24 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 16<sup>th</sup> July 2024

The minutes required amendment to the Allotment Report.

208/24 ACTION LIST – No Action List.

209/24 COMMUNITY FUND

The Clerk read out an application from the 1<sup>st</sup> Tow Law Scouts for a contribution towards the training costs of the Leaders over the year. To offer a wide range of opportunities and experience to the young people within the Scout group.

Members agreed to donate £250 towards the costs of this project.

Signed.....Chair

210/24 JOINT REPORT OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

- Attended AAP meeting
- Attended PACT meeting
- High Hill House no clients, recruiting staff, mental health problems, Open Day 1<sup>st</sup> October.

211/24 ALLOTMENTS

A)Pigeon Loft Agreement to amend, copies to all Councillors.

B)ALLOTMENT UPDATES AMENDED

212/24 LAND REAR OF HIGH STREET, TOW LAW

Fillings to the potholes (was still outstanding). Councillor Stokes asked the Clerk about the completion of the monitoring form. Clerk responded that due to sickness he has been unable to complete the form but would attend to this as soon as possible.

213/24 TOW LAW COMMUNITY CENTRE

Councillor Stokes updated the meeting that the Centre was still very busy. Annual General Meeting to take place on 26th September 2024, looking for young volunteers to serve on the committee.

214/24 TOW LAW FOOD BANK

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

215/24 POLICE /PACT/SPEEDWATCH

Off-Road bikes were causing concerns

No Speedwatch figures.

216/24 FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

The Clerk reported:-

- Success in obtaining funding for the Municipal Tree.
- Statement of Accounts to be produced for the next Town Council meeting.
- Safeguard Report – To be discussed at the next Town Council meeting.
- Risk Assessment for the installation of Christmas Tree – Colour copy to be sent to all Councillors to be discussed at the next Town Council meeting.

Signed.....Chair

217/24 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT -

County Councillor Manchester reported on the following:-

- Play Area – working on the designs/consultations awaiting results.
- Home Group.
- AAP Boundaries (proposed to include Tow Law with Weardale).
- Footpath on Millennium Green (Councillor Stokes)
- Planters in High Street (untidy)- responsibility of DCC.

218/24 REPRESENTATION BY RESIDENTS – Information Board not up to date?

219/23 BANK ACCOUNT (on-line banking) – No progress.

220/24 PLANNING MATTERS – No applications received.

221/24 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT \_ NO Report (Clerk absent).

222/24 ROAD SAFETY COUNCILLOR WILLOCK

Councillor Willock updated the meeting on the resurfacing part of road, road sign provided, item to be withdrawn from the agenda.

223/24 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?

224/24 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 - Clerk to confirm with Sovereign Play for 5 year operational inspections two per year with a report at a cost of £399.00 plus VAT.

225/24 BEEHIVE COKE OVENS

The gorse plants required further treatment and trimming back, Clerk to contact the Contractor (Councillor Stokes).

226/24 FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES - No update.

227/24 THE SKILL MILL – COUNTY DURHAM YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICE – No update.

Signed.....Chair

228/24 VE DAY 8<sup>th</sup> MAY 2025

Clerk to e-mail all Councillors to ask them for their thoughts on the event (responses to Councillor Willock by e-mail who will co-ordinate replies)

( light beacon on Thursday evening, Saturday event? Music? Community Centre? Set up a sub-committee to take this work forward? involve the Schools?).

229/24 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk reported on the following:-

- Change of name from County Durham Community Foundation to Point North as from 8<sup>th</sup> August 2024.

230/24 MEMBERS REPORTS

Councillor Stokes:-

- Bus Board meeting – Electronic Notice Board, bus times (cost £10, 000)
- Bus connections Durham/Crook/Tow Law discussed?

Councillor Fowler:-

- Crossing Control person for the school crossings, thanks to DCC (County Councillor Manchester).

Councillor Nicol:-

- Ordered Wreath for Town Council from the local organiser of the British Legion.

231/24 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2024 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.30pm

CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

231/24 FINANCIAL POSITION OF TOWN COUNCIL

Item to be discussed at the next Town Council meeting

The meeting finished at 7.36pm

Signed.....Chair