

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2023, commencing at 6.30pm in the Community Centre, Tow Law.

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

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

163/23 APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Councillors C. Batson, M. Dyer and P. Eastwood.

164/23 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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

Councillors Craggs and Nicol declared an interest in agenda items no.10 Tow Law Community Association and agenda item no. 11 Tow Law Food Bank.

Councillor Craggs also declared an interest in agenda item no.8 Allotments.

Councillor D. Willock declared an interest in agenda items No. 11 Tow Law Food Bank and agenda item No. 19 – Road Safety..

165/23 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 20<sup>th</sup> June 2023

The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chair.

166/23 MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 27<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2023

The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chair.

167/23 ACTION LIST

The Action List was circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting.

168/23 COMMUNITY FUND

The Clerk read out a letter received from Jenny Mountain, Tow Law Art Group requesting funding for an artist led sessions for the Autumn, exhibition in Summer 2024.

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

Signed.....Chair

169/23 JOINT REPORT BY THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

- High Hill House – Ongoing problems (getting worse).
- AAP Board meeting and workshop
- AAP meeting regarding summer activities

170/23 ALLOTMENTS

Councillor Craggs left the meeting.

The Clerk had circulated a report from the Allotments Committee reviewing the arrangements for the Allotment sites including rents.

Members agreed the following measurements and new rents from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024:-

Reference	size (ft2)	rent (£)
REAR OF DAN'S CASTLE		
TC1	2915	29.15
TC2	2915	29.15
TC3	954	9.54
TC4	697	6.97
TC5	656	6.56
TC6	697	6.97
TC7	656	6.56
TC8	954	9.54
TC9	1740	17.40
TC10	1470	14.70
RIDLEY TERRACE		
RT1	6380	63.80
RT2	3584	35.84
RT3	3024	30.24
RT4	7641	76.41
RT5	1152	11.52

Signed.....Chair

Reference	Size (ft2)	Rent (£)
MILLENNIUM GREEN (Pigeon's)		
MG1	4232	61.40 No change
MG2	4048	61.40 No change

Allotment Tenancy Agreements

Copies of the Town Councils and Durham County Councils agreements to be e-mailed to all Councillors, with discussions to be made at the September meeting.

Repair to water supply pipe

The repair has been completed.

Councillor Craggs returned to the meeting.

171/23 LAND REAR OF HIGH STREET, TOW LAW

Councillor Stokes updated the meeting: –

Erection of 5 metres of bird mouth fence ( 5 posts, 10 bags of concrete and 5 metal stays), 2 men 1 day. Cost £375.00, quote from RJC Landscape and Building Maintenance.

Members agreed to accept the quotation and for Councillor Stokes to inform the Contractor.

172/23 TOW LAW COMMUNITY CENTRE

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

173/23 TOW LAW FOOD BANK

Councillor Nicol updated the meeting – still very busy.

174/23 POLICE /PACT/SPEEDWATCH REPORTS

No Speedwatch report.

Next Police Pact meeting on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2023 at 6.30pm in the Community Centre, Tow Law.

175/23 FACEBOOK – Ongoing

Signed.....Chair

176/23 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

County Councillor R. Manchester reported on the following:-

- Contact details for play equipment inspections (James Young, DCC), details passed to the Clerk.
- Funding for the Play Area.
- Rights of Way consultation
- Community Engagement Review – Local Community Network (proposal).

177/23 REPRESENTATION BY RESIDENTS – None received.

178/23 BANK ACCOUNT (on-line banking) – response from Co-op Bank. Telephone appointment arranged for next week.

179/23 PLANNING MATTERS – None received.

180/23 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Vouchers 27 to 35 amounting to £3874.52; to be paid.

181/23 ROAD SAFETY- COUNCILLOR WILLOCK

Police survey to be completed.

182/23 CCTV IN TOW LAW – Clerk has arranged a telephone appointment next week to discuss outstanding items.

183/23 TOW LAW MILLENNIUM GREEN

Declaration of Trust Document

The Clerk had circulated a copy of the above document to all Councillors dated 1<sup>st</sup> November 1998, to be discussed at the next Town Council meeting in September 2023.

Charity Commission Document

The Clerk had submitted a request for information form to the Commission on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2023, awaiting a response, to be discussed at the next Town Council meeting in September 2023.

Barclay's Bank Account

The Clerk informed Members that he had received a letter from Barclay's Bank dated 16<sup>th</sup> June 2023, to be discussed at the next Town Council meeting in September 2023.

Signed.....Chair

184/23 BEEHIVE COKE OVENS – No update.

185/23 FIND & FIX PROJECT FOR TOW LAW

The Clerk had spoken to Dean Henry (DCC) regarding completion of works on the proposed work plan, Clerk to update at the next Town Council meeting in September 2023.

186/23 LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME

Members agreed for the Clerk to complete the registration document.

187/23 COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP FUND

The Clerk had circulated a copy of the document from the Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities. Details to be discussed when the next round of bids is open for applications (consider The Mart site and/or Millennium Green Site).

188/23 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH COMMUNITY SAFETY CHARTER

Members agreed to sign up to the Charter, Clerk to complete the on-line application form.

189/23 CLERK'S REPORT – No Report.

190/23 MEMBERS REPORTS

Councillor Stokes:-

- Football Club to use new car park facilities on match days, use of footpath to the football ground.
- Use of notice boards by the Football Club.

Councillor Gale:-

- Grass cutting on the Industrial Estate (County Councillor Manchester to take this matter up with DCC officers).

Councillor Nicol:-

- Flower Bed – Yes to planting the bed, but no to taking responsibility of the Flower Box.

191/23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.30pm.

The meeting finished at 7.55pm.

SIGNED.....Chair