

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting held on 18th May 2021 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.45pm.

PRESENT: Councillors P. Stokes (Chair), T. Batson, J. Fowler, K. Geraghty-Shewan, E. Mather and F. Nicol.

ALSO PRESENT: County Councillor R. Manchester and G. F. Smith (Clerk) and Mrs M. Craggs (resident).

051/21 Apologies Councillor C. Batson

052/21 Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Councillor

The Councillors present at the meeting signed the necessary Acceptance form witnessed by the Proper Officer (the Clerk).

053/21 Declaration of Interest

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

054/21 Representation by Residents

Marion Craggs of High Street read out a letter regarding a number of issues relating to the allotments at Dan's Castle, in particular the following:-

- Water supply to the site – lack of progress.
- Empty plots for 4 years.
- Plots not being cultivated.
- Replacing broken lock – main gate.
- Upkeep of footpaths on the site – Council owned
- Difficulty paying rent – office not “manned”
- No response to e-mails (Clerk).
- Allotment Rents?
- Allotment Association.
- Site inspections.

The Clerk apologised to Mrs Craggs and would look into her concerns.

055/21 Community Fund

The Clerk read out a letter from Tow Law Millennium Primary School/Blessed John Duckett RC School regarding a request for funding to support year 6 leavers award at the end of the summer term.

To supply Y6 pupils with a leavers hoodie priced at £17.00 each for 36 pupils.

Councillor Nichol to contact the schools to confirm numbers etc.

Members agreed to support this application from the Community Fund and Council reserves.

056/21 Approval of Minutes of Zoom meeting held on 20th April 2021. The following alterations were required:-

Minute 034/21 Declaration of Interest include Councillors P. Stokes and F. Nicol.

Minute 035/21 Approval of Minutes of previous meeting 20th October 2020

044/20 Vice Chairman

Should read "It was proposed that Councillor T. Batson should be appointed as Vice Chairman for the ensuring year, this proposal was agreed by all Members".

Minute 043/21 Allotments

Should read "Proposal by the Chairman for the Clerk to send out the letter to all allotment holders, seconded by Councillor K. Geraghty-Shewan".

057/21 Matters Arising – None

058/21 Councillor Vacancies

Five seats are vacant, Clerk to produce a Notice of Interest and place the advert on the Councils notice boards, web site with a closing date of 9th June, interviews to take place at the next Town Council meeting.

059/21 Allotments

Letters have been sent to all allotment holders. Cost of trench work/pie work to the next meeting.

060/21 Land rear of High Street, Tow Law

E-mail from Council's solicitor received regarding the title deeds and a plan prepared by the Land Registry showing the full extent of the land and the area (red verging) showing the details of the Telephone Exchange which did not form part of the area of sale. The Chair/Clerk to arrange a meeting with the solicitor.

061/21 Tow Law Community Association

Open day on 1st June Community Association to employ an I T instructor on computes/laptops.

Jack Drum running a Youth Club on a Tuesday evening in the Community Centre.

062/21 Speedwatch report

Councillor Mather produced a report (from Harold Wilsher):-

22/4/21 Dan's Castle 52 vehicles; 2 speeding

12/5/21 Sunnyside 32 vehicles; 3 speeding

Bridge Street 63 vehicles; 4 speeding

Smith Street 22 vehicles; 4 speeding

063/21 County Councillor's report

County Councillor Manchester reported on the following:-

- Garage plot Attlee Estate – complaint
- Broken drain outside the Pharmacy shop, High Street
- School Crossing Patrol
- Gate repair on Millennium Green
- Seating Bench at Thornley Cemetery
- Wardens tidying up of Tow Law area

064/21 Chairman' report – No report

065/21 Bank Account (on line banking)

Clerk to arrange with the Co-operative Bank PLC.

066/21 Planning Matters

A)Planning Application by Mr J. R. Martin for change of use of agricultural building to waste transfer station (general permitted development) at Thornley Pit House Farm, Bridge Street, Tow Law.

For information, awaiting further details

B)Neighbourhood Planning – No update

067/21 Accounts for payment

Vouchers 13 to 15 amounting to £2302.37; to be paid.

068/21 Tow Law Millennium Green

Thanks to Councillor Nicol and volunteers for litter picking (improvements). Quotes to be obtained for grass cutting to paths on the site.

069/21 Bee Hive Coke Ovens

Gorse under control

Information Board (needs attention)

Grass cutting quote required for the site

070/21 Flower Tubs - quotation required

071/21 Play Areas in Tow Law

Home Group plans?

County Councillor Manchester working on this project

072/21 Platinum Jubilee event

Agreed to plant trees.

073/21 Clerk's report

The notice board at North Point has been damaged, Councillor Fowler to arrange for the replacement/repair to be carried out.

074/21 Members reports

Councillor T. Batson quoted from the "Good Councillors Guide, as follows:-

- Due Care and Attention (General Power of Competence)
- What you must do as a Council.
- Rules for Councillors.
- Councillors conduct and Interests (Nolan Principles)
- Council meetings (Standing Orders, Agendas etc)

075/21 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 15th June 2021.

The meeting finished at 9.15pm