

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 19th March 2024, commencing at 6.30pm in the Community Centre, Tow Law.

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

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

060/24 APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Councillors K. Duffy and P. Stokes.

061/24 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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

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

062/24 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 20th February 2024

The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chair.

063/24 ACTION LIST

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

064/24 COMMUNITY FUND

The Clerk read out a letter from the friends of Blessed John Duckett and Primary School asking for a donation towards funds for some much needed equipment for the children and to enhance their outdoor provision. First target to purchase new production lights, when the pupils put on their plays and end of the year pantomimes

The Community Fund is awaiting confirmation from the Windmill Farm Supplier . It was agreed to file the request until the matter is resolved.

Signed.....Chair

065/24 SETTING THE ESTIMATES

The Clerk supplied Members with a draft report for further discussions at the next Town Council meeting (April 2024).

066/24 JOINT REPORT BY THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR (apologies)

- High Hill House – Ongoing problems.
- Two objections from Statutory Organisations (plus individuals) against the Windmill site, delaying Planning Permission.
- Litter picking project

067/24 ALLOTMENTS

Requests had been made to change the agreement (pigeon lofts) and reflect past agreements for alterations to clauses/site updates etc, Clerk had corresponded to all allotment holders 9 letters delivered by Councillor Craggs), and report to the next appropriate Town Council meeting for recording purposes.

068/24 LAND REAR OF HIGH STREET, TOW LAW

Fillings to the potholes (was still outstanding), but the Contractor would carry out the work as soon as possible.

069/24 TOW LAW COMMUNITY CENTRE

Councillor Nicol updated the meeting that the Centre was still very busy. The Clerk reported that the final cheque for payment for the use of the Community Centre by the Food Bank (£2000) and the Youth Nights (£200) had been approved at tonight's meeting.

070/24 TOW LAW FOOD BANK

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

071/24 POLICE /PACT/SPEEDWATCH

Speed watch Report Councillor Willock requested information on joining the speed watch scheme.

COUNCILLOR CRAGGS JOINED THE MEETING

072/24 FACEBOOK

Councillor Craggs updating page, requested further information.

SignedChair

073/24 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT -

County Councillor Manchester reported on the following:-

- Still outstanding Car Park sign
- The Budget Report for DCC and the 5% increase in the Council Tax

074/24 REPRESENTATION BY RESIDENTS – None received.

075/23 BANK ACCOUNT (on-line banking) – Clerk had checked with Co-op Bank regarding completion of authorisation details(outstanding details for Councillor Nicol. Matter in hand with Co-op Bank and should be “live” from 1st April 2024.

076/24 PLANNING MATTERS No applications received

077/24 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Accounts 82 to 86 ; value £4183.01 be approved for payment.

078/24 ROAD SAFETY- COUNCILLOR WILLOCK

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

- Police survey to be completed.
- Agreement has been reached on repainting the road with a sign “dangerous corner”.
- Councillor Willock to issue reminders.
- Recent accident in the area (details sent to all Councillors).

079/24 CCTV IN TOW LAW – Clerk to contact DCC/Police this week for an update and inform Councillors of any progress.

080/24 TOW LAW MILLENNIUM GREEN

Declaration of Trust Document, Clerk to contact Jenny Flynn (outstanding Trustee) to progress this matter(Councillor Craggs supplied contact details to the Clerk)..

Charity Commission Document – report to the next appropriate Town Council meeting.

Barclay's Bank Account – update report to the next appropriate Town Council meeting.

Inspections of Play Area

The Clerk spoke to County Councillor Manchester for an update and report to the next appropriate Town Council meeting.

Signed.....Chair

The Clerk read out a quotation from Durham Stonemasonry & Restoration for the repair work to the sculpture stone at the entrance to Millennium Green , which was damaged by a vehicle. The cost of the repairs is £1217.00 plus vat £243.40 total £1460.40. 50% deposit required before works start on site in April 2024.

Members agreed for the work to be carried out and the amount be refunded to the Town Council on completion of the works by the person that did the damage.

081/24 BEEHIVE COKE OVENS

The Clerk reported that he had spoken to Richard Batson with regard to the gorse plants on site and he was ordering the treatment solution and would complete the task as soon as possible.

082/24 FUNDING OPPERTUNITIES – None this month.

083/24 THE SKILL MILL – COUNTY DURHAM YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICE

The Clerk had contacted the Supervisor and was meeting him on site on Thursday 21st March 2024 and wil report to the next appropriate Town Council meeting.

084/24 D DAY 80 6th JUNE 2024

Councillor Willock provided an update report, further updates nearer the event. He would like appropriate comments from Members of the Council on possible events (fish and chip night etc).

085/24 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk reported on the following:-

- The Notice of Vacancy has been issued, closing date 21st March 2024, details to be reported to the next Town Council meeting.
- Clerk to contact CDALC and Councillor Stokes for an update regarding the nomination for the Executive Committee.

086/24 MEMBERS REPORTS

Councillor Bland:-

- Deerness Estate Bungalows – parking on grass verges (mess) reported to County Councillor Manchester.
- Rats at High Street, two gardens full of rubbish reported to County Councillor Manchester.

Councillor Fowler:-

- Car parking outside the Co-op Store (landlord responsibilities).

Signed.....Chair

087/24 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 16th April 2024 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.30pm.

CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

088/24 Clerk's Revised working pattern

The meeting finished at 7.35pm

Signed.....Chair