

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 19th May 2026, commencing at 6.35pm in the Community Centre, Tow Law.

PRESENT: Councillors F. Nicol (Chair), T. Bland, M. Craggs, M. Dyer, P. Eastwood, J. Fowler and P. Stokes.

ALSO PRESENT: G. F. Smith (Clerk), County Councillor J. Shuttleworth.

ALSO: B. Quigley and G. Quigley.

092/26 APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Councillors A. Walsh, V. Fets and County Councillor A. Savoury.

093/26 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor Nicol declared an interest in agenda items No. 8 Tow Law Community Association and item No. 9 Tow Law Food Bank and agenda item 18 Pride in Place Programme – Local Neighbourhood Board.

Councillor Craggs declared an interest in agendas items Nos 7 Allotments, No 8 Tow Law Community Association and item No.9 Tow Law Food Bank.

Councillor Stokes declared an interest in agenda item No. 8 Tow Law Community Association.

Councillor Eastwood declared an interest in agenda item No. 7 Allotments.

Councillor Bland declared an interest in agenda items No. 7 Allotments and item 18 Pride in Place Programme – Local Neighbourhood Board.

094/26 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21st April 2026

The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chair.

095/26 ACTION LIST April 2026

The list was circulated to Councillors before the meeting. Members agreed the list.

Signed.....Chair

096/26 COMMUNITY FUND

The Clerk read out the following applications:-

- Friends of High Stoop Woods for £120.00 for the hire of a Porter Loo (£95.00) and hire of tables and chairs from Tow Law Community Association (£25.00).
Members agreed to donate £120.00 from the Community Fund for this project.
- Tow Law Fun Day (Hayley Anderson) for £250.00 towards the running costs of the Fun Day (equipment hire, entertainment and materials).
Members agreed to donate £250.00 from the Community Fund for this project.
- Girlguiding 1st Tow Law Brownies, Guides and Rainbows to visit Raby Castle to explore the grounds, tour of the Castle and gain a History Badge.
Members agreed to donate £300.00 towards the three groups visiting the Castle (The Chair to talk to the Unit Leader regarding costs of transport and access to the Castle).

097/26 REPORT BY THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

- Problems/complaints regarding the Children's Home – lack of staffing cover at weekends? Not 24 hour cover? Drinking/ASB , Police are aware.

098/26 ALLOTMENTS

Allotment Rents Outstanding:-

RIDLEY TERRACE

TT002/003 – tenant has moved house reissue the notice/warning letter. Rent due.

Dans Castle

TC 7 (£6.56)

Inspection of Allotments sites 4th June 2026 at 3.00pm (Meet in the Community Centre).

099/26 TOW LAW COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Councillor Nicol reported that the Community Centre is still very busy (many new activities).

Mainly due to the new Manager Hayley.

100/26 TOW LAW FOOD BANK

Councillor Nicol/Craggs reported that demand for the service is still very high.

Signed.....Chair

101/26 POLICE/PACT/SPEEDWATCH – Councillor Nicol reported NO PACT MEETING/ NO SPEEDWATCH REPORT.

102/26 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

County Councillor Shuttleworth reported on the following:-

- Still awaiting plan for Christmas Tree - electricity supply
- Highway works in Tow Law - delayed.
- Car Parking sign(details from Councillor Craggs).
- Sign for Ironworks Road (details from Councillor Stokes)
- Grass/wild flowers at Deerness Estate (Councillor Stokes).

103/26 BANK ACCOUNT (on-line banking) – Digital banking service replacing all physical security tokens with new and improved versions. No date for change over, Clerk to contact the Co-operative Bank for an update.

104/26 PLANNING MATTERS – No reports.

105/26 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The Clerk reported the following:-

- payments vouchers 04 to 11 sum of £4829.01.

Members agreed to pay the above accounts.

106/26 BEEHIVE COKE OVENS

The sign is in need of maintaining/upgrading. Clerk to contact Historical England regarding funding for sign and wayleave agreement for overhead power lines and conditions of neighbouring ovens (Councillor Stokes).

107/26 TOW LAW MILLENNIUM GREEN

Response to the Charity Commission (outstanding) to be completed as soon as possible(Clerk).

Councillor Eastwood to check safety measures around the pond area and report to the next Town Council meeting(outstanding).

Complaint received about the slide (to be checked out and the necessary alterations required to be carried out as soon as possible (outstanding).

108/26 FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Councillor Craggs informed the Clerk asking him to check the National Lottery and Believe Housing web sites for possible funding. (Clerk to progress).

Signed.....Chair

109/26 PRIDE IN PLACE PROGRAMME

Councillor Nicol reported that applications were being sorted for the vacancies for Public Representatives and only one Board meeting has taken place.

Next meeting scheduled for end of June 2026.

110/26 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk reported on the following:-

Meeting of CDALC Smaller Councils Forum scheduled for 21st May 2026 at the Civic Hall, Shildon commencing at 1.30pm. Councillors Nicol and Craggs unable to attend, Councillor Stokes would attend.

111/26 MEMBERS REPORTS

Councillor Fowler :-

- Christmas Tree lights – refer to Local Network Board for consideration.
- Flower Planter at entrance to Tow Law (A68)

Councillor Stokes:-

- Ironworks Road sign missing refer to DCC
- Car Park sign missing (High Street), Councillor Craggs to report to DCC.
- State of flower bed at Deerness Estate refer to DCC.

Councillor Bland

- Speed Cameras – prepare a bid to the Local Neighbourhood Board
- Installation of Electric Supply for the Christmas Tree – prepare a bid for the Local Neighbourhood Board.

Councillor Eastwood

- Wind Farm Turbines Nameplates (ongoing) Members supported this project.

Members wished to record their thanks to Mr Richard Batson for planting the bulbs in the Tow Law area and also to DCC for filling the flower troughs in Tow Law High Street.

Signed.....Chair

112/26 REPRESENTATION BY RESIDENTS

Mr and Mrs Quigley raised concerns about the proposed upgrades to the Developments at Tow Law Wind Farm with particular reference to size of Blades, noise, lighting on blades etc and lack of consultation. Members agreed for the Clerk to contact the developer to attend the next meeting of the Town Council (16th June 2026) to discuss the project.

113/26 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 16th June 2026 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.30pm

The meeting finished at 7.40pm.

Signed.....Chair