

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Tow Law Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2021 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.30pm.

PRESENT: Councillors P. Stokes (Chair), T. Ball, C. Batson, T. Batson, K. Geraghty-Shewan, E. Mather  
And F. Nicol.

ALSO PRESENT: County Councillor R. Manchester, M. Dyer (Candidate), L. Tomlinson (Follow  
George) and G. F. Smith (Clerk).

107/21 Apologies

Councillors M. Craggs, P. Eastwood and J. Fowler.

108/21 Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Councillor

Councillor C. Batson signed the Declaration Form, countersigned by the Proper Officer (The Clerk) and took her place in the Council Chamber.

She also completed the DCC Declaration of Interests form and handed the document to the Clerk.

109/21 Declaration of Interests

Councillors Stokes and Nicol declared an interest in Agenda item No. 13 – Tow Law Community Association.

Councillors Stokes and Nicol declared an interest in Agenda item No. 14 Tow Law Food Bank.

Councillors C. Batson and T. Batson declared an interest in Agenda item No. 11 Allotments – Trench Works.

110/21 Interview for Councillor Vacancy

Members agreed to interview Mo Dyer, 32 Wolsingham Road, Tow Law for the vacant position of Councillor.

Members agreed to offer Mo Dyer the vacant position of Councillor. She accepted the offer, signed the Declaration of Office of Councillor form countersigned by the Proper Officer (the Clerk). She also completed the DCC Declaration of Interests form and handed the document to the Cler.

**Mo Dyer took her place in the Council Chamber.**

Signed.....Chairman

111/21 Presentation by Louise Tomlinson, Follow George on outdoor nature activities for children, she also passed around information boards on projects organised by thr group.

Members thanked Mrs Tomlinson for the very interesting and informative talk and she left the meeting.

112/21 Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Subject to the following amendments the minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman:-

Minute 093/21 Chairman's Report

Replace "Burglar" with "Piper".

Minute 099/21 Flower Tubs

Replace "a Local Contractor" with "DHG Maintanence, Tow Law".

113/21 Matters Arising/Action List

A)Matters Arising

- Councillor Geraghty-Shewan raised the matter of Minutes/Action List received days before the meeting. The Clerk agreed to publish the Minutes/Action List at least 7 days after the date of the meeting to all Councillors.
- Members agreed to ratify the responses to the Annual Return for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

B)Action List

Members agreed to update the list

114/21 Joint Report by the Chairman and Vice Chair

Discussions took place on Anti Social Behaviour in Tow Law. Member thanked the Chairman and Vice Chair for the report.

115/21 Community Fund – No report.

116/21 Application for a Premises Licence – Looking Glass House, High Street, Tow Law

The Chairman updated the meeting on further communications he had with DCC. Members agreed again to await for any further developments.

Signed.....Chairman

#### 117/21 Allotments

Councillor Mather/ the Clerk updated the meeting on the following:-

A)List of Allotment Holders with details. Further meeting to discuss completion of Survey (arranged for 3<sup>rd</sup> August).

B)Quotation from Batson Construction Services Ltd to install a water supply (22 meter trench), with tap and post at a cost of £1720.00 plus VAT. Members agreed to accept the quote and for the Clerk to complete the application form for non-household water supply connection with Northumbrian Water and apply to DCC Highways for a licence to dig-up roadway for the trench works. Clerk to also complete the form and raise a cheque for £139.20 (to be returned with the form to Northumbrian Water).

#### 118/21 Land rear of High Street, Tow Law

The Chairman/Clerk to complete the full Planning Consent Form including fee. The Chairman was arranging to meet local contractors regarding the proposed development and would inform all Councillors of suggested road covering etc.He was also awaiting a response from the Manager of the Co-op site regarding the side entrance.

#### 119/21 Tow Law Community Association

A)Update – the Cleaner had handed in his notice and finished on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2021.

B)Application for a donation – The Clerk informed the meeting that he had received a letter fro the Secretary of the Association asking for the Town Council to donate £6000.00 towards the maintenance of the Community Centre.

Members agreed to the donation of £6000.00 towards the project subject to the following:-

- Clerk to obtain a copy of the Association’s Accounts and to circulate copies to all Councillors.
- The Council to review the situation regarding setting the budget for 2022/23.

#### 120/21 Tow Law Food Bank

Members agreed to the following:-

- £1000.00 for Council Reserves to provide food supplies to families/children in the Tow Law area.
- £500.00 from the Community Fund to supply food supplies during the school holiday period to the two local Primary Schools.

Signed.....Chairman

121/21 Police/PACT/Speed watch Reports – No updates.

122/21 County Councillor’s Report

County Councillor Manchester reported on the following:-

- Meeting with Home Group
- Rats Alpine Way
- Bench at the Cemetery
- School poster competition
- Bins Millennium Green

123/21 Representation by Residents – None

124/21 Bank Account (on-line)

The Co-operative Bank PLC requires 2 signatories from 3. It was agreed to nominate Councillors T. Batson P. Stokes and the Clerk (reserves to be Councillors Fowler and Nicol).

125/21 Planning Matters

A)No Planning Application received

B)Neighbourhood Planning – No update.

126/21 Accounts for Payment

A)Vouchers 24 to 34 amounting to £6479.54; to be paid.

B)Councillor Geraghty-Shewan requested that CCTV maintenance be placed on the agenda for the next meeting for discussion/review.

127/21 Tow Law Millennium Green

Thank you to all volunteers for tidying-up the site. Subject of bins to be discussed at the next Town Council meeting.

128/21 Bee Hive Coke Ovens

The Chair reported of further spaying works to be completed (Deadly Nightshade) at a later date, chair to arrange works with the contractor.

Signed.....Chairman

129/21 Flower Tubs

Work complete; grass around tubs to be cut down.

130/21 Play Area in Tow Law

To be discussed in September.

131/21 Platinum Jubilee Event – No further update.

132/21 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on payment of a yearly fee for MR D. Rider of £144.00. Members agreed for Mr Rider to continue as Web Master at the agreed fee.

133/21 Members Reports – None.

134/21 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.30pm.

The meeting finished at 8.50pm.