

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 21st February 2023, commencing at 6.30pm in the Community Centre, Tow Law.

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

ALSO PRESENT: County Councillor R. Manchester, G. F. Smith (Clerk), Mr J. Gale (Resident).

028/23 APOLOGIES

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

029/23 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor Stokes declared an interest in agenda item no. 11 Tow Law Community Association.

Councillors Craggs and Nicol declared an interest in agenda items no. 11 Tow Law Community Centre and agenda item no. 12 Tow Law Food Bank.

Councillor Craggs also declared an interest in agenda item no.9 Allotments.

Councillor D. Willock declared an interest in agenda items No. 12 Tow Law Food Bank and Agenda item No. 23 Refuse collection in Tow Law.

030/23 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 17th January 2023

The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chair.

031/23 ACTION LIST

The Action List was circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting. Clerk to chase up responses from:-

- Changes to Domain; Corporate Trustees; Face book; CCTV in Tow Law; Co-op Bank Account.

Chair to chase up response from :-

- Home Group

032/23 COUNCILLOR VACANCY – TO APPOINT JEFF GALE 71 DAN’S CASTLE, TOW LAW DL13 4BB

Mr Gale was interviewed by the Council and left the Council meeting whilst Councillors made their decision. Mr Gale was offered the position of Councillor. Two Councillors (Craggs & Willock) did not vote.

Signed.....Chair

Councillor Gale signed the Declaration of Appointment of Councillor, countersigned by the Clerk. He took his seat in the Council Chamber. The Clerk handed Councillor Gale a copy of the DCC Declaration of Interests Form for him to complete and return to the Clerk.

033/23 COMMUNITY FUND – No applications received.

034/23 JOINT REPORT BY THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

- ASB in the Town; Two PACT meetings; AAP Highway Improvements; Section 21

035/23 HONOUR TO COUNCILLOR TERRY BATSON (TREE & PLAQUE)

Members failed to reach a decision. It was decided to suspend this matter until Councillor Dyer was available for further discussions.

036/23 ALLOTMENTS

The Clerk reported that he was still in discussions with Northumbrian Water, and that he was hopeful to see progress for the water supply to the allotment site by the end of this month. Some Councillors were unhappy with the lack of progress and requested that the Clerk urgently discuss the situation with NWA and report outcome to all Councillors (ASAP).

037/23 LAND REAR OF HIGH STREET, TOW LAW

Councillor Stokes updated the meeting – Approval of Planning Permission received from DCC, dated 16th February 2023. He made Councillors aware of the conditions of the permission. Reports to future Town Council meetings.

038/23 TOW LAW COMMUNITY CENTRE

Councillor Nicol updated the meeting – problems with Gas Heating

Councillor Stokes informed the meeting that lots of activities continue in the Centre. List of activities to be produced very soon.

039/23 TOW LAW FOOD BANK

Councillor Nicol updated the meeting – still very busy, providing Soup.

SIGNED.....Chair

040/23 POLICE /PACT/SPEEDWATCH REPORTS

Update provided by Councillor Nicol - PACT meeting held on Friday 20th January 2023, 6.30pm in the Community Centre, Tow Law.

SPEEDWATCH – Update provided by Councillor Mather:-

Date 6/2/2023 Bridge Street to Tow Law (van) 124 vehicles; 3 speeding; Wolsingham to Tow law (matrix) 21 vehicles; 8 speeding; Dan’s Castle to Tow Law (van) 110 vehicles; 1 speeding; Darlington to Tow Law (matrix) 52 vehicles; 1 speeding; Smith Street to Satley (matrix) 21 vehicles; 1 speeding; Satley to Tow Law (van) 24 vehicles; 2 speeding.

041/23 FACEBOOK

Clerk to chase up this matter (urgently).

042/23 COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT

County Councillor R. Manchester reported on the following:-

- Levelling-up
- Mayoral Arrangements (Devolution)

Councillor Bland raised the following with County Councillor Manchester, Rats near bins at High Street shops and Fly tipping (TV) on allotment site rear of Dan’s Castle.

043/23 REPRESENTATION BY RESIDENTS – No Report.

044/23 BANK ACCOUNT (on-line banking) – still awaiting response from Co-op Bank. Clerk to chase up contact details supplied by Councillor Stokes.

045/23 PLANNING MATTERS – NONE RECEIVED

046/23 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Vouchers 71 to 75 amounting to £2107.28; to be paid.

047/23 CCTV IN TOW LAW – No further update. Clerk to chase up response from DCC.

048/23 TOW LAW MILLENNIUM GREEN

Councillor Stokes updated the meeting on:- Ditches/Drainage; One dangerous tree; Topiary of Hedges; Grass Cutting Contract (Clerk to report to the next Town Council meeting).

Signed.....Chair

049/23 BEEHIVE COKE OVENS

Councillor Stokes updated the meeting – He was in hospital for some time and the works are still outstanding on the information board (details to be sent to the Clerk) and gorse bushes (contact should be drawn up).

050/23 REFUSE COLLECTION IN TOW LAW – ITEM TO BE WITHDRAWN FROM THE AGENDA.

051/23 CLERK’S REPORT

The Clerk read out a letter of resignation from Councillor Trevor Ball. Clerk to inform the DCC Returning Officer to report the vacancy.

052/23 MEMBERS REPORTS

Councillor Stokes:-

- Increase in Bus Services on a Sunday and week evenings to/from Tow Law (AAP Bus Committee).

053/23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 21st March 2023 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.30pm

The meeting finished at 7.55pm.

SIGNED.....Chair