

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2024, commencing at 6.45pm 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, P. Stokes and D. Willock.

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

118/24 APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Councillor K. Duffy.

119/24 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor Nicol declared an interest in agenda items No. 7 Report by the Chair and Vice Chair, and agenda item no. 11 Tow Law Food Bank.

Councillor Stokes declared an interest in agenda items No. 9 Land rear of High Street, No. 10 Tow Law Community Association 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 and agenda item No. 25 D Day 80 Commemoration/celebration.

Councillor Craggs declared an interest in agendas items Nos 8 Allotments, No 10 Tow Law Community Association and item No. 11 Tow Law Food Bank.

120/24 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024

The minutes were agreed subject to the following amendment”105/24 CCTV in Tow Law, Members agreed to amend the minute to read to temporary suspend the termination of the CCTV contract to consider future funding (AAP, Police Authority).”

121/24 ACTION LIST

The Action List was circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting, they were agreed. Clerk agreed to review future reports and amend accordingly.

122/24 COMMUNITY FUND

Review minute 064/24 Donation to Blessed John Duckett Primary School. Members agreed to donate £150.00 from the Community Fund towards funds for equipment for the pupils to enhance their outdoor provision.

Signed.....Chair

122/24 COMMUNITY FUND (continued)

The Clerk read out the following applications:-

Mrs Wendy White, Lunchtime supervisor at the Tow Law Millennium Primary School for a contribution towards the cost of a sensory garden in the outdoor area at the school (after school gardening Club).

Members agreed to donate £150.00 from the Community Fund towards this project.

Jenny Mountain, High Stoop Wood contribution £250.00 towards a photographic and film competition at an arts exhibition to be held in the woods on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2024.

Members requested feedback from the group. The Clerk to discuss with the applicant and report to the next Town Council meeting

Tow Law Glass Group additional glass making equipment (£250.00) for glass group consumables such as glass, foil and solder.

Members agreed to donate £250.00 from the Community Fund to this project.

Tow Law Art Group to purchase a printing press, contribution of £250.00 , the group would make up the balance.

Members requested further information on the group (ie numbers attending the classes). The Clerk to meet with the applicant and report to the next Town Council meeting.

123/24 SETTING THE ESTIMATES

Members agreed to look at Christmas Tree costs /Funding at a future Council meeting.

124/24 JOINT REPORT BY THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

- High Hill House – Ongoing problems (outstanding).
- Two gardens very messy, needs tidying up (outstanding).

125/24 ALLOTMENTS

Changes to the agreement (pigeon lofts),still outstanding. also waiting past agreements for alterations to clauses/site updates etc, and report to the next Town Council meeting.

126/24 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. Councillor Stokes reported that a caravan was parked on the car park area and “fly-tipping” had taken place on the site, he would investigate and report back to the Town Council.

Car Parking sign has been erected (DCC).

Signed.....Chair

127/24 TOW LAW COMMUNITY CENTRE

Councillor Stokes updated the meeting that the Centre was still very busy and a list of activities was going to be produced.

128/24 TOW LAW FOOD BANK

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

129/24 POLICE /PACT/SPEEDWATCH

Speed watch Report provided by Councillor Mather, as below:-

Stanley Crook to Tow Law (matrix) 47 vehicles 6 speeding; Tow Law to Durham (van) 52 vehicles 0 speeding; Tow Law (Hights of Alma) to Durham (matrix) 42 vehicles 8 speeding; Durham to Tow Law (van) 38 vehicles 4 speeding; Sunnyside to Tow Law (van) 37 vehicles 9 speeding; Tow Law to Durham (van) 40 vehicles 1 speeding.

130/24 FACEBOOK – ITEM WITHDRAWN FROM THE AGENDA.

131/24 COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT -

County Councillor Manchester reported on the following:-

- Car Park sign erected.
- Windmills site – no further update.

132/24 REPRESENTATION BY RESIDENTS – None received.

133/23 BANK ACCOUNT (on-line banking) –

Councillor Nicol. And Fowler now in the hands of the Co-operative Bank. Should be “live” from end of May 2024.

134/24 CCTV IN TOW LAW

Members had agreed to temporary suspend the termination of the contract with Care Connect (DCC) for the monitoring of CCTV in Tow Law.

135/24 TOW LAW MILLENNIUM GREEN

Declaration of Trust Document – Forms signed to forward to the Charity Commission

Charity Commission document – to complete and forward onto the Charity Commission.

Barclays Bank Account – awaiting details from Jenny Flynn.

Inspection of Play Area – awaiting details from County Councillor Manchester.

136/24 PLANNING MATTERS No applications received

Signed.....Chair

#### 137/24 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Accounts 01A & 7 to 14; value £3983.34 be approved for payment.

#### 138/24 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”.(COMPLETE)
- Councillor Willock to issue reminders.
- Recent accident in the area (details sent to all Councillors).

#### 139/24 BEEHIVE COKE OVENS

The gorse plants on site (still outstanding), Clerk to chase up with Contractor.

#### 140/24 FUNDING OPPERTUNITIES

National Lottery Heritage Fund (awaiting confirmation from Charity Commission -Millennium Green Rural Communities Green Space – details as above.

#### 141/24 THE SKILL MILL – COUNTY DURHAM YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICE

Millennium Green – 10 metres of trench work exposed, Skill Mill to advise on costs ASAP.

#### 142/24 D DAY 80 6<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2024

Councillor Willock provided an update report on the Fish & Chips and funding.

#### 143/24 CLERK’S REPORT

The Clerk reported on the following:-

- Clerk had contact Councillor Stokes regarding the nomination for the CDALC Executive Committee. First year vacancy to be filled by Greater Willington Town Council
- E-mail management – Members agreed to obtain further information/funding for the use of .gov.uk domain for each Councillor and the Clerk and report to the next Town Council meeting.

#### 144/24 MEMBERS REPORTS

Councillor Stokes:-

- Meeting of Millennium Trust to be held on the months of January and July each year, to be discussed at the first meeting of the Trust.

145/24 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2024 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.30pm

CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

146/24 Clerk's Revised working pattern

Item to be discussed at the next Town Council meeting

The meeting finished at 8.20pm

Signed.....Chair