

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 21st September 2021, commencing at 6.30pm in the Community Centre, Tow Law.

Present: Councillors P. Stokes (Chair), T. Ball, T. Batson, M. Craggs, M. Dyer, P. Eastwood, J. Fowler, K. Geraghty-Shewan and F. Nicol.

Also Present: County Councillor R. Manchester and G. F. Smith (Clerk).

135/21 Apologies

Councillors C. Batson and E. Mather.

136/21 Declaration of Interests

Councillors Stokes and Nicol declared an interest in agenda item 10 – Tow Law Community Association and item 11 – Tow Law Food Bank.

Councillor Fowler declared an interest in agenda item 17 Accounts for payment no. 50 B & F Complete Property Services Ltd.

137/21 Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 20th July 2021

The minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

138/21 Matters Arising/Action List

a)Matters Arising

Copy of Associations Accounts received, Councillor Fowler to copy report to Clerk to forward to all Councillors.

b)Action List

Members agreed to update the list.

139/21 Community Fund

a)The Clerk read out an application from PCC of Tow Law (Mr N. Deacon) for a contribution towards the costs of the flower festival “Winter Wonderland” on the 17th to 20th December 2021.

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

Signed.....Chairman

b)The Clerk read out an application from Follow George (Louise Tomlinson) for setup costs and running costs of a weekly childrens outdoor nature group.

Members requested further information of this scheme, Clerk to contact the group leader.

140/21 Joint Report by the Chairman and Vice Chair

- AAP Board Meeting
- Meeting with local MP – levelling up funding
- Officers of DCC Planning and Highways departments
- Funding Food Bank Set-up committee

141/21 Audited Annual Return documents for the year ended 31st March 2021

Not received for the meeting date.

142 /21 Allotments

The Clerk updated the meeting on the following:-

- Waiting List – 4 applicants
- All allotments have been allocated (1 outstanding payment)
- Application form returned to Northumbrian Water (awaiting response)
- Application form to be complete for Highways Works (DCC)

The Clerk thanked Councillors Craggs and Mather for their work in checking the waiting list and updating the records etc.

143/21 Land rear of High Street, Tow Law

The Chair reported on the following:-

- Met with Planning/Highways staff (DCC)
- Awaiting Ecology Report
- Bushes required to be removed from site
- Meetings with contractors to be arranged

Signed.....Chairman

144/21 Tow Law Community Association

The Chair reported on the following:-

- AGM 30th September 2021
- Most groups are now using the Centre
- Police Youth Group meet on a Wednesday

145/21 Tow Law Food Bank

Councillor Nicol reported on the following:-

- The numbers visiting the food bank continues to be very busy

146/21 Police/Pact/Speed Watch Reports

No updates (PCSO on holiday)

147/21 County Councillors Report

County Councillor Richard Manchester reported on the following:-

- Plan for Levelling Up funding (more information to follow)
- Play Areas for Tow Law (more information to follow)
- Bottle Bank for Millennium Green
- Provision of Dog Waste Bin on Public Footpath by Dans Castle Cemetery

148/21 Representation by Residents

The follow matters were raised by a resident with the Clerk:-

- Provision of Hanging Flower Baskets in High Street. Agreed to discuss at the Budget meeting in January 2022.
- Provision of a dog waste bin on the public footpath by Dans Castle Cemetery (Councillor Manchester).

149/21 Bank Account (online banking)

Report received from Councillor Terry Batson "is currently being processed".

Signed.....Chairman

150/21 Planning Matters

a) Planning Application DM/21/02424 /FPA by Mr B. Goodall erection of dwelling, siting of caravan during construction at Land to rear of 1 and 2 North Road, Tow Law.

DECISION No comments

b) Planning Application DM/21/01717/FPA by Mr B. Gibson change of use of agricultural land to accommodate extension to existing builders yard /depot at Land West of Armond Carr Works, Inkerman, Tow Law (Wolsingham Parish Area).

DECISION No comments

151/21 Accounts for Payment

Vouchers 35 to 50 amounting to £12315.01; to be paid.

152/21 Tow Law Millennium Green

Councillor Nicol reported on the following:-

- The site was clean

Councillor Stokes reported on the following:-

- Preparation for Precept meeting (January) cleaning ditches, dens in trees to be fenced off, pond area, vegetation etc and Bottle Bank.

153/21 Beehive Coke Ovens

Councillor Stokes reported on the following:-

- Roots from Gorse
- Information board to be repaired

154/21 Play Areas in Tow Law

County Councillor Manchester to look at the following:-

- Land Ownership
- Section 106 Funding?

155/21 Platinum Jubilee Event

Councillor Stokes reported on the following:-

- 7th June light the Beacon.

Signed.....Chairman

156/21 Clerks Report

- The Clerk presented an Expenditure Report for 1st April to 30th September 2021 total £29,923.22.
- Christmas Trees activities to be presented to the next Town Council meeting (November).

157/21 Members Reports

a) CCTV system in Tow Law

Councillor Geraghty-Shewan had the following concerns:-

- Cameras (fixed or movable?)
- Monitoring
- Recording

It was agreed for the Clerk to contact a representative of Care Connect (DCC) to arrange a meeting to discuss these points.

b) Training

Councillor Dyer raised the following concerns:-

- Lack of Councillor Training?
- Training sessions (not computerised)
- Use of e-mails for decision making (not lawful)
- Some Councillors/Clerk not included on reciprocal list

It was agreed for the Clerk to contact Steve Ragg, CDALC to discuss these concerns and report back to the next Town Council meeting, The Clerk had ordered a supply of the "Good Councillors Guide Book" and would distribute to all new Councillors.

c) Co-op Parking Area

Councillor Fowler raised the following concern:-

- Requested an update on this project. Land Registry to be contacted regarding ownership of land?

Signed.....Chairman

d)Planting of bulbs Millennium Green

Councillor Craggs raised the following:-

Request to DCC for supplying Crocus bulbs for planting at Millennium Green.

The meeting finished at 8.35 pm

Signed.....Chairman