

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 17th April 2018 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.30pm.

Present: Councillors J. Gale (Chair), T. Batson, J Fowler, K. Geraghty-Shewan, C. Hemingway, E. Mather, F. Nicol, P. Stokes, G. Tyers and H. Wilsher.

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

071/18 Apologies

Councillor C. Batson (Unwell)

072/18 Declaration of Interest

Councillors J. Gale, F. Nicol and P. Stokes declared an interest in agenda item No. 8 - Tow Law Community Association.
Councillors P. Stokes, F Nicol and H. Wilsher declared an interest in agenda item No. 3 - Community Fund.

073/18 Community Fund

- a) The Clerk read out an application from Tow Law Millennium Primary School for an iPad to allow Facebook access to upload photographs onto the School's Facebook page. This would continue to improve parent/carer communications and community cohesion. Members agreed to donate £250 from the N-Power Community Fund to this project.
- b) Four local Schools to take part in the Heartlands Initiative Project (background papers sent to all Councillors via email). Members agreed to donate £250.00 to Peases West Primary School, Tow Law Millennium Primary School, Stanley Crook Primary School and Blessed John Duckett RC Primary School for the pupils to get involved in the above mentioned project.

074/18 Minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 20th March 2018

Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

075/18 Matters Arising

- Christmas activities – report further delayed until next meeting.

076/18 Land Rear of High Street, Tow Law

E-mail received from Sam Elliott, Senior Surveyor, Durham County Council regarding proposed land sale. On the basis of the land being used for parking only for £7500 (identified on the enclosed plan) plus Surveyors, legal costs and open space notice fees. Members agreed to purchase the land from Durham County Council on the above mentioned issues in order to construct a car park on the site.

- 077/18 Sustainable Energy Project for Tow Law**
County Councillor Manchester updated the meeting. Funds are available from Windfarm Scheme for up to £15,000, deadline 29th April 2018. Forms to be completed in the name of Tow Law Community Association. When completing forms on behalf of the Town Council two Councillors would sign the forms (Chairman and Vice Chairman). Also joint working with Wear Valley Community Action.
- 078/18 Tow Law Community Association**
Cheque for £6,000 made payable to the TLCA for the running costs for 2018/19 to be authorised at tonight's meeting. The AGM of TLCA to be held next week.
- 079/18 Police/Pact/Speedwatch Reports**
Councillor Mather reported on the following Speedwatch session:-
9th April, 08.30 to 9.30 am - 77 vehicles; 13 vehicles exceeded the speed limit.
16th April, 10.15 to 11.15 am - 80 vehicles; 14 vehicles exceeded the speed limit.
Councillor Stokes reported the following crime figures for February 2018:-
8 Criminal damage & arson;7 violent & sexual;2 public order;2 ASB;1 vehicle crime;1shoplifting;1 robbery.
Councillor Wilshire requested for the Clerk to write to the Chief Constable regarding Police presence at Town/Parish Council meetings.
- 080/18 County Councillor Report**
County Councillor Manchester reported on the following: -
- No further new items.
- 081/18 Representation by Residents - None**
- 082/18 Chairman's Report**
- Next meeting of ESB wind farm Committee 23rd May 2018.
- 083/18 Street Lighting – Proposed Removal, Bridge Street/North Road**
Clerk has passed details on to the Officer at DCC, no further update.
- 084/18 Commemorative event - 11th November 2018 “Battle's Over a Nation's Tribute”**
Councillor Stokes updated the meeting, as follows:-
- Event registered
 - Logo
 - Contact made with the Blacksmith
 - School Children involvement
 - Contact number required for Bugler
 - Confirmation of Planning Application approval - required
- 085/18 School Crossing Patrol, Tow Law**
County Councillor Manchester reported:-
- Possible meeting of criteria (High Street opposite Pharmacy).

- 086/18 Outdoor Gym Equipment on Millennium Green**
County Councillor Manchester reported:-
- Proludic Ltd. to survey site and provide design drawings.
- 087/18 CCTV Cameras**
Chair and Clerk to visit site for relocation of equipment.
- 088/18 Councillor Vacancy**
Following the death of Councillor Ron Grogan the Clerk will arrange for the vacancy to be advertised. The Chair and Councillor Hemmingway attended the funeral service.
- 089/18 Planning Matters**
- A) Planning Applications DM/18/00644/FPA by Weardale Properties for the provision of 12 no. Assisted Living Accommodation flats at Alex Bar Club, 5-6 High Street, Tow Law. Members agreed for the Clerk to obtain further details of the application and to e-mail all Councillors with details to enable them to respond to the Planning Officer by the end of the week
- B) Neighbourhood Planning
Councillor Stokes updated the meeting with details of his discussions with Michael Lowe (DCC) and will be redesigning the questionnaire and will report to the next appropriate Town Council meeting.
- 090/18 Accounts for Payments**
Vouchers 01 to 05 in the sum of £7819.01 be approved for payment.
- 091/18 County Durham Skill Mill**
Meeting still outstanding (Clerk to arrange as a matter of urgency).
- 092/18 Tow Law Millennium Green**
Fencing complete.
- 093/18 Bee Hive Coke Ovens**
Application form to complete and send to Historic England by end of this week. Invoice for providing direction sign authorised tonight.
- 094/18 Clerk's Report**
- Contact made with parents regarding sixth form provision at Wolsingham School. Clerk to chase up.
 - No further update on DCC proposals to introduce parking restrictions outside of Blessed John Duckett RC Primary School
 - Details of "Operation Spruce Up in Tow Law" to be launched on Monday 23rd April at 11.00 am at the War Memorial site.
 - Three Towns Partnership launches summer holiday activities grants; closing date midday on 14th May 2018.

095/18

Members Report

Councillor Fowler:-

- Council's website to be updated following the death of Councillor Grogan.

Councillor Batson:-

- New Standing Orders – Clerk responded that this will be reviewed at the Council's Annual General Meeting (May 2018)

Councillor Hemmingway:-

- Member of Local Access Forum meeting – Introduction of Dog Control Scheme (traffic light system) leaflets to be placed on the Council's notice board (this was agreed by all Councillors)

096/18

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 15th May 2018 in the Community Centre at 6.30 pm, with the Meeting of Electors followed by the Annual General Meeting followed by the Ordinary Meeting.

097/18

In Private

The meeting finished at 8.30 pm.