

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 19th February 2019 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.30 pm.

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

Also Present: County Councillor R. Manchester, Mr D. Rafferty (Home Group), PCSO Rosie Findlay (Durham Police), Mr Bob McFadden, Mr Robert McFadden (residents) and G. F. Smith (Clerk)

020/19 Apologies
Councillor G. Tyers

021/19 Mr D. Rafferty of Home Group
He updated the meeting on the following:-

- Ongoing improvements in Coronation Avenue/Weardale Crescent
- Feedback from Residents
- Recent let properties
- Recent properties demolished
- Community garden to be included
- 'Soft' landscaping

Councillor T. Batson requested policy of Home Group for properties in Tow Law. Councillor F. Nicol raised concerns of residents of damp properties. Mr Rafferty said he would respond to the above items on his return to the office, he then left the meeting.

022/19 Report of PCSO Rosie Findlay
PCSO updated the meeting on the following:-
Upgrade of BMX track – working in partnership with County Council/Town Council to obtain required finance. The Clerk informed her that an article had been placed in the next edition of the Council's newsletter. The Council had a number of questions of issues required resolving before agreeing to take over the responsibility from the County Council. The Council asked if she could take the following matters to her Sergeant for his attention:-

- Providing regular crime statistics for Tow Law to the Town Council
- An attendance at the Town Council meeting (perhaps quarterly)
- A PACT meeting should be held in Tow Law
- More support from Police for the Speedwatch scheme
- Visits to the Council's office on a more regular basis

PCSO Findlay left the meeting.

023/19 Allotments (update)
Mr McFadden asked the Council to reconsider the tenure of his allotment with regard to a "hardstanding" on the site, which he has rented for more 30 years.

Also the site has been tidied up. The Clerk agreed to check the files and report to a future meeting.

- 024/19 Minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 22nd January 2019**
Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
- 025/19 Matters Arising**
Councillor Stokes raised the matter of the proposed purchase of land for a car park. The Clerk responded that he was still awaiting a response from DCC, he had supplied details of the Council's Solicitors.
- 026/19 Community Fund**
The Clerk read out a request from the Tow Law Millennium Primary School for funds to provide First Aid training for KS2 pupils (5 to 11 years old). Members agreed to donate £250 towards this project from the N-Power Community Fund.
- 027/19 County Councillor Report**
County Councillor Manchester reported on the following:-
- Energy project (new grant) Community Association to apply
 - School Crossing Patrol
 - Gym equipment for Millennium Green
- 028/19 Representation by Residents - None**
- 029/19 Chairman's Report - None**
- 030/19 School Crossing Patrol**
County Councillor Manchester updated the meeting on the following:-
- Questionnaire distributed
 - Patrol for Bridge Street/Monument
- Defer until next meeting.
- 031/19 Outdoor Gym Equipment on Millennium Green**
Clerk awaiting final details from equipment supplier (Councillor Manchester to chase up).
- 032/19 Planning Matters**
A) Planning Applications - None
B) Neighbourhood Planning
Councillor Stokes - recent questionnaire raised the need for electrical charging points for vehicles (possible in new car park project?). Further discussion at the next Town Council meeting.
- 033/19 Accounts for Payments**
Vouchers 88 to 94 in the sum of £1564.90 be approved for payment.

034/19 Expenditure Report 1st April to 31st December 2018

The Clerk produced a report for the attention of the members, the total amount (including VAT) was £42851.34. Members agreed:-

- For the Clerk to produce an up to date expenditure account to the next meeting
- To agree expenditure details for the year 2019/2020 at the next Town Council meeting.

035/19 Clerk's Report – No Report

036/19 Members Report

Councillor Stokes raised the following:-

- Wolsingham School detention after school hours for Tow Law pupils (difficulties getting home); Homework Online (not all pupils had this facility); After School Club (Councillor Geraghty-Shewan); Cookery Ingredients (Affordability); Safeguarding of Children from Tow Law.

Members agreed to send a letter regarding the above to the following:-

- Head Teacher
- Parents Reference Group
- School Governors
- Member of Parliament

037/19 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 19th March 2019 in the Community Centre at 6.30 pm.

The meeting finished at 8.10 pm.