

## TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 16th February 2021 commencing at 6:30pm held via Zoom due to Covid-19 restrictions.**

**Present:** Councillors P. Stokes (Chair), T. Batson, J. Fowler, K. Geraghty-Shewan, E. Mather, F. Nicol, H. Wilsher,

**Also Present:** County Councillor R Manchester

Due to the absence of the Clerk Councillor K. Geraghty-Shewan agreed to take the minutes

- 008/21 Apologies**  
Councillors M. Dyer, C. Batson(unable to connect)
- 009/21 Declaration of Interests**  
Cllrs Nicol and Stokes an interest in item 5 on the agenda (TLCA)
- 010/21 Approval of minutes of meeting held on Zoom 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021**  
Cllr Stokes asked that Cllr Dyer's name be added to the apologies as she had contacted him by email but it had gone into his spam folder. The Minutes were approved.
- 011/21 Matters arising**  
The issue of the flooding outside the chemists was raised and Cllr. Manchester agreed to look into it.  
Cllr Geraghty-Shewan reported that he had taken the last box of poo bags to Cathy's and given her his name as a contact for when they run out. He pointed out that currently we have no more in stock and asked if we knew if the ones we presume have been ordered have arrived. Cllr Stokes agreed to chase the supplier.
- 012/21 Tow Law Community Association (update)**  
The Chair reported that the repairs to the community centre were almost complete and that the company carrying out the work had gone beyond what he had expected. The only thing remaining to be done was the new radiators.
- 013/21 Country Councillor Report**  
County Councillor Manchester reported on the following:  
  
He said that due to the adverse weather conditions of the past few weeks he didn't have much to report. It was noted by the meeting that the council's crews, particularly the refuse crews, has performed admirably under the conditions.

**014/21 Chairman's report**

The Chair thanked Cllr Geraghty-Shewan for his help in dealing with the backlog of post that had accumulated in the office.

The Chair reported that we appear to be paying water rates (around £13.08 per quarter) for a trough that hasn't, to his recollection, been used for the past 20 years. The trough in question is on Millennium Green and was used when animals were grazing on that land. He asked the meeting for permission to have the water disconnected. It was agreed that as it was no value to the community it should be disconnected – This was proposed by Cllr Nicol and seconded by Cllr Mather.

The chair also reported that we appear to be £644.34 in credit with the water supplier at this time – he agreed to investigate and to request a refund if appropriate.

It was suggested that we use the credit to cover the cost of the proposed water supply for the allotments. Cllr Stokes pointed out that we would need to organise digging the trench to allow the supply to be installed. It was questioned as to the need for permission from DCC to dig this trench as the land in question belongs to them. Cllr Stokes agreed to investigate.

Cllr Stokes reported that the Clerk has said that he might be able to return in March. He also reported that he hasn't received a sick note as the Clerk has not been in contact with a Doctor.

**015/21 Bank Accounts**

The Chair pointed out that we currently have three bank accounts

The first is in the name of Tow Law Millennium Green Trust. He pointed out that this account had not been used for a few years and is currently overdrawn and attracting fees every month. He also reported that the bank (Barclays) were suggesting that the account be closed. Currently there is only one signatory to the account and that is the former Chair Jeff Gale.

There was a discussion about whether or not we could close the account or if we should simply transfer money into it to prevent further costs being accrued.

The second account, also with Barclays, was in the name of the Tow Law Community Partnership and had a balance of £590.92. The chair said he was unable to ascertain if this organisation still exists as the most recent minutes he could find were from 2005. No one seemed to

know if it had been formally disbanded. Once again former Chair Jeff Gale is the only signatory to the account.

The chair agreed to investigate further and try to set up a meeting with Barclays to discuss what to do with the two accounts.

The third account is the Town Councils Co-operative account which currently has a balance of £32,970.05. He reported that he needed Cllr T. Batson to sign a form to change over the signatories agreed at the last meeting.

There was a discussion regarding use of BACS or online banking as the only method of payment we have at the moment is cheque and not every organisation will accept cheques (DCC for example). There was a discussion regarding security when using BACS as it would not conform to the system of needing more than one signature.

**016/21**

#### **Car Parking at Rear of High Street, Tow Law**

The Chair had sent out two plans via email which showed the proposed design of the car parking. He informed us that this is all that is required at this stage to apply for outline planning permission. There was a discussion regarding the required removal of trees and shrubs but Cllr T Batson said that in his opinion this shouldn't be an issue.

The Chair asked for permission to pay the £50 fee using his own card and to be re-imbursed by the Town Council at a later stage – this was agreed.

**017/21**

#### **Member's Reports**

Cllr T Batson suggested we sent a get-well card to the Clerk, the Chair asked Cllr T Batson to organise this

Cllr. Fowler raised the issue of the pathway which runs down Wolsingham Road but stops abruptly. She suggested that it should be extended to meet up with the bottom of Ironworks which would allow people to walk that way without having to resort to walking in the road or on mud. She also suggested that it would create a circular route for walkers around the Town. Cllr Manchester agreed to look into it.

Cllr Stokes said that as well as the existing proposal for car parking he would like to see the area opposite the Newmarket developed to provide more parking space, ideally with electrical charging points.

Cllr T Batson instigated a discussion about future development for the town and he felt that we needed to be more ambitious.

**018/21**

**Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting will be 16<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 6:30pm – this would most likely be held via Zoom.

The meeting finished at 7:39pm

Signed by the Chairman.....

Dated.....2021