

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 21st January 2020 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.30 pm.

Present: Councillors J. Gale (Chair), T. Batson, K. Geraghty-Shewan, J Herron, E Mather, P. Stokes and H. Wilsher.

Also Present: County Councillor R. Manchester Mr R. Bland and Ms J. Bland (Residents) and G. F. Smith (Clerk)

001/20 Apologies

Councillor C. Batson
Councillor M. Dyer
Councillor J Fowler
Councillor F. Nicol

002/20 Declaration of Interests

Councillor Stokes declared an interest in agenda Item 8 – Tow Law Community Association.

003/20 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 19th November 2019

Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

004/20 Community Fund

No new applications.

005/20 Setting the Precept 2020/21

Members agreed to no increase in the current Band D Council Tax for 2020/21. Therefore Council Tax D £74.00 + Tax Base 477.6 = £55342.40 precept plus LCTRS Grant £4091.00. Total claim from Durham County Council proposed by Councillor T. Batson and seconded by Councillor Mather and agreed by all Councillors at the meeting.

006/20 Councillor Vacancy

Awaiting details from the returning officer for the vacancy (Ex Councillor) to be advertised.

007/20 Allotments

The Clerk to update after the next meeting.

008/20 Tow Law Community Association

Councillor Stokes reported that CCTV was now in place at the Community Centre.

009/20 Police/Pact/Speedwatch Reports

Councillor Wilsher reported on the following Speedwatch sessions:-

- 13/11/19 10.05 to 11.05 97 vehicles, 15 vehicles exceeded speed limit (Dan's Castle)
- 28/11/19 12.25 to 12.55 67 vehicles, 16 vehicles exceeded speed limit (Dan's Castle)
- 4/12/19 12.50 to 13.50 74 vehicles, 27 vehicles exceeded speed limit (Smith Street)
- 2/1/20 14.10 to 15.00 30 vehicles, 2 vehicles exceeded speed limit (Wolsingham Road Speedwatch Van)
- 2/1/20 15.15 to 16.00 70 vehicles, 7 vehicles exceeded speed limit (Smith Street Speedwatch Van)
- 8/1/20 13.00 to 13.45 95 vehicles, 16 vehicles exceeded speed limit (Dan's Castle)
- 12/1/20 13.15 to 14.00 65 vehicles, 3 vehicles exceeded speed limit (Bridge Street Speedwatch Van)
- 21/1/20 08.30 to 09.00 50 vehicles, 2 vehicles exceeded speed limit (Smith Street Speedwatch Van).

010/20 Representation by Residents

Mr Bland raised the following concerns:-

- State of footpaths
- State of allotments (rear of Dan's Castle)

011/20 Chairman's Report - None

012/20 County Councillor Report

County Councillor Manchester reported on the following:-

- Sustainable Energy Feasibility Study
- Leisure Facilities
- Tree Planting
- School Crossing Patrol
- Sound system of the remembrance service at the statue in High Street.

013/20 Planning Matters

- A) Planning Applications - None received.
B) Neighbourhood Planning – Clerk to arrange a meeting before the next Town Council meeting.

014/20 Accounts for Payments

Vouchers 69 to 82 in the sum of £7268.03 be approved for payment.

- 015/20 VE Day 75 Commemorations – 8th May 2020**
Councillor Stokes reported:-
- Picnic to be indoors
 - Evening dance
 - Costs of Band.
- 016/20 Climate Action Group**
Councillor Stokes to arrange another meeting.
- 017/20 Car Parking Rear of High Street, Tow Law**
Clerk to arrange to email Councillors with date, before the next Town Council meeting.
- 018/20 Bee Hive Coke Ovens**
The Clerk reported that the contractor has tidied up the Gorse on site.
- 019/20 Clerks Report**
The Clerk reported on the following:-
- Letter of thanks from Great North Air Ambulance Service for donation of £250 from the Town Council
 - Service Level Agreement for the provision of monitoring equipment and maintenance for CCTV in Tow Law. Service cost £2104.30 per annum plus VAT. Chair to sign the document.
- 020/20 Members Reports**
Councillor Stokes informed the meeting that he had attended the funeral service of Ron Hogg.
- 021/20 Date of next meeting**
The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 18th February 2020 in the Community Centre at 6.30 pm.
- The meeting finished at 7.55 pm