

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

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

Present: Councillors P. Stokes (Chair), C. 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

001/21 Apologies
Councillor T. Batson

002/21 Chairman's report
The Chair reported that the Clerk is absent due to illness and it was agreed that the Chair would ask him to provide the Council with a sick note to cover his absence - proposed by Councillor E. Mather and seconded by Councillor F. Nicol and agreed by all Councillors at the meeting.

In the absence of the Clerk Councillor P. Stokes agreed to try and move the planning permission for the car park forward and Councillor K. Geraghty-Shewan volunteered to help with the admin and clear some of the backlog of mail from the office.

The chair also reported that we need to set the Precept as a matter of urgency

003/21 Setting the Precept 2021/22
Members agreed to no increase in the current Band D Council Tax for 2021/22. Therefore Council Tax D £74.00 + Tax Base 490 = £36260.00 precept plus LCTRS Grant £3093.00. Total claim from Durham County Council £39353.00 proposed by Councillor E. Mather and seconded by Councillor H. Wilsher and agreed by all Councillors at the meeting.

004/21 Bank Signatories
The Chair reported that we needed additional authorised signatories for the bank account as one of the current signatories was no longer a Councillor. It was proposed that Councillor P. Stokes be added by Councillor K. Geraghty-Shewan and seconded by Councillor F. Nicol and agreed by all Councillor present at the meeting.

005/21

Country Councillor Report

County Councillor Manchester reported on the following:

- That he was hopeful that the position of school crossing patrol would soon be filled.
- He had received a cost of between £300-£400 each for the benches for Thornley cemetery.
- That there had been a number of complaints about the snow in Tow Law and suggested that the Council might like to consider what action could be taken in future.

A point was raised about the salt bins around the town not being refilled and Councillor R. Manchester promised to look into it.

The Chair noted that the elections were coming up and that Councillor Manchester had been chosen to stand again and thanked him for all of the work that he had done on behalf of the community over the past 4 years.

006/21

Any Other Business

The following items were raised:

- Flooding outside the chemists in the High Street
- Councillor C. Batson reported that 167 Christmas trees were installed in the town over the Christmas period.
- It was noted that a letter had not gone out to the former Chair Councillor J. Gale to thank him for his service although Councillor P. Stokes had sent him an e-mail. It was also suggested that a tribute to him be placed on the Town Council Website.
- The issue of dog mess within the town was raised and it was noted that the supply of free poo bags had been affected by the lockdown. Councillors K. Geraghty-Shewan and P. Stokes agreed to supply the local shop with some. In addition, County Councillor R. Manchester said he would contact the Wardens and ask them to do some patrols.

007/21

Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting will be 16th February at 6:30pm

The meeting finished at 7:36pm