

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

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

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

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

158/18 Apologies

Councillor K. Geraghty-Shewan (Family Commitment)

Councillor J Fowler (Work)

Councillor G. Tyers (Family Commitment)

159/18 Declaration of Interest

Councillors Mather, Wiltshire, Nicol and Stokes declared an interest in agenda item 3 - Community Fund (Hilltop Community Project).

Councillor Stokes declared an interest in agenda item 10 - Tow Law Community Association and agenda item 16 Commemorative Event.

Councillor Nicol declared an interest in agenda item 10 - Tow Law Community Association

Councillor T. Batson and C. Batson declared an interest in agenda item 20A Planning Application.

160/18 Community Fund

A) Outstanding from the last meeting, the Clerk updated the meeting on the application from the Hilltop Community Projects for a donation towards "setting-up" costs. Members agreed to donate £250 from the N-Power Community Fund to this project.

B) The Clerk read out an application from Tow Law Lunch Club for a donation to take club members on a summer trip to Preston Park Museum. Members agreed to donate £250 from the N-Power Community Fund to this project.

161/18 Minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 21st June 2018

Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

162/18 Matters Arising

The Clerk reported that the Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2018 and relevant papers were sent to the External Auditor by 6th July 2018.

163/18

Councillor Vacancy

Following the meeting held earlier in the evening members agreed to the following:-

- Appoint Mo Dyer, 32 Wolsingham Road, Tow Law to the current vacancy of Councillor
- To appoint as reserve, Jane Heron, 19 Deerness Heights, Stanley Crook should any further vacancies arise within the next six months

M/s Dyer completed the declaration of acceptance of office of Councillor, signed by the Clerk/Proper Officer and witnessed by all Councillors at the meeting. Councillor Dyer took her place in the Council Chamber.

164/18

Allotments

The Clerk read out notes (supplied by Councillor Hemmingway) on the allotment visit by Councillors on 16th July 2018. Plot TT003 – in need of attention (Clerk to contact tenant), plot next to TT003 - number of concerns raised:-

- Overgrown weeds
- Additional area added to plot (possible subletting - but well cultivated with Polly - tunnel) (Clerk to contact tenant).

Double plot next door - perfect condition (Clerk to contact tenant to inform him of this visit).

Water supply for site – defer this decision.

Dan's Castle Allotments

Two plots at the end - well looked after.

Plots 1, 3 and 5 acceptable.

Plots 2 and 4 need attention. Clerk to contact tenants.

Large plot – partially cultivated, vehicle kept on site Clerk to contact tenant regarding vehicle to remove and suggest dividing plot into smaller plots (use of waiting list).

Clerk to make enquiries to Northumbrian Water regarding a water supply to the site, with either one or two stop taps.

Old fencing/wood dumped outside the site entrance – Councillor Mather to contact the County Councillor.

Millennium Green Plots

One plot in need of attention - Clerk to contact the tenant.

Second plot – no problem (very tidy).

165/18

Land Rear of High Street, Tow Law

Cost of open space notice received – query.

Solicitor acting for Town Council – to be confirmed.

Delegated authority received for the disposal of the land.

166/18

Sustainable Energy Project for Tow Law

No further update – Clerk to write to Mr Boyd, Teesdale Environmental Consulting Ltd.

- 167/18 Tow Law Community Association**
Councillor Stokes reported on the following:-
- Drop in sessions on Thursday's
 - Tarmac to be re-surfaced in the car park
 - Fun day 29th July
 - Financial Statement due in September
 - Confirmation that the litter bin outside the centre is being emptied on a regular basis
 - Overgrown shrubs in the front of the building – to be attended too.
- 168/18 Police/Pact/Speedwatch Reports**
Councillor Mather reported the following Speedwatch Sessions:-
10th July 102 vehicles; 15 exceeded speed limit
16th July 40 vehicles; 3 exceeded speed limit
Councillor Stokes had spoken to local PCSO regarding vehicles parked on the car park.
- 169/18 County Councillor Report**
County Councillor Manchester reported on the following:-
- County Durham Plan – copy handed to the Clerk (passed on to the Chairman)
 - Flood problems at 3 Highfields (reported to the Clerk)
 - Cattle Mart – possible enforcement action (Stuart Timmins)
 - Gym Equipment – 106 funding (form with the Clerk).
- 170/18 Representation by Residents**
Details of flood problems at 3 Highfields passed to County Councillor
- 171/18 Chairman's Report**
- Attended Speedwatch sessions
 - Meeting with Officers of Home Group
- 172/18 Street Lighting – Proposed Removal, Bridge Street/North Road**
No further update
- 173/18 Commemorative event - 11th November 2018 "Battle's Over a Nation's Tribute"**
Councillor Stokes talked through the proposed timetable. Members agreed to the use of Stanhope Brass Band. List of requirements agreed.
- 174/18 School Crossing Patrol**
Survey to be carried out in September (members requested the date of the survey from Councillor Manchester).

- 175/18 Outdoor Gym Equipment on Millennium Green**
Quotation received for £12,000 – subject to approval of 106 and Natural England for equipment on Millennium Green.
- 176/18 CCTV Cameras**
No update.
- 177/18 Planning Matters**
A) Planning Applications
1. DM/18/014442/FPA by Mr M. Batson for detached motor home garage and conservatory at Corrie House, Princes Court, Tow Law.
Decision – No objection
2. DM/18/01926/FPA by Mr R. Flannigan for demolition of garage and construction of a 3 bedroom dormer bungalow style dwelling at 6 Thornley Terrace, Tow Law
Decision – No objection
B) Neighbourhood Planning
Councillor Stokes reported on the use of the questionnaire at the funday on Sunday 29th July at the Football Club, 1 pm to 8 pm. Clerk to provide 200 copies of the questionnaire for use on the day. He also asked for volunteers to assist on the day.

178/18 Accounts for Payments
Vouchers 26 to 30 in the sum of £2555.97 be approved for payment.

179/18 Expenditure Costs 1st April to 30th June 2018
Members noted the following report:-

DETAILS	TOTAL
Staff Costs	£4,187.10
Admin/Expenses	£19.26
Office Rent	£900.00
Community Fund	£1,750.00
Audit Fees	£65.00
Christmas Activities	£0.00
Donations	£6,000.00
Training	£0.00
Website	£14.97
Allotments	£16.83
Environment	£7,142.34
Misc.	£1,471.65
Sub Total	£21,567.15
VAT	£1,391.65
Total	£22,958.80

- 180/18 County Durham Skill Mill**
No further update
- 181/18 Tow Law Millennium Green**
Councillor Stokes – Report camp in the woods.
Councillor Hemmingway – Pond – Work by probation service? Details to the Clerk.
Clerk reported the need for signage at the play area – members agreed.
- 182/18 Bee Hive Coke Ovens**
No further update
- 183/18 Clerk’s Report**
- County Durham Plan – consultation event.
 - NHS notice “Mindfulness Based Cognitive Therapy” to be placed on the Council notice board.
 - Councillor Training – 21st August 2018 at Shildon Civic Hall, 10 am to 4 pm (Councillors Dyer, Mather and Wilsher to attend).
- 184/18 Members Report**
Councillor T. Batson reported on the new Data Protection Act.
- 185/18 Date of next meeting**
The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 18th September 2018 in the Community Centre at 6.30 pm.

The meeting finished at 8.10 pm.