

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 25th June 2019 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.30 pm.

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

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

- 095/19 Apologies**
Councillor C. Batson
Councillor J Fowler (Family Bereavement)
Councillor E. Mather.
- 096/19 Declaration of Interests**
Councillors Nicol and Stokes declared an interest in agenda Item 11 – Tow Law Community Association.
- 097/19 Community Fund**
The Clerk reported that the funding has not been paid into the Council's bank account, therefore all applications to be withdrawn until the next meeting.
- 098/19 Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Electors held on 21st May 2019**
Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
- 099/18 Minutes of the Annual General meeting held on 21st May 2019**
Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
- 100/19 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 21st May 2019**
Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
- 101/19 Matters Arising - None**
- 102/19 Allotments**
The Clerk had received 3 nominations to sit on the Allotments Committee (Councillors Geraghty-Shewan, Mather and Wilsher), Clerk to arrange a site inspection as soon as possible.
- 103/19 Land Rear of High Street, Tow Law**
The Chairman, Vice Chairman and Clerk had met with the Council's Solicitor Mr Robinson regarding the lease conditions and had the following observations:-
- The Town Council are to be responsible for all walls, fences, hedges and gates which have to be maintained in stock proof condition
- Agreed

- The transfer incorporates overage provision for a period of 80 years whereby if planning permission is granted for a use other than the current use which produces an increase in the value of the land the Council require a payment of 80% of the increase. This is to last for 80 years irrespective of who owns the property – Agreed
- The Council have pointed out that the sale is subject to any planning permission for the proposed use which will be the responsibility of the Town Council. I believe the Town Council will not be altering the current use of the land is this correct? - Agreed
- The Council say they are unaware of any BT equipment being on part of the land involved in the sale. They haven't indicated they are prepared to do anything about it. What action (if any) does the Town Council want me to take in respect of this equipment? – No action

104/19 Councillor Vacancy

The Returning Officer has issued a Notice of Vacancy closing date 12th July 2019. The notice has been placed on the Council's web site and notice boards.

105/19 Tow Law Community Association

- Cheque received for the running costs of the Community Centre (£6000) from the Town Council
- Funding for children's activities (update)
- .AAP Task Group meeting 3rd July in the Community Centre.

106/19 Police/Pact/Speedwatch Reports

Councillor Wilsher reported on the following Speedwatch sessions:-

- 31/05 - 215 vehicles, 14 vehicles exceeded speed limit (Dans Castle 10.25 – 11.25 am).
- 03/06 - 61 vehicles, 13 vehicles exceeded speed limit (Smith Street 8.30 – 9.30 am)

107/19 County Councillor Report

County Councillor Manchester reported on the following:-

- County Durham Plan – Submission to Inspector
- Mount Oswald Heritage Building
- AAP meeting 11th July
- Bond Foundry site - demolished
- Community energy funding.

108/19 Representation by Residents - None

109/19 Chairman's Report

The Chair raised the following:-

- Gym Equipment, Millennium Green – site installation?
- Flower bed in High Street
- Drains in High Street (The Chemist Shop) overflowing into the Chemist Shop (reported to DCC).

- 110/19 Notice of the Period for the Exercise of Public Rights and a Declaration That the Accounting Statements Are As Yet Unaudited**
The Clerk reported that the notice will be posted on 28th June 2019, on the Council's website and notice boards. Copies will be sent to all Councillors by email.
- 111/19 Annual Governance Statement for the Year Ended 31st March 2019**
Members agreed to answer "YES" to questions and for the Chairman and Clerk to sign the necessary document and send to the External Auditor. Copies will be sent to all Councillors by email.
- 112/19 Report of the Internal Auditor for the Year Ended 31st March 2019**
Members agreed to accept the report (no recommendations) and for a copy of the report to be sent to all Councillors by email.
- 113/19 Accounting Statement for the Year Ended 31st March 2019**
Members agreed to accept the statement, copies of which to be sent to all Councillors by email. Chairman and Clerk to sign the necessary document and send to the External Auditor.
- 114/19 School Crossing Patrol**
The Clerk reported receipt of the Service Level Agreement from DCC to provide a school crossing patrol at the site situated at A68/Wolsingham Road. The cost to the Town Council will be £3093.73 for 12 calendar months from first day of operation. Members agreed to finance this scheme and for the Chairman to sign the agreement on behalf of the Town Council.
- 115/19 Outdoor Gym Equipment on Millennium Green**
The equipment is now on site.
- 116/19 CCTV Cameras in Tow Law**
Awaiting date for the Chair and Vice Chair to visit the Control Centre.
- 117/19 Planning Matters**
A) Planning Applications
DM/19/001710/FPA Application by Mr. D Higginbotham for resubmission of planning application DM/18/02175/FPA for demolition and rebuild of garage/store.
Decision - No objections.
B) Neighbourhood Planning
The Clerk had received 3 nominations to sit on the Neighbourhood Planning Committee (Councillors T. Batson, Mather and Wilsher), County Councillor to be co-opted to the Committee. Clerk to arrange a meeting as soon as possible. Clerk to contact CDALC for further information.

- 118/19 Accounts for Payments**
Vouchers 16 to 27 in the sum of £24815.96 be approved for payment.
- 119/19 Tow Law Millennium Green**
No further update.
- 120/19 Bee Hive Coke Ovens**
No further update.
- 121/19 VE Day 75 Commemorations**
No further update (Councillor Stokes).
- 122/19 Clerk's Report**
Scope (more details required).
- 123/19 Members Reports**
Councillor Stokes reported:-
 - Smoke free zones in play areas.
- 124/19 Date of next meeting**
The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 16th July 2019 in the Community Centre at 6.30 pm.

The meeting finished at 7.30 pm.