

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 20 March 2018 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.00pm.

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

Also Present: Mr E. Boyd (Teesdale Environmental Consulting Ltd), County Councillor R. Manchester, and G. F. Smith (Clerk)

046/18 Apologies

Councillor C. Batson (Unwell)
Councillor R. Grogan (Unwell)
Councillor G. Tyers (Unwell)

047/18 Declaration of Interest

Councillors J. Gale, F. Nicol and P. Stokes declared an interest in agenda item No. 7 - Tow Law Community Association.

048/18 Sustainable Energy Project for Tow Law

Mr Boyd presented suggestions of possible steps to develop a community based sustainable energy project for Tow Law. The objective is to identify a potential development path that can lead to a long term benefit for the residents of Tow Law.

Suggested program is based on three strands:-

- Reducing energy bills for homeowners
- Creating a Sustainable Community Income
- Tackling Climate Change

Possible Projects:-

- Household Energy Survey
- Community Energy Event
- Strategic Community Energy Review
- Community Energy Pre-feasibility Study

Members agreed to support the above projects and to work with the company to develop detailed proposals for each of the projects. These could then be agreed and suitable potential funders could be approached with applications. Members also agreed to incorporate the household survey within the questionnaire being used for the Neighbourhood Plan. Further meetings will be required with Teesdale Environmental Consulting Ltd.

049/18 Community Fund

- a) The Clerk read out a letter from Blessed John Duckett RC Primary School for a contribution towards the running costs of the School garden, including raised beds and sensory area and re-establish the wildlife area. Also purchasing of hanging baskets and brackets, flower boxes, compost and seeds. Members agreed to donate £250 towards this project.

- b) The Clerk presented background papers and application forms (Peases West Primary School, Tow Law Millennium Primary School, Stanley Crook Primary School and Blessed John Duckett RC Primary School) for the Schools to work together on the project focusing on Wild Flowers, Landscapes and Heritage. Three specific sights Burnhill Nature Reserve, Tow Law Millennium Green and The Moss Sunnyside in direct conservation and art projects, in particular:-

- Managing and Conservation of Established Sites
- Creating new areas of wild flowers
- Art projects and working with artists

Clerk to circulate all the necessary paperwork etc. to all Councillors prior to the next Town Council meeting.

050/18 Minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 20th February 2018

Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

051/18 Matters Arising

- Christmas activities – report delayed until next meeting.

052/18 Tow Law Community Association

Update at the next meeting.

053/18 Police/Pact/Speedwatch Reports

Councillor Mather reported on the following Speedwatch session:-
20th March, Dan's Castle; 09.30 to 10.30 - 87 vehicles; 13 vehicles exceeded the speed limit.

054/18 County Councillor Report

County Councillor Manchester reported on the following: -

- Meeting with Carl Marshall
- Reviewing Allotment Policy.

055/18 Representation by Residents - None

056/18 Chairman's Report – None

057/18 Street Lighting – Proposed Removal, Bridge Street/North Road

Members still wished to object to the removal of the above street lights, Clerk to contact the Officer at DCC.

058/18 Commemorative event - 11th November 2018 “Battle's Over a Nation's Tribute”

Councillor Stokes updated the meeting:-

- Cost of manufacturing Beacon £1400.00 – Members agreed
- Planning Application/Approval not required – Members requested written confirmation
- Beacon to be sighted on Millennium Green – Members agreed

- 059/18 School Crossing Patrol, Tow Law**
County Councillor Manchester reported the estimated costs:- £8,000 for two; persons would be employed by DCC (through SLA). Members agreed to support the project
- 060/18 Outdoor Gym Equipment on Millennium Green**
County Councillor Manchester displayed the suggested schemes. Members agreed for the five piece scheme, forms to complete (Councillor Manchester). The Town Council would assume responsibility on installation plus insurance costs, this was also agreed.
- 061/18 CCTV Cameras**
The Chair and Clerk to discuss with owner of the relocation site and report to the next Town Council meeting.
- 062/18 Internal Audit Report – New Regulations**
Members agreed to the following:-
- Confirm appointment of present Internal Auditor
 - Fixed Assets 2018
 - Risk Assessment Statement 2018
 - Effectiveness of Internal Audit Report 2018
- Reports to be emailed to all Councillors
- 063/18 Planning Matters**
A) Planning Applications - None
B) Neighbourhood Planning
Use of Questionnaire – permission from DCC received (County Councillor Manchester) from questionnaire author, this can now be used by the Town Council (Councillor Stokes to make the necessary arrangements).
- 064/18 Accounts for Payments**
Vouchers 95 to 102 in the sum of £2528.41 be approved for payment.
- 065/18 County Durham Skill Mill**
Meeting still outstanding (Clerk to arrange as soon as possible).
- 066/18 Tow Law Millennium Green**
Fencing part completed.
- 067/18 Bee Hive Coke Ovens**
Clerk to complete application form and send to Historic England as a soon as possible. Members agreed the cost of providing a Brown Tourist Sign on A68 by DCC (£202.57, including design fee, installation and VAT).
- 068/18 Clerk's Report**
- *DCC proposal to introduce parking restrictions outside of Blessed John Duckett RC Primary School, Tow Law.* Members agreed to object to the scheme (adverse effect on surrounding area particularly at pick-up and drop-off times of the School).

- *Sixth Form Provision at Wolsingham School.* Clerk read out an email from five parents regarding the suspension of the sixth form provision at Wolsingham School. Members agreed to support this project and meet with members of the local Community Group.
- *County of Durham School Benevolent Fund.* The Clerk read out a letter regarding application for funding shoes and winter coats by the above organisation. Members agreed not to support this application.
- *Greater Willington Town Council invitation to George Burdon McKean Victoria Cross Commemorative Centenary Service on Saturday 28th April 2018.* Agreed that Councillor Stokes would represent the Town Council.

069/18 Members Report

Councillor Batson:-

- Promote Tree Planting
- Town Council working with Hilltop Community

070/18 Date of next meeting

The next Ordinary meeting will be held on Tuesday 17th April 2018, commencing at 6.30 pm in the Community Centre, Tow Law.

The meeting finished at 8.30 pm.