

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 19th March 2019 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.30 pm.

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

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

038/19 Apologies

Councillor C. Batson,
Councillor K. Geraghty-Shewan,
Councillor C. Hemingway,
Councillor G. Tyers.

039/19 Declaration of Interest – None

040/19 Community Fund

The Clerk read out an application from the Tow Law Millennium Primary School to fund parents and children to hire a coach to the Stadium of Light to obtain their Community Awards and a tour of the stadium on 1st April 2019. Members agreed to donate £250 towards the project.

041/19 Minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 19th February 2019

Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

042/19 Matters Arising

- Report of PCSO Rose Findley - The Clerk reported on his attempt to contact the beat/area sergeant? Without success
- Land to the west of High Street, Tow Law – Councillor Manchester reported that the officer dealing with the transfer of the land by lease had left the authority some time ago. He provided new contact details
- Home Group – a report on current stock details circulated to all Councillors by email.

043/19 Allotments

A request has been received to County Councillor Manchester to connect the allotment site, rear of Dan's Castle to the mains water supply. Members agreed for this work to be carried out as soon as possible. Clerk to arrange a site visit to the allotment site.

044/19 Police/Pact/Speedwatch Reports

Councillor Wilsher reported on the following Speedwatch sessions:-

- 25/2 - 62 vehicles, 20 vehicles exceeded speed limit (Smith Street)
- 4/3 - 107 vehicles, 12 vehicles exceeded speed limit (Dan's Castle)
- 18/3 - 130 vehicles, 5 vehicles exceeded speed limit (Bridge Street).

- 045/19 County Councillor Report**
County Councillor Manchester reported on the following:-
- Cycle race through County Durham (does not pass through Tow Law)
 - Community Association bidding for £10,000 sustainable energy
 - Bonds foundry - demolition order, pre-planning discussions
 - Home Group residents meeting 3rd April (Weardale only).
- 046/19 Representation by Residents - None**
- 047/19 Chairman's Report - None**
- 048/19 School Crossing Patrol**
Survey form sent out, 40 forms returned (32 in favour of road crossing patrol). County Councillor Manchester agreed to make progress with Durham County Council.
- 049/19 Outdoor Gym Equipment on Millennium Green**
Details of equipment has been received from suppliers at a cost of £12,000 plus VAT £2400 total cost £14,400. The company will await payment following the equipment being installed on the site (4/8 weeks). 106 funding from Durham County Council – Councillor Manchester had spoken to Stephen Reed “Monies are usually awarded after completion of the project. Following which a recent Council bank statement and the invoice should be provided to the planning team and they will release the funds”. The members noted the situation.
- 050/19 Planning Matters**
A) Planning Applications - None
B) Neighbourhood Planning – details on provision of electrical charging points.
- 051/19 Accounts for Payments**
Vouchers 96 to 103 in the sum of £2172.28 be approved for payment.
- 052/19 Setting the Budget for 2019/2020**
Defer until next meeting.

053/19

Clerk's Report

- Thank you letter from Tow Law Town Football Club for recent donation towards the toilet refurbishment project
- Three Towns AAP – Finance for the car park project response to questions remain outstanding:-
 1. Provide a signed application form
 2. Has a decision been made (lease the land from DCC)
 3. Planning application been submitted
 4. Provide correspondence from banks confirming the match funding is in place
- Service level agreement for the provision of monitoring and maintenance services by care connect to Tow Law Town Council for closed circuit television. Members agreed for the document to be signed and returned to DCC
- Correspondence sent by Councillor Terry Batson to the Secretary of State regarding bids for “run down” towns. Councillor Batson apologised for his actions
- Wolsingham and Tow Law United Charity
The above charity is jointly run by Wolsingham Parish Council, Tow Law Town Council and the local Anglican Church of St. Mary and St Stephen. The last meeting took place in November 2004. At present the charity has £5308.65 in the bank three trustees are required from each organisation. Members agreed to nominate Councillors Gale, Nicol and Stokes. Clerk to contact the Clerk of Wolsingham Parish Council
- Letter from British Weights and Measures Association re units of measurement for pedestrian signs. Members noted the contents
- Response from DCC to Councillor T. Batson's query regarding 106 funding and its use for affordable housing. Sent by email from County Councillor Manchester which was forwarded to all Town Councillors by email.

054/19

Members Report

Councillor T. Batson:-

- Clerk's office equipment?
- Use of Compulsory Purchase Order for Cattle Mart

Councillor Mather:-

- Opencast site – Bond left by British Coal (landowner changed many times; works to complete by 2020 – Councillor Manchester)

Councillor Nicol:-

- Possible formation of a federation with Wolsingham School
- Parent Reference Group

Councillor Gale:-

- Understands that the mini bus from Wolsingham School to Tow Law has been reinstated

Councillor Stokes:-

- Trees on Millennium Green (insurance)?

055/19

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 16th April 2019 in the Community Centre at 6.30 pm.

The meeting finished at 7.55 pm.