

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 21st May 2019 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.50 pm.

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

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

076/19 Apologies

Councillor M. Dyer,
Councillor G. Tyers.

077/19 Declaration of Interests

Councillors Mather, Nicol, Stokes and Wilsher declared an interest in a number of applications for N-Power Community Fund. Councillor J. Fowler declared an interest in an application for N-Power Community Fund for Trex Gym. Councillors F. Nicol and P Stokes declared an interest in Agenda Item 9 – Tow Law Community Association.

078/19 Community Fund

The Clerk read out four applications for N-Power Community Fund, as follows:-

- a) Blessed John Ducket, Peases West, Stanley Crook and Tow Law Millennium Primary Schools – to create continuum of film between the wild flowers and landscape nature and the sheep farming year’ project; and for additional buses. Applicant Jenny Mountain, Tow Law Community Association. Members agreed to support this application and award £250 towards the project from the N-Power Community Fund.
- b) Hilltop Community Project – to contribute towards volunteer transport costs and food for community dig in Tow Law in August 2019. Members agreed to support this application, subject to details of the ‘dig’ being sent to the Council, prior to commencement on site. Award £250 towards the project from the N-Power Community Fund.
- c) Wear Jammin – contribution towards the cost of making a community film and soundscapes for the hilltop community projects “under our own feet and with our own hands”. To also update film camera equipment. Application completed by Michael Walker, Tow Law Community Centre. Members agreed to donate £250 towards the project from the N-Power Community Fund.
- d) Trex Gym – Contribution towards the cost of purchasing a techno gym, leg extension (copy of equipment included with application form). Members agreed to donate £250 from the N-Power Community Fund and also £250 from the Council’s reserves.

- 079/19 Minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 16th April 2019**
Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
- 080/19 Matters Arising - None**
- 081/19 Allotments**
- Letter received from Mrs S. Wilkinson, 10 Ridley Terrace, Re Co-Tenant (Mr D. Raine)
 - Clerk to arrange a site visit to the allotment sites and to set up an allotment sub-committee.
- 082/19 Land Rear of High Street, Tow Law**
Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk to meet the Council's solicitor (Mr Ken Robinson) on Thursday 23rd May to discuss the lease/document/terms of reference received from DCC.
- 083/19 Councillor Resignation**
The Clerk read out a letter of resignation from Colin Hemmingway dated 17th April 2019. Members accepted the resignation and asked the Clerk to report the vacancy to the Electoral Services officer at DCC.
- 084/19 Tow Law Community Association**
Members agreed to contribute £6000.00 towards the running costs of the Community Centre. Councillors Nicol and Stokes update on the work of the Community Association.
- 085/19 Police/Pact/Speedwatch Reports**
Councillor Wilsher reported on the following Speedwatch sessions:-
- 23/04 - 42 vehicles, 15 vehicles exceeded speed limit (Smith Street 2.15 – 3.15 pm)
 - 03/05 - 98 vehicles, 8 vehicles exceeded speed limit (Dans Castle 10.25 – 11.25 am).
- 086/19 County Councillor Report**
County Councillor Manchester reported on the following:-
- Bicycle Ride/Race
 - Environment Team (Solar Energy)
 - Play Area Rear of Community Centre (upgrading)
 - Park Wall Site
 - Cycleway System.
- 087/19 Representation by Residents - None**

- 088/19 Chairman's Report**
The Chair raised the issue of Tow Law being "missed off" the recent publicity leaflet for the Bicycle Ride/Race in County Durham.
- 089/19 School Crossing Patrol - No Update**
- 090/19 Outdoor Gym Equipment on Millennium Green**
Contractor to commence on site on Monday 3rd June 2019. Chair to meet on site with supervisor.
- 091/19 CCTV Cameras in Tow Law**
The Clerk reported on a meeting with Care Connect (DCC) on 15th May 20-19:-
- Meetings to be arranged on a quarterly basis
 - SLA has been signed off
 - Quarterly reports to be provided for the Clerk to pass onto the Town Council on all identified incidents from the three cameras
 - All three cameras are operational
 - The Chair and Vice Chair are invited to see the control centre in operation, followed by other Town Councillors
 - Next meeting 13th August 2019
- 092/19 Planning Matters**
- A) Planning Applications
1. DM/19/01079/FPA Application by Mr. and Mrs Tyler for porch to south elevation at 5 Thornley Road, Tow Law.
Decision - No objections.
 2. DM/19/01140/PFA Application by Mr and Mrs Hopps and Snowdon for change of use of part agricultural land to domestic curtilage and single story riser and side extension at 30 Highfields, Tow Law.
Decision - No objections.
- B) Neighbourhood Planning
Members agreed to set up a sub-committee to progress this item.
- 093/19 Accounts for Payments**
Vouchers 09 to 15 in the sum of £4695.51 be approved for payment.
- 094/19 Setting the Budget for 2019/2020**
Members agreed to set a budget of £35231.26 with unallocated funds of £30542.67.

- 095/19 VE Day 75 Commemorations – 8th May 2020**
Councillor Stokes agreed to draft a plan for this event and members agreed to have a party on Millennium Green. Item to be placed on the agenda for each Town Council meeting until May 2020.
- 096/19 Tow Law Millennium Green**
Litter Pick - only 2 people turned up. Following the litter pick a number of alcoholic bottles/cans (empty) need to be cleaned up (County Council Green and Clean to be contacted), Police are aware of this matter.
- 097/19 Bee Hive Coke Ovens**
- Grass cutting on a regular basis (every 2 weeks)
 - Clerk to chase up paperwork with Natural England.
- 098/19 Clerk's Report**
- DCC remittance advice dated 2nd April 2019. Precept £34,735.60; LCTSS (grant) £4154.00.
 - Citizens Advice County Durham – application for a donation. Members agreed to donate £250.00 from the Council's reserves.
- 099/19 Members Reports**
Councillor Nicol reported:-
- Representative on 3 Towns AAP (Chair of the Town Council, reserve the Vice Chair)
- Councillor T. Batson reported:-
- CDALC Training for Clerks and Councillors.
- 100/19 Date of next meeting**
Agreed to change 18th June to Tuesday 25th June.

The meeting finished at 8.25 pm.