

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 21st November 2017 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.30pm.

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

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

179/17 Apologies - None

180/17 Declaration of interest - None

181/17 Community Fund

Councillor Grogan circulated an application for funding from 1st Tow Law Rainbows, Brownies and Guides for a contribution towards a unit flag, pole, carry holder at a cost of £160 each, lockable cupboard for headquarters (local church hall) at a cost of £250 and two portable oven, grill and hob unit at a cost of £200. Members agreed to donate £250 towards the above application from this year's Community Fund and review in 2018/19.

182/17 Minutes of the special meeting held on 17th October 2017

Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman

183/17 Minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 17th October 2017

Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman

184/17 Minutes of the special meeting held on 19th October 2017

Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman

185/17 Matters Arising

- Tow Law Christmas Lights – contribution from Town Council
Councillor C. Batson updated at meeting on costs of supplying and fitting units to five lighting columns. Members agreed to consider this matter when they discuss the precept for 2018/19 (January's meeting).
- Costs of brackets for Christmas trees (residents) – Councillor Geraghty-Shewan. The Clerk explained the misunderstanding and agreed to resolve this matter with the local contractor.
- Land for car park (County Councillor Manchester)
Members agreed for Councillor Manchester to obtain a price for leasing the land and the cost of purchasing the piece of land. Once both prices have been received the Council will evaluate the best value and inform the County Council. Members agreed for the Clerk to communicate this decision to the relevant County Officers.

186/17 Police/Pact Report
 County Councillor Manchester to email the Clerk for contact details for crime figures etc. for Tow Law.
 Councillor Wilshire provided figures for recent Speedwatch sessions:-

20/10 Wolsingham Road	20 vehicles 1 excessive speed
Dans Castle	37 vehicles 6 excessive speed
16/11 Dans Castle	97 vehicles 16 excessive speed

187/17 County Councillor Report
 County Councillor Manchester reported on the following: -

- Cost of road crossing (£12,000 to £25000 estimated)
- Options for development of Ironworks Road
- Weardale Gazette.

188/17 Representation by Residents - None

189/17 Chairman's Report
 Thank you letter from residents of Park Terrace for the new bus shelter at Park Terrace.

190/17 Planning Matters

A) Planning Applications

- 1) DM/17/03173/FPA by Mr D. Higginbotham for change of use from a shop to Veterinary Surgery at 29 High Street, Tow Law
 Decision – no objection
- 2) DM/17/03485/FPA by Mr G. Archer change of use from keeping Pigeons to storage area for building materials and siting of a secure container at land to the rear of 15 High Street, Tow Law
 Decision – no objection

B) Neighbourhood Planning
 Actions agreed earlier in the meeting

191/17 Accounts for payments
 Vouchers 59 to 75 in the sum of £4998.23 be approved for payment

192/17 Expenditure Report 1st April to 31st October 2017

Members noted the following costs:-

Staff	£9586.13
Admin Expenses	£243.40
Office Rent	£1800.00
Community Fund	£2102.00
Audit Fees	£365.00
Donations	£3570.00
Councillor/Staff Training	£54.00
Website	£106.93
Newsletter (Printing)	£300.00
Newsletter (Production/Delivery)	£262.00
CDALC Subscription	£296.93
CCTV consultation fees	£625.00
CCTV installation costs	£12252.00
CCTV annual maintenance charge	£958.08
Insurance	£611.32
Allotments (Water Charges)	£19.92
Millennium Green (Water Charges)	£18.72
Dog Bags	£442.50

Grass Cutting	£500.00
Stationary	£27.49
Sub Total	£34141.42
VAT	£2940.67
Total	£37082.09

193/17 County Durham Skill Mill

The following schemes were to be considered:-

- Beehive Coke Ovens (Gorse)
- Millennium Green (Pond and General Maintenance)
- Weardale Crescent (Check with home group – County Councillor Manchester)

Councillors to provide any further schemes to the Clerk.

194/17 Section 106 Monies – County Councillor Manchester

The following section 106 monies were still outstanding:-

£3750 (Pitch improvement at Naismith Grove)

£24320 (Play areas Maintenance – Flexible) – suggested allocation to play area for Sunnyside; improve play area rear of Community Centre, Tow Law and second phase of play equipment on Millennium Green.

County Councillor to update the Town Council on any further developments for this fund.

195/17 CDALC Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils

Members agreed to adopt the document to promote and maintain high standards of behaviour by its members whenever they conduct the business of the Council. Copy to be placed on the Council's website.

196/17 Millennium Green - Update

The play equipment has been installed and has been insured for £21,846. Some items are outstanding (re fencing and matting) and a site inspection with the supplier has been arranged for Friday 1st December 2017.

197/17 Bee Hive Coke Ovens

Awaiting response from Historic England.

198/17 Clerk's Report

- Notification of External Auditor for the 2017/18 financial year
- Future of management of DCC owned allotments
- New annual governance and accountability return
- Smaller Local Councils forum – next meeting 23rd November 2017
- DCC notification of tax base, grant allocations and request for precept for 2018/19.

199/17 Members Report

Councillor Nicol - supply of food packs (introduction of Universal Credit in County Durham from 13th December 2017) contact her on 01388730079

Councillor Stokes - update on phone box

Councillor C. Batson – Christmas tree switch-on Friday 1st December at 6 pm.

200/17 Date of next meeting

The next Ordinary meeting will be held on Tuesday 16th January 2018 commencing at 6.30pm in the Community Centre, Tow Law.

The meeting finished at 8.10pm