

## TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2018 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.30 pm.**

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

**Also Present:** County Councillor R. Manchester, Tanya McFadden, Colin Hayton (Residents) and G. F. Smith (Clerk)

### **214/18 Representation by Residents**

- 1) Mr Colin Hayton raised the following concerns:-
  - Lack of water supply to Dan's Castle Cemetery. County Councillor Manchester agreed to take up this matter with County Council officers and report back to Mr Hayton
  - War Memorial – Rusting of Tie - Wire and damage to the plate of the memorial. County Councillor Manchester agreed to take up this matter with County Council officers and report back to Mr Hayton
- 2) Tanya McFadden raised the following:-  
Provision of 25ft Christmas tree, tree lights, switch - on and service on 1<sup>st</sup> December. Members agreed to financially support the purchase of the tree and lights and the erection/removal from site by a recognised local contractor. Invoices to be charged to and paid for by the Town Council. Final costs to be agreed before purchase.

**215/18 Apologies**  
Councillor K. Geraghty-Shewan

**216/18 Declaration of Interest**  
Councillor Stokes declared an interest in agenda item 10 - Tow Law Community Association, agenda item 16 Commemorative Event – 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018; "Battle over a Nation's Tribute" and agenda item 20B – Neighbourhood Planning  
Councillor Nicol declared an interest in agenda item 10 - Tow Law Community Association.  
Councillor T. Batson declared an interest in agenda item 13 – Residents representation (Tanya McFadden)  
Councillor C. Batson declared an interest in agenda item 25 – Christmas Activities.

**217/18 Community Fund – No Report**

**218/18 Minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2018**  
Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

- 219/18 Matters Arising**  
Clerk raised the following:-
- Town Council's administrative services – meeting of sub-committee to meet before the next Town Council meeting
  - Audited Annual Return - The Clerk thanked Councillors for their responses to approve the Audited Returns, copies of which have been placed on the Council's website. The notice of Conclusion of the External Audit to be placed on the Council's notice board and onto the website.
- 220/18 Laying the Wreath – Remembrance Service at Tow Law**  
The Clerk reported that he had received the wreath from the local organiser. Councillor Stokes agreed to represent the Council at the Laying of the Wreath Ceremony. Councillor Gale to be reserve.
- 221/18 Allotments**  
The Clerk agreed to progress this as a matter of urgency.
- 222/18 Land Rear of High Street, Tow Law**  
The Clerk agreed to progress this as a matter of urgency.
- 223/18 Sustainable Energy Project for Tow Law**  
Work ongoing, update at the next Town Council meeting.
- 224/18 Tow Law Community Association**  
Councillor Stokes informed the meeting that the Association was to meet on the following night (Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October).
- 225/18 Police/Pact/Speedwatch Reports**  
Councillor Wilsher reported:-
- Recent Speedwatch session 15<sup>th</sup> October (8.30 to 9.30 am) 127 vehicles; 15 exceeded the speed limit – A68 Dan's Castle south bound to Darlington.
- 226/18 County Councillor Report**  
County Councillor Manchester reported on the following:-
- "Time to Shine" a fully funded course, just for woman; 8 week course, commencing 29<sup>th</sup> October. Funding from European Social Fund at Sunnyside Community Association. Poster/details available in the Tow Law Community Centre
  - Lights on footpath leading from Doctors Surgery to Football Club
  - DCC budget consultation
  - "Bull-ring" roof demolition – discussion with owner and County Council Officers.

- 227/18 Chairman's Report**  
 Closure of Ward 6, Bishop Auckland Hospital – The Council was opposed to this action and the Chairman/Clerk to respond to the health services accordingly.
- 228/18 Street Lighting – Proposed Removal, Bridge Street/North Road**  
 Item withdrawn.
- 229/18 Commemorative event - 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018 “Battle’s Over a Nation’s Tribute”**  
 Councillor Stokes pointed out the following expenditure which the Council agreed to pay:-
- Band Cover (Marque) £476.70 + VAT
  - 4 hand portable radios
  - Silent generator hire
  - Sound system – donation (£30)
  - Press release – no costs
  - Emergency fund (petty cash £200)
- Poster to be placed on the Council’s notice boards, local shops etc. response from local Churches/Parish Councils volunteers.
- 230/18 School Crossing Patrol**  
 County Councillor Manchester reported:-
- Job advert for part time School Crossing Patrol on Castle Bank/Grove Road (term time only)
  - Still looking at details for a post for a patrol in the monument area
  - Survey to be carried out at the other site (War Memorial/Wolsingham Road). To arrange a meeting with Councillor Dyer
- 231/18 Outdoor Gym Equipment on Millennium Green**  
 County Councillor Manchester reported:-
- Awaiting completion of forms by the Clerk for Natural England
- 232/18 CCTV Cameras**  
 The Clerk agreed to progress this as a matter of urgency.
- 233/18 Planning Matters**  
 A) Planning Applications – None received  
 B) Neighbourhood Planning – No further update.
- 234/18 Accounts for Payments**  
 Vouchers 51 to 58 in the sum of £2819.57 be approved for payment.
- 235/18 County Durham Skill Mill**  
 The Clerk agreed to progress this as a matter of urgency.

- 236/18**      **Tow Law Millennium Green**
- Clerk agreed to complete form as a matter of urgency
  - Damage to equipment reported to suppliers.
- 237/18**      **Bee Hive Coke Ovens**
- Clerk agreed to complete form (Historic England) as a matter of urgency
  - Councillor Hemmingway reported on a recent visit to the site which was looking tidier (grass cutting was a success) Gorse required cutting back and signs needed to be refurbished.
- 238/18**      **Christmas Activities**
- Councillor C. Batson had obtained quotations for:-
- Supply and fit Christmas tree to an already fitted bracket, remove and recycle at £10 plus VAT
  - Supply (65) 4 ft. Christmas Trees (Norway Spruce) at £14 plus VAT
  - Supply Christmas Tree bracket £18 plus VAT
  - Fit bracket to wall £10 plus VAT
- Members agreed for this work to be carried out, final details to be reported to the next Town Council meeting.
- 239/18**      **Clerk's Report**
- Purchase of Charles Arnold Baker 11<sup>th</sup> edition – Reference book for Local Councils. Members agreed for the Clerk to purchase one copy from Lexis Nexis (Publisher) at a cost of £110.99, this includes delivery (£7)
  - Request for donation from Great North Air Ambulance towards running costs of this organisation. Members agreed to donate £50 from the Council's reserves
  - Request for donation from Willow Burn Hospice towards running costs of a six – bed inpatient ward. Members decided not to make a donation (at this time).
- 240/18**      **Members Report**
- Councillor T. Batson – Hilltop Community
  - Councillor Nicol – drop in sessions in the Community Centre on a Thursday (12.30 to 3 pm).
- 241/18**      **Date of next meeting**
- The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2018 in the Community Centre at 6.30 pm.

The meeting finished at 8.30 pm.