

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 15th October 2019 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.30 pm.

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

Also Present: County Councillor R. Manchester, Tanya McFadden (Resident) and G. F. Smith (Clerk)

173/19 Apologies
Councillor K. Geraghty-Shewan
Councillor M. Dyer

174/19 Declaration of Interests - None

175/19 Community Fund
The Clerk read out a letter from the Great North Air Ambulance Service asking the Council to donate towards the running costs of this organisation. Members agreed to donate £250 from the reserves to this organisations running costs.

176/19 Christmas Activities
Following information from Tanya McFadden the members agreed to support the following:-

- Electricity supply to the tree cabin cabinet (Northern Powergrid)
- Supply of one premier cut spruce tree (4.80 to 5.40 metre) including delivery £325.00 plus vat, supplied by R. B. Tree and Landscape Ltd.
- Supply of extension (5 metre) lead connectable at £9.90 plus VAT, supplied by R. B. Tree and Landscape Ltd.
- Donate £150 towards the cost of providing selection boxes on the switch on ceremony (6th December 2019)
- Arrangements for the supply etc. for residents to be the same as last year (R. B. Tree and Landscape Ltd.).

177/19 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 17th September 2019
Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

178/19 Matters Arising
Letter to Wolsingham School – Chair to meet the Clerk the next day to progress the letter as a matter of urgency.

179/19

Allotments

Following a site visit on 8th October 2019, the members agreed to the following:-

- The site inspection was disappointing and further work was required on the two sites
- The site on Millennium Green had improved and those sites should be changed to Pigeon Lofts?
- Clerk to contact all allotment holders to meet in the office to discuss the state of the allotment site, review allotment site tenancy agreement and the need to progress the site, Clean-up etc.
- Tenancy agreement to be emailed to all Councillors on the Allotment Committee (check agreement regulations on number of hens allowed)
- Clerk to check waiting list to see if the list is current and requires updating
- Clerk to meet with an allotment holder who is prepared to be a “go-between”
- Use of Water Butts as opposed to a Water Supply (Dan’s Castle)
- Introduce monthly check inspections
- Discuss with allotment holders the possibility of an allotment association
- Allotment at Ridley Terrace – gate post to be replaced (Health and Safety issue) as a matter of urgency
- Site on Millennium Green – damage to decking around the pond (Councillor Mather) and the Support Rail. Councillor Fowler would arrange for a Joiner to carry out the necessary repairs.

180/19

Land Rear of High Street, Tow Law

- Working Party to move the scheme on (Clerk to contact all Councillors)
- Electric charging points.

181/19

Councillor Vacancy

Members had interviewed two candidates for the vacancy, they agreed to appoint Ms Jane Heron, 19 Deerness Heights, Stanley Crook and appoint a reserve Mr Paul Eastwood, 123B Dan’s Castle, Tow Law. Agreed to invite Ms. Heron to the next Town Council meeting. Clerk to confirm the situation regarding Councillor Tyers who has not attended the last six Town Council meetings. Details are to be discussed with the County Council Returning Officer.

182/19

Tow Law Community Association

At the AGM Councillor Stokes was voted in as Chairman.

183/19

Police/Pact/Speedwatch Reports

Councillor Wilsher reported on the following Speedwatch sessions:-

- 06/10 - 26 vehicles, 2 vehicles exceeded speed limit (Smith Street 02.00 – 02.30 pm)
- 06/10 - 26 vehicles, 2 vehicles exceeded speed limit (Bridge Street 03.10 – 03.40 pm)

- 06/10 - 55 vehicles, 2 vehicles exceeded speed limit (Dans Castle 03.50 – 04.20 pm)
- 14/10 - 26 vehicles, 4 vehicles exceeded speed limit (Bridge Street 02.30 – 03.00 pm)
- 14/10 – 23 vehicles, 4 vehicle exceeded speed limit (Smith Street 03.10 – 03.40).

184/19 County Councillor Report

County Councillor Manchester reported on the following:-

- Rural Community Grant - £31,000 approved
- School Crossing Patrol
- Litter on the football field.

185/19 Representation by Residents - None

186/19 Chairman's Report

Crook Police – AAP funding (Safer Homes Project, Shutter Blight in Willington)

187/19 Annual Return for the Year Ended 31st March 2019 – Report from the External Auditor

The Clerk read out parts of the report that requires attention:-

- Completion Notice were published after the statutory date of 30th September. The Council needs to put in place arrangements to ensure that it fully complies with the accounts and audit regulations
- Annual Returns for 5 years to be publicly accessible copies (on the Council Website). The Council needs to put in place arrangements to ensure that it fully complies with the regulations
- There is no evidence of an Annual Return being submitted to the Charity Commission within the deadline in order to meet all of its responsibilities
- The Council should ensure that all information requested for Audit Review is provided by the due date.

188/19 Planning Matters

A) Planning Applications - None received.

B) Neighbourhood Planning

- Councillor Stokes to contact Planning Officials (DCC).

189/19 VE Day 75 Commemorations – 8th May 2020

Councillor Stokes updated the meeting:-

- Picnic to be held in the Community Centre
- Dance on the evening

190/19 Accounts for Payments

Vouchers 52 to 56 in the sum of £2814.35 be approved for payment.

191/19 Climate Action Group – No update

192/19 Remembrance Day 10th November 2019

It was agreed that Councillor Nicol would lay the wreath on behalf of the Town Council. Councillor Mather to be reserve.

193/19 Clerk's Report

CDALC Training "Planning Applications and how to respond to them effectively" Tuesday 26th November 2019 at County Hall, Durham 6.00 to 8.30 pm. Councillors C. Batson, J. Fowler, E. Mather and H. Wilsher would attend, Clerk to book four places.

194/19 Members Reports

Councillor Fowler:-

- Barclays moving facilities from the Post Office

Councillor Nicol:-

- Consultation – downsize of Ward 6, Bishop Auckland Hospital

Councillor Mather:-

- State of pond area (replace handrail).

195/19 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 19th November 2019 in the Community Centre at 6.30 pm.

The meeting finished at 8.07 pm.