

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 18th September 2018 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.30 pm.

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

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

186/18 Apologies

Councillor J Fowler (Unwell)
Councillor G. Tyers (Work)

187/18 Declaration of Interest

Councillor Stokes declared an interest in agenda item 10 - Tow Law Community Association and agenda item 16 Commemorative Event – 11th November 2018; “Battle Over a Nation’s Tribute”.
Councillor Nicol declared an interest in agenda item 10 - Tow Law Community Association.
Councillor Dyer declared an interest in agenda item 12 County Councillor’s Report and Agenda Item 17 – School Crossing Patrol, Tow Law.

188/18 Community Fund – No Report

189/18 Minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 17th July 2018

Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

190/18 Matters Arising – All items covered within the agenda

191/18 Audited Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2018

The Clerk reported that the return has not been completed by the External Auditor in time for tonight’s meeting. The members agreed

- To approve the return by e-mail before 30th September 2018.
- For the Clerk to write to the External Auditor (copy to Steve Ragg, CDALC) registering the disappointment in not receiving the documents in time for tonight’s meeting.

192/18 Allotments

The Clerk apologised that he had not made any progress following the last meeting. He hopes to progress these matters as soon as possible.

193/18 Land Rear of High Street, Tow Law

The Council’s Solicitor has recently returned to work following an operation. Clerk to contact the Solicitor and advise the County Council accordingly.

- 194/18 Sustainable Energy Project for Tow Law**
Mr. Boyd had met with the County Councillor and the trustees of Tow Law Community Association regarding future funding projects.
- 195/18 Tow Law Community Association**
Councillor Stokes reported on the following:-
- Community Association AGM
 - Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2018 (Copy of accounts passed to the Clerk)
 - Outstanding projects to commence soon:-
 1. Flooring
 2. Toilets
 3. Car Park
- 196/18 Police/Pact/Speedwatch Reports**
Councillor Mather reported:-
- Recent Speedwatch session 15 to 20 vehicles exceeded speed limit out of 100 vehicles
 - Update from Speedwatch volunteers on 6th October at the Moss, commencing at 6.45 pm
 - New monitoring vehicle covering local area including a number recognition device.
- 197/18 County Councillor Report**
County Councillor Manchester reported on the following:-
- Cattle Mart – options, to be discussed with County Council officers. Councillors T. Batson and M. Dyer volunteered to be involved with the process
 - Concerns were being raised on building works on the above site (Tree Preservation).
- 198/18 Representation by Residents - None**
- 199/18 Chairman's Report**
DCC Education Budgets – viability of Schools in rural areas?
- 200/18 Street Lighting – Proposed Removal, Bridge Street/North Road**
No further update – remove from agenda
- 201/18 Commemorative event - 11th November 2018 “Battle's Over a Nation's Tribute”**
Councillor Stokes circulated an amended timetable of events for the day. Volunteers were required to assist on the day, names will be collected at the next Town Council meeting.

- 202/18 School Crossing Patrol**
County Councillor Manchester reported:-
- Post is being advertised for a crossing patrol on Castle Bank
 - Still looking at details for a post for a patrol in the monument area
 - Councillor Dyer expressed the need for a survey of residents and a walk to school scheme, she volunteered to assist with these surveys, if required.
- 203/18 Outdoor Gym Equipment on Millennium Green**
County Councillor Manchester reported:-
- Form to complete for Natural England
 - Additional piece of gym equipment (F.O.C) – further details at the next Town Council meeting
- 204/18 CCTV Cameras**
No update from DCC – Clerk to chase up response.
- 205/18 Planning Matters**
- A) Planning Applications
1. DM/18/02175/FPA by Mr D. Higginbothom for demolition and rebuild of garage/store at rear of 25 to 27, High Street, Tow Law.
Decision – No objections
 2. DM/18/02122/FPA by Mr J. Pinkney for erection of detached building at West Park Farm, Tow Law (in Wolsingham PC area). Clerk to circulate details.
- B) Neighbourhood Planning
Councillor Stokes reported that 41 questionnaires were completed at the recent event at the Community Centre (due to weather conditions the event was moved inside from the Football Club field). He thanked Councillors Dyer and Nicol for their assistance on the day.
- 206/18 Accounts for Payments**
Vouchers 31 to 50 in the sum of £7634.84 be approved for payment.
- 207/18 County Durham Skill Mill**
Response received, Clerk to discuss contents with the organisation.
- 208/18 Tow Law Millennium Green**
Clerk to complete application form etc. with Natural England. Councillor Stokes reported tree branches on the slide equipment (Chairman would arrange to have them removed).
- 209/18 Bee Hive Coke Ovens**
Clerk to complete application form to Historic England. Grass cutting contract (fortnightly visits) – site tidy, but gorse plants are overgrowing the ovens.

210/18

Clerk's Report

- Councillor Training Sessions, the following Councillors provided good feedback on courses recently attended, organised by CDALC (Councillors Dyer, Mather Stokes and Wilsher)
- Permission to deliver Forest Schools on Tow Law Millennium Green – email date 10th September from Helen Cheetham, Outdoor and Sustainability Education Specialists (OASES). Members agreed to most of the activities but raised concerns on the following:-
 - Den Building
 - Campfire Cooking
 - Green Woodworking

Clerk to respond accordingly

- Planting bulbs (10,000 crocuses) on Millennium Green (AAP event to be carried out by Dean Hervry of DCC. Members agreed.

211/18

Members Report

- Councillor T. Batson – representation at the AAP
- Councillor Stokes – white lines on parking spaces (DCC) and Speed Humps on Deerness estate (DCC).

212/18

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 16th October 2018 in the Community Centre at 6.30 pm.

The meeting finished at 8.05 pm.