

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 27th June 2017 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.47pm.

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

Also Present: County Councillor R. Manchester, B. Batson (resident) and G. F. Smith (Clerk)

080/17 Apologies - None

081/17 Declaration of interest

Councillor Fowler declared an interest in agenda item 3(a) Application for Community Fund for Tow Law gym.

Councillors Gale, Stokes and Nicol declared an interest in agenda items 3 (c,d,e) Application for funding for Tow Law Community Association.

Councillors Hemingway and Wilsher declared an interest in agenda item 3 (g). Application for funding Speedwatch scheme.

082/17 Minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 18th April 2017

Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman

083/17 Minutes of a Special meeting held on 30th May 2017

Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

084/17 Matters Arising – None (covered by agenda items)

085/17 Community Fund

The Clerk read out the following applications for funding: -

A) Tow Law Gym

Funding towards the cost of installing a camera security system at the gym.

Members agreed to donate £250.00 towards this application from the Community Fund

B) Tow Law Salamander Tackwondo

Application for more equipment (24 mats).

Members requested further information including membership details etc.

C) Tow Law Community Association

Funding towards hire of a Marquee for the celebration event on the Millennium Green on 20th August 2017.

Members agreed to donate £250.00 towards this application from the Community Fund.

Members agreed to permission to hold the event on Millennium Green (Council are Corporate Trustees) on 20th August 2017 (Community Association to arrange appropriate Public Liability Insurance).

D) Tow Law Community Association

Funding towards the cost of Acoustic tiles for the hall, 6 packs @ £45.00 each, Total cost £270.00. This will be part of a refurbishment scheme which other grants have been secured.

Members agreed to donate £270.00 from the Council's funds.

- E) Tow Law Community Association
Funding towards the cost of curtaining the larger hall doors to improve acoustics and visual appearance of the hall and to maximise its heat retention. Cost of £250.00.
Members agreed to donate £250.00 from the Council's fund
- F) 1st Tow Law Beavers, Cubs and Scouts
Funding towards the purchase of world scout event shelter for use at outdoor events, cost £205.00 plus post and packing.
Members agree to donate £250.00 towards this application from the Community Fund.
- G) Speedwatch scheme – Wear Valley Area
Application towards provision of body cameras for volunteers involved in the above scheme.
Members agreed to support the request but required further information/details on type of cameras and appropriate costs.
- H) Citizens Advice County Durham
Application to support the work of the organisation
Members agreed to donate £50.00 from the Council's Funds

086/17 Police/Pact Report – No report received

087/17 County Councillor Report

County Councillor Manchester reported on the following: -

- Car Park land
- Millennium Green
- Play areas in Tow Law
- Neighbourhood Planning
- Cattle Mart site
- Special meeting with Town Council – meeting dates to be sent to the Clerk via e-mail.

088/17 Representation by Residents – None

089/17 Chairman's Report – None

090/17 Planning Matters

- A) Planning Application (time scale response exceeded)
DM/17/00780/FPA by Ash Black Tattoo and design studio for change of use to Tattoo studio at 29 High Street, Tow Law
- B) Neighbourhood Planning
Councillor Stokes suggested that consultation with residents could be carried out at the Celebrations event on Millennium Green on the 20th August 2017. Further details to be discussed at the meeting with the County Councillor and the next Town Council meeting in July.

091/17 Accounts for payments – None
(Financial Accounts to be returned by the Internal Auditor)

092/17 Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2017
Approval of section one (Annual Governance Statement)
Members agreed to answer Yes to questions 1 to 9 and for the Chairman and Clerk to sign the Annual Governance Statement which will be sent to the Council's External Auditors.

093/17 Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2017 – Approval of section two (Accounting Statement)

Members agreed the statement, as below: -

Balance b/f	£37980
Precept (+)	£33834
Other receipts (+)	£19695
Staff costs (-)	£16267
Loan (-)	Nil
Other payments	£16556
Balance c/f	£58686
Fixed Assets	£
Borrowings	Nil

Members agreed for the Chairman and Clerk to sign the Accounting statement which will be sent to the Council's External Auditors

094/17 Internal Auditor's Report for the year ended 31st March 2017

Clerk to circulate the report by e-mail to all the Councillor's

095/17 Statement of Accounts for 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017

Members agreed the following statement: -

Balance as at 1/4/16	£37980.41
Precept	£33834.71
Other Income	£19694.85
Sub Total	£91509.97
Less Expenditure	£32823.51
Balance as at 31/3/17	£58686.46
Co-op Bank Account Statement	£59816.46
Less unrepresented cheques	£1130.00
Total	£58686.46

096/17 Expenditure report for 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017

Members agreed the following report: -

Staff Costs	16267.71
Admin Expenses	242.64
Office Rent	3600.00
Community Fund	4850.00
Audit Fees	265.00
Christmas Activities	1969.77
Donations	519.25
Councillor/Staff Training	26.40
Allotments	48.80
Miscellaneous	3539.70
Environment	785.46
Web Site	129.94
Vat	579.84
Total	<u><u>32823.51</u></u>

097/17 Income report for 1st April to 31st March 2017

Members agreed the following report: -

Precept	£33834.71
LCTRS Grant (DCC)	£3663.00
N-Power Community Fund	£3497.00
Allotment rents	£514.85
Christmas trees	£580.00
Three Towns Grant	£11440.00
Total	£53529.56

098/17 Millennium Green

The Clerk reported that Michelle Hird has returned the following equipment: -

- Strimmer & Tools
- Litter picking equipment and Hi Vis vests

The Clerk also reported that he was still awaiting responses from Northumbrian Water and the Coal Authority regarding the water problems on the site.

Natural England to sign consent form within the next two weeks (County Councillor Manchester).

099/17 Councillor Vacancies

The Clerk reported that the Council still had three vacancies to fill, which could be carried out by co-option. He requested Councillors to nominate potential candidates to him before the next Town Council meeting.

Councillor Batson wished to nominate Mr Gary Tyers of 3 Inkerman Road, Tow Law.

100/17 Bee Hive Coke Oven Site

The Clerk reported that the site was in need of some repairs etc to be carried out. Members agreed for the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Clerk to arrange for the necessary remedial works to be carried out as a matter of urgency and report to the next Town Council meeting (July)

101/17 Clerk's Report

The following matters of correspondence etc would be held over until the next Town Council meeting: -

- Innogy – confirmation of Tow Law Wind Farm Community Fund of £3574.95 for 2017/18.
- Pensions regulator – compliance deadline 2nd October 2017
- Plants for planters at entrances of the Town (Roy Hillary)
- Trees on allotment site (Jeff Hindmoor)
- Tow Law Millennium Primary school – details on Governing Body (LA Governor)
- CDALC AGM – nominations for Executive Committee
- Councillor/Chairmanship training events
- CDALC secretarial proposals 2018/19 onwards
- Good Councillors guide to transparency
- Good Councillor guide on Finance and transparency
- Tow Law Play strategy – project monitoring
- DCC – Public space protection order for dog control with effect from 1st June 2017

102/17

Members Report

Councillor Fowler reported on: -

- Contact with Landlord of Co-op premises High Street, possible car parking improvements and signs, report back 10th July (Malcolm Steward)

Councillor Batson reported on: -

- “Future of Tow Law – Planning the Town centre” (project to involve residents)

Councillor Stokes reported on: -

- Healthcare in Tow Law (report circulated at the meeting).

103/17

Date of next meeting

The next Ordinary meeting will be held on Tuesday 18th July 2017 commencing at 6.30pm in the Community Centre, Tow Law.

The meeting finished at 8.55pm

Signed by the Chairman.....page 5