

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING (Notes)**

14 MARCH 2022

ELECTORS PRESENT: Town Councillors; Ing, Harrison, Connelly, Foote-Wood, McLean, & four members of the public (Electors).

NON ELECTORS PRESENT: None.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: One member of the press.

OFFICERS: Mr Clark (Town Clerk).

It was resolved that Cllr Harrison take the Chair in the absence of both the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

1. APOLOGIES

Cllr's Chatterjee (Town Mayor), Drew (Deputy Town Mayor), Coulthard & Thompson.

Cllr Harrison thanked councillors for submitting apologies as a courtesy as the meeting was not a formal council meeting.

The Town Clerk informed the meeting that no minutes (notes) were available for the meeting held on 9 March 2020.

2. GENERAL DISCUSSION

- A resident present spoke on the issue of traffic management in the town, and the need to get Durham County Council to engage with the council and residents. They were concerned that the town was being 'pushed aside', and that it was essential to have officers from Durham County Council engaging with the town council to discuss the issues of concern.
- A resident referred to the crisis in Ukraine – has the town council received any information from central government as residents may like to know what they can do to help.

The council had put out a strong statement, and that members had resolved that Woodleigh could be used as a distribution point for organised collections of items that people wish to donate to the people of Ukraine.

- The council was thanked for showing a cohesive direction of travel. Reference was made to the Holi festival and its many partners involved. A collaborative approach to working was welcomed.
- Further to above, reference was made to the issues of traffic in and around the town. The hope that a meeting can be arranged to bring interested parties together to discuss.
- A question on whether the town council would consider a Youth Council – involve the young people in policy making.
- The A66 duelling, the county plan, and the Barnard Castle proposed by-pass was referred to as things to be discussed with Durham highways.
- Reference to the Annual Town meeting not being known or advertised due to the lack of attendance was made.

Details of the meeting were confirmed as being posted on the council website and advertised in the local press as required.

- The town council boundary and the failure by Durham County Council to agree to the previous council's request to consider changes, Section 106 monies, Neighbourhood Plans, cemetery land (capacity issues), size of bus shelter on post office side, and European finance were spoken on.
- Memorial garden in need of maintenance – benches, railings and plaques
- Working relationships with neighbouring parish's – work together on common ground
- Public Participation Policy of the council could be looked at.

The Clerk referred to this being looked at, especially on the requested timing of receiving questions to be considered

Following the end of discussion, Cllr Harrison declared the meeting closed.