



Barnard Castle Town Council

Town Clerk: Martin Clark
Woodleigh, Flatts Road
Barnard Castle
DL12 8AA

01833 690970
clerk@barnardcastletowncouncil.gov.uk

FULL COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY 25 MARCH 2024

Dear Councillor,

You are hereby **summoned** to attend the meeting of Barnard Castle Town Council to be held in the **Dawson Room, Woodleigh on Monday 25 March 2024 at 6.00 p.m.** The meeting will consider the items of business listed below.

***Public Participation 6.00 – 6.15pm**

Members of the public are invited to speak on any matters contained within the agenda*. Following this period members of the public can remain but cannot speak further on any agenda item unless invited by the Chair.

TOWN CLERK
20 March 2024

AGENDA

75. ACCEPTANCE OR OTHERWISE OF APOLOGIES
76. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
77. MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS
78. COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – 15 JANUARY 2024
79. EN BLOC ITEMS
80. UPDATES & REFERRALS FROM COMMITTEES
81. REPRESENTATION ON OTHER BODIES
82. EAST WARD VACANCY (CO-OPTION)
83. NOTICE OF VACANCY – EAST WARD
84. A66 DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER
85. NOTICE OF MOTION
86. CLOSURE OF BARCLAYS BANK BARNARD CASTLE
87. FORMER NAT WEST BUILDING BARNARD CASTLE
88. NOVEMBER COUNCIL MINUTES

* Questions must be submitted in writing to the Clerk prior to the meeting and must refer to items on the published agenda. The Public Participation policy can be found on the

council website: <https://barnardcastletowncouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/BCTC-Public-Participation-Procedure.pdf>

¹ Under the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014, recording of the meeting by any person is permitted. Those filming or otherwise recording the meeting should respect the rights of other members of the public attending and should not disrupt the meeting.

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL
FULL COUNCIL**

25 MARCH 2024

DAWSON ROOM, WOODLEIGH

6:00 P.M.

DETAILED AGENDA

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PERIOD - 6.00pm to 6.15pm

75. ACCEPTANCE, OR OTHERWISE OF APOLOGIES

Cllr Bigge has submitted his apologies

Recommendation – That the submitted apologies be approved.

76. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with this Council's adopted Code of Conduct (Minute 10/May/19 refers), Members will be asked whether they have any personal, pecuniary, or prejudicial interests in any matter on the agenda and, if so, to declare those interests at this point of the meeting. Members are reminded that a declaration can be given later in the meeting if a need arises during discussion.

77. MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

78. COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES (ENCLOSED)

(1) 15 JANUARY 2024

Recommendation – That the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record.

79. EN BLOC ITEMS

This is a report arising from the decision at Minute 72/Aug/04 to amalgamate a number of agenda items so that the accompanying recommendations can be moved 'en bloc'. Any Member has a right to speak on any of the listed items, but it is hoped that discussion can be kept to a minimum.

The items included in the report are as follows:

(1) Partnership Committee – 05 February 2024 - Draft Minutes

(2) Services Committee – 19 February 2024 – Draft Minutes

(2) Resources Committee – 4 March 2024 - Draft Minutes

(4) Planning Committee – 11 March 2024

(5) Town Mayor Activities

Since the Council meeting on the 15 January 2024, the Town Mayor has attended the following:

12 February - Barnard Castle Cub Scouts – Award Presentation

13 February – Meeting with manager of Barnard Castle branch of Newcastle Building Society

Recommendation – (a) That the draft committee meeting minutes and Mayoral activity be received; and (b) That the information be noted.

80. UPDATES AND REFERRALS FROM COMMITTEES

From the meetings outlined above at item 79 the following updates are noted:

(1) Partnership Committee meeting – 05 February 2024

No referrals to full council.

(2) Services Committee meeting – 19 February 2024

No referrals were made to full council.

(3) Resources Committee Meeting – 04 March 2024

No referrals were made to full council.

(4) Planning Committee Meetings

No referrals to full council.

81. REPRESENTATION ON OTHER BODIES

The Council's representative on each relevant body can make a verbal update at the meeting.

(1) Teesdale Residents' and Travellers' Forum - (vacant & Cllr Turnbull)

(2) Larger Local Councils Forum – (Clerk & Cllr Foote-Wood)

(4) Witham Hall Ltd - (Cllr Chatterjee)

(5) Dawson Cottages Trust (Cllr's Ewart & McLean)

(6) A66 CLG (Cllr's Drew & Thompson)

Referred at item 84 on agenda

(7) St Mary's Barnard Castle Hall Association (Cllr Connelly)

Recommendation – That the information be received.

82. EAST WARD VACANCY (CO-OPTION)

Submitted - a report covering the process for co-option and details of the applications received.

83. NOTICE OF VACANCY – EAST WARD

Following the resignation of Mr Alan Coulthard a vacancy was posted in the prescribed manner. Fourteen days following the Notice, the Council were notified that an election had not been called. Members are now asked to consider co-option to fill the vacancy.

84. A66 DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER

A Development Consent Order has been passed by the Secretary of State, approving the proposed upgrade of the A66. Unfortunately, our views were ignored, and the 'Black' route has been approved. The focus has now moved on to mitigating the effect the project will have on the town, and seeking clarity over timings/impacts etc. The council continue to work with other affected stakeholders.

Further verbal updates will be provided at the meeting.

85. NOTICE OF MOTION

Cllr Fiona Turnbull has submitted the following written motion:

That Barnard Castle Town Council mark the passing of Cllr Harrison, and his 17 years' service to this council by purchasing a memorial bench and plaque.

86. CLOSURE OF BARCLAYS BANK BARNARD CASTLE

Following the meeting in January , it was agreed that the council seek clarity on the situation, and investigate alternative banking provision for the town. A productive meeting was held with the manager of the Newcastle Building Society, and further meetings are planned.

Further verbal updates will be provided at the meeting.

87. FORMER NAT WEST BUILDING BARNARD CASTLE

Following the presentation at the November meeting by Duncan Peake (Raby Estates), and Graham Ball (Cultratrust) (Item 60/Nov/23 refers) they are requesting the council consider a letter of support to assist in applying for funding for the project.

88. NOVEMBER COUNCIL MINUTES

Submitted report.

The council have received a request from the Startforth Community Centre Committee to amend the previously passed minutes from the November meeting.

Recommendation – That members consider the request to amend the November 2023 minutes

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL
PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE**

05 FEBRUARY 2024

PRESENT: Councillors Thompson, Foote-Wood, Ewart, Turnbull, Connelly & Chatterjee, Jonathan Wallis (BCCL), Kelly Ewing (TCR Hub), John Emerson (Barnard Castle Meet)

Officers: Mr M. Clark (Town Clerk)

Visitors: Teesdale Mercury

33. ACCEPTANCE, OR OTHERWISE, OF APOLOGIES

Apologies were submitted by Vicky Sturrs (Bowes Museum) and Amy Hughes (Witham).

No apologies were received from Cllr Bigge.

Resolved – That the submitted apologies be accepted & approved

34. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

in accordance with this Council's adopted Constitution (Members' Code of Conduct) (Minute 10/May/19 refers), Members will be asked whether they have any personal or prejudicial interests in any matter on the agenda and, if so, to declare those interests at this point of the meeting. Members are reminded that a declaration can be given later in the meeting if a need arises during discussion.

35. PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING – 18 DECEMBER 2023 – MINUTES

Resolved – That the minutes be approved as an accurate record.

36. THE BOWES MUSEUM UPDATE

Received – Bowes Museum written report.

1. Murmuration exhibition

Our new exhibition opened 27.01.24 and runs until 23.06.24.

Murmuration is a group exhibition that presents a wide selection of artists and makers from various generations, backgrounds and contexts whose work ranges across drawing, sculpture, film and installation.

A murmuration is the act of gathering; of birds (usually starlings) flocking; twisting, turning, swooping and changing direction together. Our murmuration gathers objects and artworks and hopefully, softly, prompts us to change direction together.

We are living in a time where Humans have become the single most influential species on the planet. We've caused significant global warming and through our actions forever changed the land, air, water and animals around us. *Murmuration* presents artwork and objects that consider the role of birds as an indicator species. Reflecting the urgency of our climate crisis and bearing witness to the way our relationship with our feathery friends has changed through history; admired and prized, captured and devastated.

Exhibiting artists include Larry Achiampong and David Blandy, Henna Aikensen, Shiraz Bayjoo, Bentley Beetham, Josephine Bowes, Michel-Pierre Hubert Descours, John Doyle, Ryan Gander, Sally Madge, Bethan Maddocks, Edourad- Aime Pils, David Shrigley, C.F Tunnicliffe and Hanna Tuulikki amongst others.

Loans have been received from The British Council, Copperfield Gallery London, The Stephen Friedman Gallery and Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums.

A press release can be found here: <https://thebowesmuseum.org.uk/media-centre/> titled *Murmuration*

Curiosity Project

Four re-fitted gallery spaces and three accessible stores. Co-produced with Durham communities.

Following a series of participatory workshops with over 100 residents, objects have been selected and interpretation written.

The galleries focus on, not just showing objects, but telling stories through them. Collection displays across the four galleries will include:

- Teesdale – this land shapes us
- Home and hospitality – what makes a welcome?
- Artists, Designers and Makers – who are they and what do they do?
- Environmental connectedness – tree species in the Parkland and our wider community and the 'at risk' animals they support; how we can make small changes to help biodiversity?

Additionally, a group of residents have chosen a series of objects and archive materials to tell seldom-heard stories of Josephine and John Bowes – their lives and artistic practices.

New accessible stores will offer further safe storage for Ceramic, Textile and Furniture Collections.

Site work began in December and a launch event is provisionally scheduled for 2 April 2024.

A press release can be found here: <https://thebowesmuseum.org.uk/media-centre/> titled *Work is well underway on exciting new spaces at The Bowes Museum*

2. Swan Conservation Project

Following successful funding from NHLF, Cumbria Clock Company continue to undertake specialist conservation and repair work on TBM's Silver Swan. Happening on site where possible and in the workshops of CCC where not, this work has been supplemented by the engagement of 10 new Volunteers as 'Swan Explainers'. These Durham residents have been vital in communicating the process with audiences.

Following extensive repair, cleaning, re-building and testing, the Silver Swan performed for the first time in four years to an invited audience on 21 December 2023.

With invitations specifically extended to surrounding residents, the evening event allowed for four performances with an intimate Q&A with TBM staff and horologists from Cumbria Clock Company.

The Swan is still undergoing some work and will enter a 4-week testing period where it will perform daily to the public from 12 February. As the mechanism sits underneath the glass rods that act as its water, these will be returned following successful testing, with the Swan expected to be fully assembled and running more completely, and sustainably, than it has for decades in mid-March.

We expect the Swan to perform publicly once a day, twice daily in the school holidays.

3. Upcoming events:

February Half Term

Something great to do every day; family tours, spotlight tours, artist-led workshops all free past the point of entry. Visit <https://thebowesmuseum.org.uk/whats-on/> for more information.

Open Day

10 February 10:00 – 15:30

Join in a day full of making and creating with plenty to see and do!

This February Open Day take part in bird inspired Artist Maker workshops, with family activities inside and out. Learn more about the Museum's collection in a selection of friendly themed talks and tours led by our team of experts and enjoy a peek behind the scenes.

Highlights include:

- Guest Speakers – ranging from insight into the Silver Swan conservation project from the Cumbria Clock Company, to a talk from the RSPB about how we can care for our garden and birds, there are so many amazing stories to hear!
- Murmuration – Immerse yourself in the world of birds with a visit to our new exhibition.
- Museum and Garden Tours – discover areas of interest in the parkland and find out more about the Bowes' collection.
- Hard Hat Tours – Go behind the scenes of the Curiosity Project and hear about our redesigned gallery and stores, due to open in April!
- Meet the Curators – View the collection of paintings in store and receive an introduction to *A Collector's Story: A Private Collection of Vivienne Westwood*.
- Artist Maker Workshops – Join artists and get creative!
- Parkland Play – Borrow hula hoops, balls and bats to play in the parkland.
- Stay and Play – A creative space for young children (under 5) to relax and play amongst the collections.

Hanna Tuulikki's Away With The Birds

17 February 14:00 – 16:00

Join us in a screening of the film documenting the performance of *Away with the Birds* on the isle of Canna in 2014, followed by a live performance lecture where Hanna Tuulikki will share her embodied research into birds in Scottish Gaelic Song and unpick some of the themes behind her work.

Film Screening (49 mins 38 sec) 2pm – 2.50pm

Performance Lecture (60 minutes) 3pm – 4pm

£12.00

For more information and to book, visit <https://thebowesmuseum.org.uk/whats-on/hanna-tuulikki-away-with-the-birds/>

Resolved – That the information be received and noted.

37. THE WITHAM UPDATE

In the absence of any representative from the Witham no update was available.

Resolved – That the information be received and noted.

38. THE TCR HUB UPDATE

Kelly Ewing, Youth Work Lead from the TCR Hub introduced herself as her first attendance.

TCR have two new staff members – Katie Byram – Food Provision Coordinator & Melanie Watson – Youth Worker. There are now 9 different youth groups at the Hub.

Feb Half Term - Durham University Space Day, free fun packed day with interactive installations, part of a three event program to finish on 29th June. Youth groups have a Galentine's Craft Day and outdoor activities day. TCR have a families trip to the Discovery Museum and Angel of the North and bouncy castle day at the Hub.

TCR have a new Family Social Plus session on Thursday afternoons, which is for children with additional needs and their families. Sarah Gent at TCR is leading this. It is fully funded by the social prescribing team and operates on referrals only. It is attended and supported by Sam McCormack, an additional needs teacher and specialist and Sarah Hodgson from the social prescribing team.

Food update

TCR continue to run our food waste project - The Community Fridge- which is available to all.

TCR's Food Pantry is available twice weekly for people in the local community struggling to afford food.

TCR are currently supporting 18 families and individuals by delivering care packages – to Barnard Castle and surrounding villages.

TCR have identified a need for cooking equipment to be available for our service users. We are launching a new project, taking donations of cooking equipment, cleaning, testing and repackaging this to be available to those in need. This will also encourage and empower our pantry users to use the waste food TCR have available and cook more.

DoE applicants are the highest number TCR have had. Very happy with the interest.

Big bike revival - Fully funded sessions have been a success helping the community get back on their bikes and teaching them how to repair and maintain their bikes at home.

Youth Groups have grown, TCR are interacting with 53 young people each week now, Music Space are holding their own open mic night at the end of half term. Our Pride for Youth Group is filming a short film in Barnard Castle for LGBTQ History month which will be part of Thirsk Film Festival.

TCR are preparing for the careers fair on 19th March.

- Cllr Chatterjee asked a question on the access to the community fridge for dropping off cooked meals. In addition she suggested the Hub look at publishing when this can be done.

Kelly will look into this.

- Cllr Ewart noted the care package support offered and asked how families or individuals can be referred.

They can contact the Hub (Katie) who will speak to them in complete confidence.

- Cllr Thompson enquired about the short film being looked at for the LGBTQ community and the age range. In addition he asked if the age range for the careers fair

From 13 years upwards. Local schools are involved in the project. The careers fair is for the whole of the Teesdale School community only. The logistics of including those attending Staindrop School would be difficult but will look at something.

It was noted that Staindrop School have had their own careers fairs.

- Cllr Turnbull suggested the Hub contact Barnard Castle School with regards the proposed film as they are a very inclusive school.

Resolved – That the information be received and noted.

39. BARNARD CASTLE CHRISTMAS LIGHT (BCCL)

2023 Display

- General feedback was that the display was extremely well received with excellent feedback given.
- Other than the festoons located on the buildings and some of the wrapped trees on Galgate Greens, all of the display has now been dismantled and will be tested by Christmas Plus.
- Unfortunately some of the new lights we had planned did not materialise but will hopefully appear in 2024.

Fundraising by BCCL

- February 26th – Curry and Quiz Night at Bengal Merchant – tickets are £25 each.
- Plans are in the process for other fundraising events including a race night, wine and cheese evening and of course Bonfire Night in December.

2024 Display

- Planning well underway with a committed budget the Committee have agreed to spend this calendar year on improvements for both the 2024 and future displays.

Barnard Castle Town Council (BCTC) and Barnard Castle Christmas Lights Committee (BCCL)

- BCCL closely with BCTC to continue improving and investing in the annual display for the benefit of the town.
- It goes without saying that we are grateful to everyone that supports us, and the Christmas lights would not exist without this help and the generous financial donations given.

Resolved – (a) That the update be received, and the information noted; and (b) That the 2024 Christmas lights switch on is Friday 29th November.

40. BARNARD CASTLE MEET

John Emerson from the 'Meet' updated members on preparations for the 2024 event.

- The work done on the Demesnes recently will aid the security put in place over the Meet weekend.
- The small committee of 7 is working through the process of looking to become a charity.
- Theme for this year will be – 'History through the ages'.
- They have engaged with the Richard III group as it will be 150 year since he came to Barnard Castle.
- In 2025 it will be 150 years since the first Barnard Castle Meet
- Rely on volunteers and they have up to 60 volunteers come forward to help with the event.
- The amusement issues with the number of rides and cost from last year are being looked into – this is between Durham County Council and the showman, but the Meet will make representations if required.

41. 80th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS TO COMMEMORATE D-DAY

Received – Report on planned/proposed events (**Appendix A**).

Resolved – (a) That the council officially register its participation in the commemorations/celebrations on 6th June; (b) That the council purchase Lamps of Peace; and (c) That the funding for the commemoration is allocated from the 2024/25 'other events' budget.

42. 200th ANNIVERSARY STOCKTON & DARLINGTON RAILWAY

Cllr Foote-Wood gave members a verbal update on the progress toward the local event(s) to celebrate the anniversary of the Darlington & Stockton Railway.

- The amount of people getting involved grows as people get to know about it
- Working with Kirkby Stephen East Station organisation who are working on a project called West Side Story
- Met with the head of Montablo School as the school designated for West Side Story. The children are involved in all things railway, including the creation of a railway garden.
- Its envisaged the school will provide somewhere for visitors to go during the anniversary event.
- The large railway model created by Barnard Castle School is located in Bishop Auckland. It would be difficult to transport it back to Barnard Castle so it may be photographed and filmed to display as part of the exhibition at the Witham.
- The local event is hoped to be around the August Bank Holiday weekend in 2025.

Appendix A

BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE 05 FEBRUARY 2024

80 D-DAY 6 JUNE 2024

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Throughout the UK, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and UK Overseas Territories in Commemoration/Celebration of the 80th Anniversary of the D Day landings on the five beaches in Normandy, France, which took place on 6th June 1944, the town council are asked to use this occasion to pay 'tribute' to the many thousands that sacrificed so much in helping to secure the freedom we enjoy today. To mark this special occasion a number of ways the council can take part have been developed by the Pageantmaster.

2. Outcomes from Previous Meeting

- 2.1 It was resolved by Partnership Committee on 03 July 2023 (minute 11/July 23/refers) that it approved in principle to take part in the celebrations when details became available.

3. D-DAY EVENTS 6 JUNE 2024

The Kings Pageantmaster, Bruno Peak is asking towns, villages, and organisations to mark the 80th anniversary by lighting a beacon or the 'light of Peace' at 9.15pm on 6th June 2024.

Other planned celebrations for 6th June 2024 include:

- Town Crier's to make a proclamation at 8.00am on the morning
- Schools across the country encouraged to take part in **Poems for Schools, D Day Heroes** at 11.00am
- Churches and Cathedrals across the country are being encouraged to ring their bells (**Ringin' Out for Peace**) at 6.30pm.
- 6th June is to be designated National Fish and Chip Day
- The International Tribute – To be read at the time of lighting the beacons and Lamps of Peace at 9.15pm (undertaken by a civic dignitary or civic officer)

4. ACTIONS TAKEN TO DATE

- 4.1 On the basis of the decision taken at the July 2023 meeting the following has been put in place:

- Town Crier contacted at date placed in diary to carry out the proclamation
- Piper reserved for the evening of the 6th June
- Local Churches contacted to seek their participation in the 'Ringin' out for Peace'
- PA system organised

5. LAMPS OF PEACE/BEACON

5.1 The most significant event on the day is the lighting of the Lamps of Peace or Beacon at 9.15pm along with the international tribute. To mark the Queen's platinum jubilee the council purchased a gas fuelled beacon; for the jubilee there was no other option.

5.2 For the D-Day celebrations there is another option in purchasing 'Lamps of Peace' (see attached). The lamps can be re-used for occasions such a Remembrance, whereas the Beacon has only one use.

5.3 The gas fuelled Beacon cost £569.00 plus vat and postage.

5.5 Each Lamp of Peace is £55.00 including postage and packing – for the cost of a beacon the council could purchase 10 Lamps of Peace. Having the Lamps of Peace would allow greater participation in the 'tribute' and could be used during the period of Remembrance each year.

Recommendation – (a) That the council officially register its participation in the commemorations/celebrations on 6th June; (b) That the council purchase Lamps of Peace; and (c) That the funding for the commemoration is allocated from the 2024/25 'other events' budget.

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL
SERVICES COMMITTEE**

19 FEBRUARY 2024

PRESENT: Councillors Turnbull, Thompson, Ewart

Also in attendance: None

Officers: Mr Clark (Town Clerk) & Miss Atkinson (RFO)

36. ACCEPTANCE, OR OTHERWISE, OF APOLOGIES

Cllr's Chatterjee & Connelly submitted their apologies.

No apologies were received from Cllr Bigge.

Resolved – That the submitted apologies be approved.

37. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with this Council's adopted Constitution (Members' Code of Conduct) (Minute 10/May/19 refers), Members will be asked whether they have any personal or prejudicial interests in any matter on the agenda and, if so, to declare those interests at this point of the meeting. Members are reminded that a declaration can be given later in the meeting if a need arises during discussion.

38. SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING – MINUTES 11 DECEMBER 2023 (ENCLOSED)

Resolved – That the minutes be approved as a true record.

39. ALLOTMENTS

(i) General Update

Since the Services meeting in December, three allotment waiting list applications have been received. The waiting list currently stands at 29 comprising of 21 parishioners and 8 non-parishioners. There is currently 1 vacant garden on the Crook Lane site which is being offered from the waiting list. Another plot at Raby Avenue will become vacant in March.

The allotment non parishioner waiting list review has been completed. This has seen the waiting list reduce from 39 in July to the current figure.

The placing of gate numbers on of each plot/garden on the Demesnes site will be completed shortly.

Preparations will begin early March for the annual rent collection and renewing of Tenancy Agreements for 2024/25.

The water supply to all allotment sites has been turned off and will be turned back on at the beginning of March.

The issue regarding the waste land behind Smiths for potential allotment plots is ongoing.

Resolved – That the information be received and noted.

40. PLAY AREAS

(i) General

Since the last Services Committee meeting no further repairs have been identified on any of the play areas. Each play area receives a visual inspection each week, and Park Lane Playgrounds carry out the quarterly inspections. The January inspection reports are due shortly.

The Clerk informed the meeting that the January inspection reports had been received and had identified a number of minor repairs. These will be actioned by the council's Mark, the maintenance supervisor will look into.

(ii) Bouch Way

Minute 18(ii)/October/23 refers – Playdale will be meeting with the Clerk at the Bouch Way play area on 20th February to discuss replacement equipment options.

It was recorded that members acknowledged the hard work that Mark does to help keep the play areas in good order.

Resolved – That the information is received and noted.

41. MINI GOLF

Preparations are due to get underway for the opening 2024 Season which this year will open on Friday 29th March (Good Friday).

Minor repairs have been identified and are currently being worked through by our maintenance supervisor. These will be completed prior to the Easter opening.

Painting the kiosk is being considered.

Resolved – That the information be noted

42. WEDNESDAY MARKET

(i) In the weeks from 22 November to 7 February 2024 inclusive, total rental receipts have been £1,338.00, an average of £148.00 per week. The waiting list currently stands at 5.

(ii) There have been some issues concerning parked vehicles and the no parking signage. Our Market and Maintenance Supervisor continues to manage any problems but to assist him Durham County Council have supplied additional signage which is now in place.

(iii) The market has been badly affected from attendance during the recent poor weather and storms.

Resolved – That the information be received and noted.

43. WAR MEMORIALS

Enquiries ongoing to create a wreath holder on the Bowes memorial. Cllr Thompson had looked at memorial and also contacted a local metal worker without success. He felt the current wire and cable ties used to secure the wreaths was adequate. However members agreed to continue to look at various options before a final decision was made.

Resolved – That the information be received and noted.

44. FLORAL AND OPEN SPACES

(i) General

The summer bedding has been replaced with winter plants. Spring flowering tulip bulbs have been planted into the Niche Living/Gateway bed.

A meeting has taken place with One3One Deerbolt to discuss the summer displays and additional works that are required within the budget set, including replacing old planters (up to 4). The Niche Living bed will be planted up to mark the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings – a red 80 as the centre piece.

The winter pansies planted had not taken as well as expected due to the weather conditions over the winter.

(ii) Galgate Green

Vehicle damage has taken place on the top Galgate green (see attached). The area will be programmed to be dug out, new top soil and seeded. The work will be carried out by council staff.

(iii) Lower Demesnes

Quite significant damage has been done to section of the Lower Demesnes by a vehicle (See attached). It is not clear when the vehicle went on to Demesnes, or for what purpose, but it got stuck and had to be towed off. The damage to the land will need repairing and a quote for this is being obtained. A crime number has been given, and the Police are to visit the vehicle owner this week.

The Clerk informed the meeting that the quote to repair the damage had been received and amounted to just over £2,000. The Police have been informed that the council would be looking for restorative justice with the vehicle owner being asked to pay for the damage directly or a claim would be made through their insurance. We await further information from the Police after they have contacted the vehicle owner.

A second vehicle that entered the land didn't cause damage but was issued a Section 183 notice by the Police.

People will realise the council will take action.

Recommendation – That the information be received and noted.

(iv) Find and Fix – Barnard Council Town Centre

Received (report)

Resolved - a) That the information is received and noted; (b) That permission be given for the proposed works to take place.

45. DOG FOULING

The project was officially launched on the 15th January. About 10 children from Green Lane and Montablo School joined in the launch. Cllr Turnbull reported the children were a joy and were pleased to see some of their ideas turned into the posters and signs. Lamp post signage has been placed in King Street, the alley behind Smiths, Raby Avenue, Horsemarket and the vicinity of Woodleigh and Scar Top. Unfortunately the banner located at Woodleigh was damaged during the last storm but a replacement is on order.

The new Neighbourhood Warden, Dave Henderson has advised that the pavement stencil will be in place, at the beginning and end of the streets where the signs are as soon as the weather permits.

The County Council will also be placing signs up reminding people of the sanctions that can be imposed if you are found allowing your dog to foul.

The Clean and Green Team would be the ones who would come out and clean fouled areas.

People should be encouraged to report areas of high fouling.

Posters have arrived for displaying in local shops.

Resolved – That the information be received and noted.

DRAFT

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL
RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

04 MARCH 2024

PRESENT: Cllrs Drew, Ing, Foote-Wood, Thompson & McLean

Officers: Mr Clark (Town Clerk), Ms Atkinson (RFO)

36. ACCEPTANCE, OR OTHERWISE OF APOLOGIES

None

37. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with this Council's adopted Constitution (Members' Code of Conduct) (Minute 10/May/19 refers), Members will be asked whether they have any personal or prejudicial interests in any matter on the agenda and, if so, to declare those interests at this point of the meeting. Members are reminded that a declaration can be given later in the meeting if a need arises during discussion.

Resolved – None declared.

38. RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING – 08 JANUARY 2024 – MINUTES

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting on the 08 January 2024 be approved as a true record.

39. BUDGET MONITORING REPORTS

Received – Reports outlining budget activity for the 2023/24 financial year from 01 November to 31 January 2024.

Reference was made to the felling of the Sycamore tree. The Clerk informed members that the costs were agreed within the Services Committee budget following a tree inspection report on all the Galgate Green and Woodleigh trees, and the costs were within the budget agreed by that committee.

Resolved – That the information be received and noted.

40. RISK REGISTER

Received – Risk Register report.

Cllr Thompson wished to refer to particular impact scores within the matrix submitted but was unable to view these at the meeting. It was agreed that he would submit his queries to the Clerk/RFO who would discuss these with the councils internal auditor.

Resolved – That the item is deferred until the next Resources Committee meeting for a resolution.

41. WOODLEIGH

The Clerk referred members to alterations made in the Woodleigh office car park that ensure council staff are able to access at all times during the working day.

Following a recent Peninsula health and safety review a first aid course for staff was required.

Resolved – (a) That the information be received and noted; and (b) That a suitable Emergency First Aid at Work course is identified, with costs and reported back to Resources at its next meeting.

DRAFT

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL
PLANNING COMMITTEE**

11 MARCH 2024

PRESENT: Councilors, Ing, McLean, & Drew

Officers: Mr M Clark, Town Clerk.

19. ACCEPTANCE, OR OTHERWISE, OF APOLOGIES

None.

Resolved – That the submitted apologies be accepted and approved.

20. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with this Council's adopted Constitution (Members' Code of Conduct) (Minute 10/May/19 refers), Members were asked whether they had any personal or prejudicial interests in any matter on the agenda and, if so, to declare those interests at this point of the meeting. Members were reminded that a declaration may be given later in the meeting if a need arose during discussion.

Resolved – None declared.

21. PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING – 11 DECEMBER 2023.

Resolved – That the minutes be approved as a correct record.

22. PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION.

- (i) **DM/24/00514/FPA** – 118 Galgate, Barnard Castle – Change of use to full residential, restoration of internal floors and reinstatement of original chimney.

A comment is recorded concerning the reference to the shared access to the side. Although not a planning issue members felt this needs to be resolved.

Resolved – That the Town Council supports the application.

- (ii) **DM/24/00515/LB** – 118 Galgate, Barnard Castle – Change of use to full residential, restoration of internal floors and reinstatement of original chimney.

Resolved – That the Town Council supports the application.

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING – 25 MARCH 2024**

EAST WARD VACANCY

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report outlines the process by which members may consider expressions of interest received and vote to fill the current East Ward vacancy.

2. BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

- 2.1 At the Town Council Meeting, held on 15 January, it was resolved that if no poll had been called in the case of the casual vacancy existing in the town council's East Ward, the vacancy would be advertised, consistent with the requirements of s.21 of The Representation of the People Act (1985) and that the co-opted candidate should be voted onto the town council at this meeting.

3. EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST RECEIVED

- 3.1 The vacancy was advertised and one confirmed expression of interest has been received. This is appended to this report, (Appendix A) from:
- Mr Ian Blake
- 3.2 The advertised person specification is attached (Appendix B) for members' information.

4. THE ESTABLISHED PROCEDURE FOR VOTING TO FILL THE VACANCY

- 4.1 The candidate has been invited to attend this meeting. He will be offered two minutes to state his suitability. Members will then be offered an opportunity to question the candidate. At the conclusion of the question and answer session, members may either resolve to proceed directly to a secret ballot or may resolve to exclude press and public (including the candidates) pending a debate on the suitability of the candidate.
- 4.2 Once a vote is called, the clerk will issue each member (including the Town Mayor) with a ballot paper marked with the names of the two candidate. Each Member will vote, in secret, by placing a cross against the name of their chosen candidate and then folding the ballot paper. The clerk will count the ballot papers in front of members and the co-option will be decided by simple

majority, which may be achieved with the addition of the casting vote of the town mayor.

4.3 CONCLUSION

- 4.4 Subject to the procedure outlined above, a vote on this matter may be called by any member, in accordance with Standing Orders.

Recommendation – that members consider if the candidate is suitable to fill the vacancy which exists in the town council.

Martin Clark
Town Clerk

Appendix A

East Ward Vacancy – Expressions of interest

Ian Blake
42 Bartlemere
Barnard Castle

I wish to register my interest to serve on the Town Council.

My wife and I moved to Barney almost 6 years ago. We love the town and the surrounding countryside and I have a desire to help maintain and develop all that makes Barney the attractive and valuable place that it is.

I began my paid employment life as a journalist but have spent the majority of my time in the voluntary and charitable sector. I have developed and used various skills which would incorporate managing, organising, recruiting, teaching, training, administering, counselling, project and events management, strategy, team building and financial oversight. I have also some small experience of Human Resources practise, Data management, Safeguarding and the oversight of a small team of staff. I have extensive committee experience from small community groups to government projects.

Since living in Barney some may know me for the promotion of a charitable initiative called "Toilet Twinning". The Town Council kindly supported this in 2019, resulting in Barney becoming a Toilet Twinning Town. I also serve as Trustee for a small charity that is best known for operating the Food Bank in West Auckland.

I am a keen supporter of the Nolan Principles for those who serve in public office and have no 'interests' that I would need to declare (subject to seeing the Code of

Conduct) in serving should this 'notice of interest' lead me to becoming a Town Councillor.

I would assume – and it would certainly be my wish – that, should this letter meet with a positive outcome, I would serve a probationary period prior to full appointment.

I look forward to hearing from you.

With all good wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Blake

Appendix B Person Specification

ESSENTIAL	ADDED VALUE
Relevant Knowledge, Education, Professional Qualifications & Training	
Sound knowledge and understanding of local affairs and the local community. Commitment to legal framework and principles of local democracy.	A levels/Degree level and or Specific Vocational training or professional qualification (e.g. accountant, teacher, surveyor, architect).
Experience, Skills, Knowledge and Ability	
Solid interest in local matters. Ability and willingness to represent the council and their community. Good interpersonal skills. Ability to communicate clearly both orally and in writing. Ability and willingness to work closely with other members and to maintain good working relationships with all members and staff. Good reading and analytical skills. Ability and willingness to work with the council's partners (e.g. voluntary groups, other parish councils, Durham County Council, charities).	Knowledge of HR, procurement, contract management, financial control or risk management and compliance, public relations Experience of working in another public body or not for profit organisation Experience of working with voluntary and or local community/ interest groups. Basic knowledge of legal issues relating to town and parish councils or local authorities. Experience of delivering presentations. Experience of working with the media. Experience in financial control/budgeting

Ability and willingness to undertake relevant training. Ability to work under pressure	Experience of staff management
Other requirements	
Flexibility Enthusiasm Ability and willingness to attend meetings of the council (or the meetings of other local authorities and local bodies) in the evening and events in the evening and at weekends. (The basic commitment to meetings is to attend three, 2-hour meetings during each eight-week cycle) Meets the qualifying requirements of s.79 of the Local Government Act 1972	

(Based on the NALC recommended specification)

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING – 25 MARCH 2024**

REQUESTED AMENDMENT TO APPROVED MINUTES

1. Introduction/background

1.1 The council have received a request from the Startforth Community Centre Committee to consider amending the previously approved minutes of its November 2023 meeting (Item 67/January/24 refers).

1.2 In those minutes it was stated "Startforth Morritt School decision by Secretary of State that it will be sold but as a community asset the proceeds are to be used in the local area"

1.3 The Startforth Community Centre Committee feel that the wording in the approved minutes presents an impression that the building will close, so have requested for it to be publicly corrected.

1.4 The Education Endowment Order was granted, transferring ownership to the Diocese of Leeds, meaning that the building can be sold. However, all parties are keen for the building to remain in community use and are working to that end. Were the building to be sold, the terms of the Order mean that the proceeds will be used in the local area.

Recommendations – (a) That the information is received and noted; (b) That members consider the request to amend the previously approved November 2023 minutes to reflect 1.4 above.

Martin Clark
Town Clerk