

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL
FULL COUNCIL MEETING**

16 SEPTEMBER 2024

PRESENT: Councillors Ing (Town Mayor), Turnbull, Foote-Wood, Drew, Bigge, Chatterjee, & Connelly.

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

Others: 4 members of the public; Teesdale Mercury.

Public Participation

A question was submitted by Mr Ian Kirkbride:

What are the Town Council's thoughts on DCC and the local Police response to recently-reported fly-tipping incidents.

Members were concerned that following the reports, and publicity surrounding the alleged fly tipping incidents no visible action had appeared to have taken place.

I was agreed that the council (Clerk) look to obtain further information about the action taken, or to be taken on the alleged fly tipping incidents from Durham County Council and the local Police.

The Town Mayor opened the meeting.

35. ACCEPTANCE, OR OTHERWISE OF APOLOGIES

Cllr's Thompson, & Blake submitted their apologies.

Resolved – That the submitted apologies be approved.

36. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with this Council's adopted 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 could be given later in the meeting if a need arose during discussion. No declarations were made.

37. MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Barclays Bank has begun operating from Woodleigh. It has been a long and difficult road to have them here. Congratulations to the staff for the work done. We hope it will be successful.

38. COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

(i) 17 June 2024

(ii) 31 July 2024 (Extraordinary)

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

39. 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 were as follows:

- (1) Partnership Committee – 01 July 2024 (draft)**
- (2) Services Committee – 24 June (Special) & 15 July 2024 (draft)**
- (3) Resources Committee – 02 September 2024 (draft)**
- (4) Town Mayor Activities**

Since the Council meeting on the 17 June 2024, the Town Mayor accompanied by Consort, Mr Chris Cain has attended the following:

23 June – Barnard Castle Classic Car Show (consort)

03 July – Fabulous Floral Exhibition (Witham)

08 July – Relaunch of Dog Foul Campaign

03 September – Merchant Navy Day (with Deputy Mayor)

12 September – Deerbolt (Medal presentation).

Resolved – That the draft committee meeting minutes, and Mayoral activity be received and noted.

40. UPDATES, AND REFERRALS FROM COMMITTEES

From the meetings outlined above at item 39 the following updates are noted:

(1) Partnership Committee meeting

No referrals.

(2) Services Committee

No referrals

(3) Resources Committee

No referrals

Resolved – That the information be received and noted.

41. REPRESENTATIONS WITH EXTERNAL BODIES

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

Cllr Turnbull reported on the recent meeting.

- The two forums covering County Durham have now merged
- Noted that Barnard Castle Police were more engaged than others during migration
- Migration this year went relatively smoothly
- Forum will hold quarterly meetings going forward

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

- Reference was made to the DCC Register of Interests proposal for all Members' home addresses to be treated as sensitive and only the electoral division in which they live to be published, unless a Member opts in to have their home address published.

(3) The Witham Hall Ltd (Cllr Ing as Town Mayor)

Cllr Ing referred to his meeting with Liz Bromley, Chair of the Witham Hall Ltd. It is hoped further meetings will take place and she is able to meet with the council.

(4) Dawson Cottages Trust (Cllrs Ewart & McLean)

- Cllr Ewart reported that all the cottages are occupied.
- At the meeting on the 10th it was agreed that the weekly maintenance charge is raised by 5% to enable the Trust to carry out repairs and improvements
- Trust considering joining Almshouses Association initiative which may recognise them as affordable housing.

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

Cllr Connelly referred to attending 2 recent meetings and updated members on the work that has been carried out in the hall – kitchen painted, fire doors etc.

- Charity forms completed
- Good funds in place

(6) Cultura Trust/Raby (Cllr Drew)

Cllr Drew reported that the surveys have been delayed slightly but will be taking place in the next couple of weeks. There will be an information event in October

42. NEWGATE NOISE GROUP

Received – Report from the group (Appendix A).

Cllr Ing welcomed Roz Evans to the meeting and declared that as a resident of Newgate he has had some involvement.

A discussion took place on the submitted report and the issues that are affecting the residents of Newgate.

Cllr Foote-Wood proposed that the county council are requested to extend the 20mph limit and to bring in a requirement of no HGV's before 7.00am.

The proposal was agreed with the amendment that Durham County Council Highways are asked to attend a meeting to explore what could be done.

Resolved – a) That the information be received and noted; (b) That that the county council are requested to extend the 20mph limit and to bring in a requirement of no HGV's before 7.00am and requested to attend a meeting to explore what could be done.

43. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN (AGAR) 2023/24

Pursuant to Minute 28/June/24 (b)(c) and the Council's approval of Section 1 (Annual Governance Statement) and Section 2 (Accounting Statements), the Annual Return, together with all additional supporting documentation, were duly submitted to the Council's External Auditor, Mazars LLP, Durham, by the agreed date.

As the Council's income and/or expenditure for 2023/24 was over the £200,000 threshold, an 'Intermediate Audit' was required in support of the External Audit.

There were no material matters affecting the opinion.

Resolved – That the information is received and noted.

44. TEESDALE AVIATION DAY AND REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

(i) Aviation Day

The 29th Teesdale Aviation Day Service will take place on Tuesday 24th September 2024 in the Galgate Gardens of Remembrance at 11.00am to be followed with refreshments in the Dawson Room at Woodleigh. All members are welcome to attend.

(ii) Remembrance Sunday

Preparations for the Remembrance Sunday Service and parade on Sunday 10 November are well underway. Members will receive an email with the detailed arrangements nearer the time but are encouraged to advise the office in advance of their attendance.

The Town Mayor will lay a wreath and observe a two minute silence at the Garden of Remembrance (Galgate) on Monday 11th November to mark Armistice Day.

Resolved - (a) That the information be received and noted; and (b) That members advise the office in advance of their attendance.

45. ESTABLISHMENT OF A DOG FOULING WORKING GROUP

To establish a working group that will look to organise a Dog Day and to continue to look at ways to promote anti dog fouling in the town. That the working group report to the Services Committee.

Terms Of Reference

Membership: This working group shall consist of any members of the council, external advisers as required, and members of the public.

Responsibilities: To explore the potential of holding a 'dog day' in Barnard Castle, and make recommendations on policy and service delivery options relating to the prevention of dog fouling matters.

Reporting: The working group will report to the Services Committee.

Delegated Authority: None – recommendations from working group to be reported to Services Committee.

Financial Authority: None – reporting any potential spend from within designated budget to relevant Services Committee meeting for approval.

Resolved – (a) To approve the establishment of a Dog Fouling Working Group; (b) That the terms of reference are agreed; and (c) That the working group report to the Services Committee.

46. TEESDALE CANCER RESEARCH/TURNING BARNEY PINK

A request has been received from Teesdale Cancer Research for permission to put pink bunting around the memorial garden perimeter (Galgate) from 28 September to 12 October.

Resolved – That Teesdale Cancer Research be given permission to place pink bunting around the memorial garden from 28 September to 12 October.

Appendix A

Presentation to Barnard Castle Town Council 16 09 24

Early morning lorries in Newgate.

Presented by Ros Evans on behalf of Newgate Noise Group

1. This journey began at the Town Meeting earlier this year, when the issue of noise from early morning lorries travelling along Newgate from 5.00am was raised. Paul Ing and Ros Evans agreed to meet to see whether more information could be gathered on this.
2. We know that traffic issues in the Town are many and various, but we were hopeful that by concentrating on a single issue, it might allow for some positive thinking about solutions.
3. In June, a letter was circulated to all residents in Newgate to ask for views on the noise, and whether anyone was interested in surveying the traffic between 5.00am and 7.00am.
4. Paul and Ros received an immediate response from many residents, who agreed that this was a real problem. It was also highlighted that there are businesses affected as we have B&B and Air BnB properties in the street. Eight residents agreed to carrying out the early morning survey.
5. The survey was done on 1st July, and councillors have the results. In summary 62 vehicles, 34 of them HGVs, travelling along Newgate in those 2 hours, 26 of them excessively noisy.
6. Any survey is open to scrutiny, and a single survey is never perfect, but the overall findings match with residents' experience, and also with another survey undertaken by a resident on 14th June, which showed 60 vehicles, including cars, but mostly lorries, between 5.00 and 6.30am.
7. A few points of detail about why there is such a noise problem. Interestingly, we found very few lorries were speeding (30mph limit until Newgate narrows at the Hole in the Wall, when it becomes 20mph). The noise is not the lorry engine, but the clattering at the back – this is made worse by the state of the road surface, which has indents, depressions and raised patching. Noise is a hard one to measure – but I would describe it as similar a thunderclap – a sudden noise that definitely wakes you from sleep.
8. At the beginning of September, we wrote to the hauliers identified in the survey (there were a few whose livery was unclear, or whose contact information could not be found on the internet). [summary of replies to be presented at the meeting]
9. As mentioned above, we feel that there are opportunities to find real solutions to this issue, and we start from the baseline that residents and businesses should not be disturbed in this way between 5am and 7am in the morning.
10. We think that three things could be done:
 - establish an agreement with hauliers not to travel through Barnard Castle before a certain time in the morning

- The Council to resurface the road in a manner that will minimise the creation of future pot-holes (the substructure needs to be strong). Patching just makes it worse.
 - Looking again at the speed limit along Newgate. We told the County Council before the 20mph limit was put in that they had got it wrong. The noise at the Hole in the Wall all day long with thumps, crashes and the screech of brakes is testament to this. Equally including BC school entrances in the 30mph limit should really have happened.
11. Out and about, I collect information on HGV signs! On the border between Cheshire and Shropshire, there is a road with a sign saying 'no HGVs between 11pm and 7am'. In Stornoway, the Coop has a sign 'no deliveries before 8am – think of our residents'. In a small village in Wales, close to a slate quarry, lorries start at 7am (there is no sign, so I assume this is a local agreement). Not HGVs, but in Durham City there are 'Shhhh' signs telling students to be quiet between 11pm and 7am in residential areas.
12. In conclusion, this has been a positive journey so far – local issues raised at the Town Meeting; community action taken; now submitting our findings; expressing the importance of finding a solution; highlighting some possible solutions. We hope that our elected representatives here, and at the County Council, will take our issue up and support us to make sure this unreasonable intrusion into our sleeping hours is addressed.