

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL
FULL COUNCIL MEETING**

18 NOVEMBER 2024

PRESENT: Councillors Ing (Town Mayor), Turnbull, Foote-Wood, Ewart, Bigge & Mclean

Officers: Mr Clark (Town Clerk)

Others: Mr Chris Galley & Teesdale Mercury.

47. ACCEPTANCE, OR OTHERWISE OF APOLOGIES

Cllr's Thompson, Drew, Chatterjee, Connelly & Blake submitted their apologies.

Resolved – That the submitted apologies be approved.

48. 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.

49. MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

50. COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

16 September 2024

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

51. 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 – 21 October 2024 (draft)**
- (2) Services Committee – 07 October 2024 (draft)**
- (3) Resources Committee – 04 November 2024 (draft)**
- (4) Town Mayor Activities**

Since the Council meeting on the 16 September 2024, the Town Mayor accompanied by Consort, Mrs Sue Ing has attended the following:

24th September - Teesdale Aviation Day

10th October - Aviation Memorial unveiling (Stainton)

1st November - Town Bonfire Event

6th November - St Mary's Church – windows for the king

8th November - Deerbolt Remembrance Service

10th November – St Mary's Church/Bowes Remembrance Sunday/wreath laying (Consort)

11th November - Armistice Day wreath laying

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

52. 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.

53. REPRESENTATIONS WITH EXTERNAL BODIES

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

Nothing to report to members.

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

Nothing to report to members.

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

Cllr Ing will be attending a meeting in December.

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

Cllr Ewart informed members that they are at full occupancy, with expressions of interest for any that become vacant.

- The Trustees have raised the weekly maintenance charge but only in line with the increase in local housing allowance.
- The financial return to the charity commissioner has been completed.
- Looking to develop their own Code of Practice.

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

No report as Cllr Connelly absent.

(6) Cultura Trust/Raby (Cllr Drew)

No report as Cllr Drew absent.

54. 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF TEESDALE AVIATION DAY

Received – Report (Appendix A).

The Mayor welcomed Mr Galley to the meeting.

Mr Galley spoke to the report received (Appendix A) and the proposal for a digital museum that could be located within the memorial garden.

Resolved – a) That the information be received and noted; (b) That the council support the proposed plans for the anniversary; and (c) That the council approve funding applications to be made in its name.

55. DEED OF VARIATION TO LOWER DEMESNES LEASE

Durham County Council have said that they believe the unadopted road fronting Ivy Cottage by the Lower Demesnes was incorrectly omitted from the original lease and plan. They are proposing that DCC and the town council agree to enter into a Deed of Variation. This would be to vary our current lease to include the road edged red on the attached draft plan into our demise to give the council control over the road.

This has come about following the request received to install a security gate or bollard at the entrance to this road. Any variation to the current lease would have the effect of the request falling to the town council rather than Durham to consider.

The variation can only happen with the agreement of the town council.

Resolved - That the town council does not agree to this variation on the basis that it would become responsible for the upkeep of the road, including requests already put forward for the security bollard or gate which would amount to a significant additional cost to this council.

56. HALF YEARLY INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

Received - the half year Internal Audit reports (Creditors & Budgetary) compiled by Mr Gordon Fletcher, Internal Auditor, and conclusion the council has sound systems of control in place and those controls are consistently applied and are fully effective (Full Assurance).

Resolved – (a) That the information be noted; and (b) the council extends its thanks to Mr Fletcher.

57. ROYAL GARDEN PARTY 2025

Nominations to be put into the draw for a Royal Garden Party 2025. Note: Previous attendees cannot apply.

All nominees will be entered into a draw from which a random selection will be made.

Resolved – That Cllr's Bigge and Ewart are put forward to be entered into the draw.

Appendix A

BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL 18 NOVEMBER 2024

30th Anniversary Teesdale Aviation Day

85. Introduction

Tony Galley along with John Yarker (Former Councillor, and twice Mayor) developed Teesdale Aviation Day as an event back in 1995 and throughout these years gave talks, ran trips, provided educational insight into the Teesdale Gap history and the various losses. He developed news articles and researched stories about lost Aviators and lost aircraft in Teesdale and into the Pennines.

Both were instrumental in obtaining the memorial stones, and when they could no longer be located on Deerbolt Bank they found a way, through the work of the town council to bring them under its purview, and to the Galgate Memorial Gardens, which is where they lay now.

2025 marks the 30th anniversary of this annual event. The date set is Saturday 20th September.

86. The Proposed Event Plan

2.1 The proposal is for a day long event to be held on Saturday 20th September 2025 from around 10am through to 6pm.

2.2 The service on the Galgate Memorial gardens will essentially be the same as always, but will be increased in scale to include a grand march past through the town from the RAF, and RAF Cadet Units from around the area (including Barnard Castle School). In addition requests have been made to have an RAF band attend. A further request has also been made to have the Kings Colour Squadron attend.

2.3 The salute will be taken by one of a number of formally invited VIP's:

- A formal Invite has been sent to **HRH Prince of Wales**. Protocol is this will be responded to with 3 months' notice.
- The **Chief of Air Staff Sir Richard Knighton** has been invited, and is in his diary, but is subject to confirmation near the time.
- **The H.M. Lord-Lieutenant of County Durham, Mrs Sue Snowden** has confirmed her attendance.

2.4 The service is also hoped to be enhanced by a fly past. An application has been made to Battle of Britain Memorial Flight for a fly over of 2 aircraft to signify the 3 decades of work by Teesdale Aviation Day. (This will have 2 months' notice of acceptance and timings).

2.5 The rest of the day is proposed to include talks, demonstrations, exhibitions on the Lower Demesnes by RAF, RAF Cadets, and other exhibitors. It is proposed to include some highly respected aviation authors to a book shop in town, or possibly the Witham Hall depending on scale to encourage the town businesses to dress windows and schools to be involved in dressing the memorial gardens.

2.6 As it won't be confirmed until nearer the anniversary if certain invited VIP's guests will be attending, the plans still require putting in place, especially the road closure and salute.

3. Digital Museum (interactive screen)

3.1 To mark the anniversary a proposal/request has been put forward to install a weatherproof outdoor interactive screen designed for public use located in the Galgate Memorial Garden. This would be funded from grant applications and possible sponsorship.

3.2 Mr Galley will be present at the meeting to answer members questions on this and on any of the other plans for the day.

4. Conclusion

4.1 The proposed event to celebrate the anniversary will require careful planning, and will be carried out 'in house', and in partnership with Mr Chris Galley.

4.2 The 30th Anniversary of Teesdale Aviation Day is a unique opportunity for Barnard Castle to celebrate its heritage, engage with the local and wider community, and boost tourism. Council support will be invaluable in ensuring the success and impact of this event, leaving a positive and enduring mark on Barnard Castle's cultural landscape.