

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL
SERVICES COMMITTEE**

17 FEBRUARY 2025

PRESENT: Councillors Turnbull, Ewart, Blake, Foote-Wood & Connelly

Also in attendance: Teesdale Mercury

Officers: Mr Clark (Town Clerk).

39. ACCEPTANCE, OR OTHERWISE, OF APOLOGIES

Cllr Chatterjee & Cllr Ing (Ex Officio) submitted their apologies. No apologies were received from Cllr Bigge.

Resolved – That the submitted apologies be approved.

40. 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.

41. SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING – 02 DECEMBER 2024

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

42. ALLOTMENTS

(i) General Update

Since the Services Committee meeting in December 2024 one resident has been added to the Parishioner waiting list. The waiting list stands at 21 Parishioners and the non-parishioner list stands at 9.

The Clerk referred to 19 of the 21 people on the waiting list having a preference for the Demesnes site. Any vacancy elsewhere that arises is still offered to the next on the waiting list.

The water will be turned on again at the beginning of March depending on the weather.

(ii) Harmire Road Allotment site

No issues

(iii) Raby Avenue

The boundary hedges have been cut back.

One plot has become vacant with it offered to the next person on the waiting list. Answer pending.

(iv) Demesnes

A small amount of vandalism occurred at the beginning of January with the tenants reporting the matter to the Police.

(v) Crook Lane & Town Head

No issues.

The Teesdale Mercury will look at doing an article on all the allotment sites in the near future.

Resolved – That the information is received and noted.

43. PLAY AREAS

Minor repairs to the Huck Unit at Dawson Road have been carried out, and the cantilever swing in the same play area is now back in use following the spare parts required. No other issues have been reported.

Resolved – That the update be received and noted.

44. MINI GOLF

Preparations are due to get underway for the opening 2025 Season which this year will open on Saturday 12th April 2025.

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

Quotations have been obtained to replace the facias on the kiosk which would also benefit from being painted, both works completed prior to the opening. One was for £3,500.00, and the other for £1737.00.

As a self-financing service the repairs will come from the income generated.

Confirmation has been received that one attendant who has worked at the course the previous two seasons will be returning in 2025. Therefore, recruitment will begin in the coming weeks for more attendants.

Resolved – (a) That the information be received and noted; and (b) That J B Property Solutions be contracted to carry out the repair/replacement works on the kiosk.

45. WEDNESDAY MARKET

In the weeks from 27 November 2024 to 5 February 2025 inclusive, total rental receipts have been £1224.00, an average of £153.00 per week. 1 charity pitch has been utilised, and trading opportunities are being offered to those on the waiting list to cover regular trader absences. The waiting list currently stands at 4.

The last market before Christmas was on 18th December, and the first in 2025 the 8th of January.

Mark, the market supervisor has actively been looking at bringing in new, and different traders. This week (19th), we will have authentic Italian cakes and pastries (Casa Mia) taking a pitch.

It was agreed to update the Wednesday market social media presence.

Resolved – That the information is received and noted.

46. FLORAL AND OPEN SPACES

The winter bedding is in place.

The Chickweed problem in the Niche Living bed is being tackled by the most efficient way (on advice) which is removing by hand before the spring.

A further 3 planters will be replaced this year.

The lease of flowerbeds at Pearson Terrace has now been concluded. The council's maintenance supervisor will be looking at what needs to be planted in these in next few weeks.

Resolved – That the information be received and noted.

47. GALGATE – CONDITION OF ROADSIDE TREE

The council has received a notification of a Sycamore on the green above the memorial garden that requires a decaying branch that requires removing.

Resolved – That the council engage an arborist to quote and carry out the required work.

48. DOG FOUL PROJECT

Cllr Turnbull gave members a verbal update:

- Bin placement walkaround planned for Tuesday 18th February. This will look at current bins, whether new ones are required or current bins need to be reconfigured.
- Cllr Turnbull is talking to the 'Meet' about having some dog fouling awareness at the pet show.
- 17th March is the next working group meeting – looking at a TEAMS option for that meeting.
- Neighbourhood Warden drop in session will be on the 26th February 10.30-11.30 in the library.
- Generally it's about raising awareness.

Resolved – That the information be received and noted.

49. TENS FIELD – BARNARD CASTLE FC

Tens Field has charitable status as a Field in Trust with the Town Council as managing Trustees.

Barnard Castle FC (Previously Bowes FC) are looking to apply for a Grass Maintenance Grant through the Football Foundation to improve the playing surface at the Tens Field over a six-year period. Improving the playing surface for both the football club, and anyone using the space.

Resolved – (a) That the information be received and noted; and (b) That as Proper Officer, the Town Clerk countersigns the Landlord and Tenant form, and the Pitch Maintenance Agreement on behalf of the Town Council.