



Barnard Castle Town Council

Town Clerk: Martin Clark
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COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2025

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 15 September 2025 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
10 September 2025

AGENDA

- 33. ACCEPTANCE, OR OTHERWISE OF APOLOGIES**
- 34. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
- 35. MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- 36. COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – 23 JUNE 2025**
- 37. EN BLOC ITEMS**
- 38. UPDATES & REFERRALS FROM COMMITTEES**
- 39. REPRESENTATION ON OTHER BODIES**
- 40. WEST WARD VACANCY**
- 41. TEESDALE AVIATION DAY & REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**
- 42. TEESDALE CANCER RESEARCH/TURNING BARNEY PINK**

* 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
15 SEPTEMBER 2025**

DAWSON ROOM, WOODLEIGH

6:00 P.M.

DETAILED AGENDA

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PERIOD - 6.00pm to 6.15pm

33. ACCEPTANCE, OR OTHERWISE OF APOLOGIES

Cllr Colledge has submitted his apologies.

Recommendation – That the submitted apologies be approved.

34. 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.

35. MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

A verbal update will be given at the meeting.

36. COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES (ENCLOSED)

(1) 23 June 2025

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

37. 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 – 07 July 2025 – Draft minutes

(2) Services Committee – 21 July 2025 – Draft minutes

(3) Resources Committee – 01 September 2025 - Draft Minutes

(4) Town Mayor Activities

Since the Council meeting on the 23 June 2025, the Town Mayor accompanied by Consorts, Miss Ellie Walker Ing & Cllr Fiona Turnbull, has attended the following:

26 May	Barnard Castle Meet
02 July	Friends of Richardson Hospital 60 year event
01 August	Old Mill Blue Plaque unveiling

10 August	Railway Exhibition opening
13 August	Barnard Castle Football Club
03 September	Merchant Navy Day

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

38. UPDATES AND REFERRALS FROM COMMITTEES

From the meetings outlined above at item 37 the following updates are noted:

No referral to full council from committees.

39. REPRESENTATION ON OTHER BODIES

- (1) Teesdale Residents' and Travellers' Forum - (Cllr's Turnbull & Stenson)**
- (2) Larger Local Councils Forum – (Clerk & Cllr Foote-Wood)**
- (3) The Witham Hall Ltd (Cllr Ing as Town Mayor)**
- (4) Dawson Cottages Trust (Cllrs Ewart)**
- (5) St Mary's Barnard Castle Hall Association (vacant)**
- (6) Cultura Trust/Raby (Cllr Turnbull)**

40. WEST WARD VACANCY

Following the resignation of Mr Mike McLean 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.

41. TEESDALE AVIATION DAY AND REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

(i) Aviation Day

The 30th Teesdale Aviation Day Service will take place on Saturday 20th September 2025 commemorated at Woodleigh, Scar Top opposite the Castle and the Memorial Garden at Galgate. This milestone event celebrates three decades of honouring the region's strong aviation legacy, with this year's programme also marking the 85th anniversary of the Battle of Britain telling the story of the one and only day the aerial battle came to Barnard Castle.

Dame Sue Snowdon DCVO, HM Lord-Lieutenant to County Durham will be attending along with dignitaries from the RAF and Governor of HMP Deerbolt Melanie Stobbart.

Highlights of the day include:

- 1000hrs the Display area opens at Woodleigh and on Scar Top
- 1030hrs Form up of a significant Parade of over 100 RAF Cadets, RAFA and HM Prison Staff on Galgate to the music of the North Eastern RAF Cadet Band.
- 1100hrs Service will begin with keynote address by Air Commodore Adam Sansom, RAF Regional Air Officer for the North of England
- Dramatic live storytelling by local RAF Cadets recounting the day the Battle of Britain came to Barnard Castle
- Wreath-laying ceremony at the Memorial Garden

- Unveiling of a memorial plaque for the late Mr Tony Galley on the Founders Stone
- Exhibitions and WW2 artefacts at Woodleigh, showcasing aviation history across the Dales including a static Spitfire display of the aircraft flown by Spitfire ace Adolph 'Sailor' Malan
- South Yorkshire Aircraft Museum and Solway Aviation Museum both with displays on site and much more.

(ii) Remembrance Sunday

Preparations for the Remembrance Sunday Service and parade on Sunday 09 November are 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 the two minute silence at the Memorial Garden on Tuesday 11th November to mark Armistice Day.

Recommendation - (a) That the information be noted; and (b) That members advise the office in advance of their attendance at the Service of Remembrance.

42. 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 3rd to 17 October.

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL
FULL COUNCIL MEETING**

23 JUNE 2025

PRESENT: Councillors Ing (Town Mayor), Turnbull, Foote-Wood, College, Kirkbride, Chatterjee, Nilsson

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

Others: Laura Drew (Barnard Castle FC), Valerie Ewart, Jan Thompson & Emma Rowell.

22. ACCEPTANCE, OR OTHERWISE OF APOLOGIES

Cllr Stenson submitted his apologies.

Resolved – That the submitted apologies be approved.

23. 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.

24. MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr Ing referred to his attendance at the Meet and praised the organisation and how it brought the town together.

25. COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

12 May 2025 (Annual Council)

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

26. 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) Resources Committee – 9 June 2025 – Draft Minutes

(2) Town Mayor Activities

Since the Council meeting on the 12 May 2025, the Town Mayor accompanied by Consorts, Miss Ellie Walker Ing, has attended the following:

26 May Barnard Castle Meet

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

27. UPDATES, AND REFERRALS FROM COMMITTEES

From the meetings outlined above at item 26 the following updates are noted:

(1) Resources Committee meeting

No referrals.

Resolved – That the information be received and noted.

28. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN (AGAR) 2024/25

Submitted – (i) Conclusion of 2024/25 Internal Audit & Internal auditor report (ii) Members to approve of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance Statement for 2024/25.

Resolved – a) That the Internal Auditor report for 2024/25 is noted.

(b) Section 1 of the 2024/25 AGAR is approved; and

(c) Section 2 of the 2024/25 AGAR is approved.

29. EAST/WEST WARD VACANCIES – CO-OPTION

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

The three candidates for co-option presented to the council on why they wished to join the town council, followed by questions from members.

Resolved – (a) that Emma Rowell, Jan Thompson and Valarie Ewart are co-opted onto Barnard Castle Town Council; (b) that their Declarations of Office were signed, and they joined the meeting.

30. WEST WARD VACANCY

Following the resignation of Cllr Mike McLean the Notice of Vacancy for the West Ward was posted on the 13 June 2025. If no poll is called for by the 4 July, the council would be able to consider the co-option process.

Resolved – That information is received and noted.

31. TENS FIELD – BARNARD CASTLE FOOTBALL CLUB

Submitted – Correspondence from Barnard Castle FC requesting an extension to the current lease.

Resolved – That approval be given for a 10 year lease for Barnard Castle Football Club to enable the club to seek funding to make improvements to the facilities following their recent promotion

32. LETTER FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Submitted – Correspondence from Cllr Foote-Wood (as County Councillor)

Following a conversation with County Cllr Foote-Wood regarding anti-social behaviour and drug issues, Joy Allen, Police and Crime Commissioner has agreed to carry out a walkabout of the town on 25 June. Ms Allen has also said she would be happy to come to a future council meeting.

Resolved – (a) that the information be received and noted; (b) that Cllr Thompson join Cllr Foote-Wood and Ms Allen on the walkabout.

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL
PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE**

07 JULY 2025

PRESENT: Councillors Kirkbride, Chatterjee, Turnbull, Ewart & Foote-Wood, & Sarah Gent (TCR Hub), Jonathan Wallis (BCCL), & Martyn Maughan (Meet)

Officers: Mr M. Clark (Town Clerk).

1. ACCEPTANCE, OR OTHERWISE, OF APOLOGIES

Cllr's Ing (ex officio) & Nilsson submitted their apologies. No apologies were received from representatives of the Bowes Museum and Witham.

Resolved – That the submitted apologies be approved.

2. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR & VICE-CHAIR FOR MUNICIPAL YEAR 2025-26

Cllr Chatterjee was nominated for the position of Chair. Cllr Kirkbride was nominated for the position of Vice Chair.

Resolved – That Cllr Chatterjee be Chair of the Partnership Committee for the municipal year 2025/26 & Cllr Kirkbride as Vice Chair.

3. 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.

4. PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING – 03 FEBRUARY 2025 – MINUTES

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

5. THE BOWES MUSEUM UPDATE

As no representative present from the Bowes Museum, no update was available.

6. THE WITHAM UPDATE

As no representative present from the Witham, no update was available.

7. THE TCR HUB UPDATE

Overall

TCR Hub are in the midst of our summer season so have a lot of school and group bookings for residentials and outdoor activities. Come down and you'll see young people, children and adults in canoes on the lake, on the high ropes course, enjoying archery and learning fire lighting skills. TCR has lots of busy weekends over the coming months with four weddings, lots of private hires for parties and accommodation bookings through booking.com and Air BnB.

Our CEO Rachel Elliott (nee Tweddle) has now moved on to pursue her own not for profit businesses, which include her Come Hill or High Water walking days and Marshall's community café which is based at 46 Galgate. She's running these alongside her new husband Jonny and a number of other local people.

Rachel wanted to take this opportunity to thank counsellors for their support in her 12 year tenure at the Hub. There have been a number of very successful events over the years

and counsellors have always been supportive and positive of TCR and the services that we deliver at the Hub. Rachel hopes to see counsellors in the new café and hope that they will continue to support the Hub Whilst interim Operational Managers Sarah and Jonny look after the charity for the next 12 months. Rachel will still be supporting the charity by managing funding applications and working with trustees as well as continuing to support some of the wider community events at TCR collaborate on.

TCR are offering a wide range of activities over the summer holiday for youth and families alike from cookery workshops for teens and families, a Llama day on 1st August, Leon's Exotic pets, awesome illustrator and author Liz Million, Creative workshops offering tie dye, make your own slime, printmaking and more!

Youth Update

Stronger Mental Health Support

Youth mental health work is now more joined-up and responsive. Outreach and in-house support have both expanded including School-Based support as the team run regular small-group sessions in local schools for neurodiverse students.

TCR Youth work focuses on mental health themes like anxiety, self-esteem, and emotional awareness. Includes creative, practical activities that offer a break from classroom pressures. Teachers report students return more settled and focused.

In-House Counselling at the Hub

Weekly funded counselling sessions provided consistently for two years. Young people feel safe to open up — some describe it as life-changing. Therapy in a familiar, youth-led space has reduced stigma and increased engagement.

Creative, Youth-Led Wellbeing Activities at TCR

Trashion Club – Repurposing clothes to explore identity and creativity; ran their own fashion show.

Music Space – Writing and producing music as emotional expression; peer mentoring emerging.

Just Cook – Shared cooking and meals offer a relaxed, supportive check-in space.

Social Action – Young people design and lead projects like care packages for the community.

Safe Group – Inclusive space for LGBTQ+ youth and those feeling excluded elsewhere; already deeply valued.

Impact on Young People

Increased confidence, stronger relationships, and greater emotional resilience. For example, one young person who began quietly observing now helps lead youth leadership work.

Duke of Edinburgh - TCR continues to provide the DofE Award Scheme with the last few expeditions of the year over the next few weeks. This year has seen a bumper crop of participants across Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards with nearly 70 young people completing training, expeditions, volunteering and skills building. It's a brilliant scheme supported by volunteers and trained Mountain Leaders Jonny Elliott and Rachel Tomlinson Elliott.

Family Activities

- **Family Social Plus** - SENDIAS are funding a continuation of Family Social Plus from September 2025 - July 2026 at TCR Hub. This important club gives children with additional needs and their families a place to go to access advice and support. It's become a lifeline to families who are struggling day-to-day and also offers invaluable advice and support on a weekly basis to help children have fun, feel like they are part of an inclusive and warm community, and help adults and kids access the support they need.
- Thanks to funding from TAAP and North Star Housing, TCR have delivered three family social clubs every week, two at the Hub and one on a Wednesday at the Randolph Centre in Evenwood where we have helped create a community garden with plants grown by local families.
- **Tea and tots** which is a parent and child group held on Wednesdays 12pm until 2.30pm. The group is well attended, and children can explore a wide variety of toys and crafts parents can join in with play and meet new people whilst enjoying a drink and homemade cakes.
- Toy library launched in December with funding support for children from birth up to 10 years old. We have toys and games to suit different ages and abilities including items that are great for children with additional needs. Parents can either visit the library on a Friday with an appointment or email terri@tcrhub.co.uk for an online catalogue. This has been a great help for many families who cannot afford to buy brand new items. Great feedback from parents who are very happy to have access to this community service.

Food Provision

Due to a review of our services, we no longer open our Food Pantry any longer on Mondays and Saturdays as was. Those in need of food support are invited to drop into TCR Hub on Mondays between 10am-12 noon, for our 'Food Support Coffee Mornings'. Aimed at people struggling with the cost of living, these offer a warm welcome with tea/coffee & biscuits and our Food Provision Coordinator Katie as well as a trained team of volunteer's signpost to other support services. People accessing food have been referred to further support, in the past few months this has included: Durham Carers, Citizens Advice, Council housing support, NHS, Social Prescribing Team, UTASS. We have also referred people into groups at TCR Hub including: Family Social Club, Community Lunch, Tea & Tots, TCR Creative Coffee morning on Tuesdays.

Community Lunch which originated as a funded project at TCR, now runs with a contribution from the participants to help ensure it is sustainable. This has not impacted on the numbers who attend with 16 coming last week to enjoy our Community Cook Louisa's tasty two course meal, with volunteer drivers enabling people to attend.

We are seeking more volunteer drivers to support projects like this - please spread the word as our drivers help so many enjoy a variety of activities who would struggle to attend otherwise so it's a very gratifying role. If anyone is interested, please contact [Jonny Elliott](mailto:Jonny.Elliott@tcrhub.co.uk) at jonny@tcrhub.co.uk

Volunteering

Our team of nearly one hundred volunteers are now on Better Impact, a really useful system to support both volunteers and staff in the smooth running of TCR support. It helps with both communications and operations with our amazing team and means we can, at the click of a button, report on volunteer hours, projects and also schedule in volunteer opportunities for people to access different things when they come to us.

TCR ESV days (Employer Support Volunteer Days) run on a monthly basis for employers to book in teams of people to do 'big jobs' but also offer companies the chance to transparent community support opportunities.

Events

With over 25 in the parade group, TCR were proud to be part of the wonderful Barney Meet again this year, offering those individuals a chance to join in who might otherwise not have. We also offered children and families a warm welcome in the rainbow tepees down on the Demesnes on Sunday and Monday, as well as supporting tech and music through Sound Technician Tom Whittaker.

TCR hosted the GSK Family Festival weekend for over 500 people on 7th and 8th June 2025 with live music on the stage outside, outdoor activities, crafts, and food vendors onsite. Feedback was very positive, and we look forward to welcoming GSK again for future events later this year.

TCR are looking forward to welcoming The Castle Players this Friday for their outdoor production of *Shakespeare in Love* on Friday 4th July 2025.

Working in partnership with Nobia, we are bringing monthly evenings of live music and a delicious two course meal starting on 8th August and 5th September 2025.

Members extended their thanks, and good wishes to Rachel Tweddle (Elliot) for the work she has done in the 12 years working in the TCR Hub.

Resolved – That the update be received, and the information noted.

8. BARNARD CASTLE CHRISTMAS LIGHT (BCCL)

Fundraising by BCCL

- Italian Night at Capri – attended by just over 80 people. Thanks go to Capri Restaurant for hosting, Andrew Nicholson for the quiz and for compering, all those who kindly donated raffle prizes and to everyone that attended.
- Plans are in process for other fundraising events including another quiz night, wine and cheese evening and of course Bonfire Night in November.

2025 Display

- Planning well underway with a committed budget the Committee have agreed to spend this calendar year on improvements for both the 2025 and future displays.
- The Christmas lights have all passed their annual safety test with only a handful of failures and repairs needed.
- New lights have already been ordered to expand the display for 2025.
- Any extensions to the display rely upon the installation of safe and compliant electricity supplies. For example, we are investigating extending the display further up Galgate, but this will need new and potentially costly supplies via Northern Powergrid.

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 – That the information is received and noted.

9. BARNARD CASTLE MEET

- The 140th Meet this year was seen as a success
- 90 volunteers over the weekend
- This year they added a youth band and local choir on the Saturday.
- On the Sunday we had children's sports and the Addition of a magician on the Monday
- Financially it was seen as a success with only a loss of £2,000. The whole event costs around £31,000 to put on.
- For 2025 replacement bunting is required with a cost of £850. A fund raising event is taking place on the 27th September at Barnard Castle Cricket Club – History of the Meet with pie and pea supper and quiz.
- 7 committee members, reduced from 8
- The committee will look at assistance for applying for grant funding more professionally.

A question was raised regarding the fair and its location reducing parking in the town. *The Meet are not involved in the fair or its location.*

Members congratulated the Meet committee for all the work it does to bring the event together each year.

Resolved – That the information be received and noted.

10. 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF TEESDALE AVIATION DAY

The Clerk gave a run down of how the anniversary event on Saturday 20th September is planned at present.

The Lord Lieutenants office have advised that the event is to be treated as if it were a royal event.

1000 - Road Closure Between Baliol Street and slip road past the memorial garden

- Cadets assemble at Baliol Street end of Galgate Green, Barnard Castle
- Standard Bearers Briefing
- Cadets to form up under instruction of Sgt Allan Waring
- Standard Bearers/ Speakers take position

Parade and Service Commencement

1030 - VIPS Arrive - RAF Cadet Wing Band to provide music

1045 - Lord Lieutenant Arrives met by Lord Lieutenants Cadet and Mr Galley (Lord Lt car to park at town side of Memorial Gardens in entry lane and can turn around for exit)

- 1050 - Lord Lieutenant Inspects front rank of No.1 Flight then meets VIPS.
- 1100 - Service Begins - opening remarks from Mrs Claire Earl, Stories by RAF Cadets, Service from BC Chaplin, Air Commodore Sansom speech, Wreath Laying and last Post
- 1150 - HMP Deerbolt Governor (Or Rep) speech, Lord Lt Speech and unveiling of Plaque by Lord Lt Dame Sue Snowden
- 1200 - Service Ends, Inspection of Cadets and Band
- 1200 - Road Closure ends**
- 1220 - Lord Lieutenant Leaves the memorial Gardens with Mr and Mrs Galley

Lunch and Display

- 1230 - VIPs and invited guests make their way to Barnard Castle Town Council, Woodleigh, Flatts Road, Barnard Castle DL12 8AA for Lunch and refreshments - *Barnard Castle Band playing music*
- 1330 - Lord Lieutenant presents gifts to RAF Cadet Speakers.
- 1345 - VIPs Inspect the displays and Barnard Castle Band
- 1600 - Display closes to the public

This is a draft timetable and is subject to change.

Resolved – That the information be received and noted.

11. 200th ANNIVERSARY STOCKTON & DARLINGTON RAILWAY

We have been busy making final preparations for local events as part of the celebrations to mark the 200th anniversary of the founding of the world's first passenger steam railway, the Stockton & Darlington Railway, in 1825. Later, the S&DR expanded to include four railways centred on Barnard Castle. For 100 years the railways played an important role in the economic and social life of the area. Our group was formed "to preserve and promote the history of the Teesdale Railways".

EXHIBITION: our main focus has been to organise a major exhibition of local railway history in the Witham's ground floor gallery, August 22nd to September 6th inclusive. This is to avoid clashing with the main celebrations around the original S&D line leading up to Friday September 27th, the founding anniversary date. All town council members are cordially invited to attend our opening ceremony at 10 am at the Witham on Friday August 22nd.

PUBLICATIONS: we will have a number of printed publications available at the exhibition, both free and for sale.

RAILWAY BENCHES: there are eight original railway benches from Barnard Castle station in Harmire road and elsewhere. We would like permission to place a small plaque on each to mark the anniversary, wording to be agreed.

RAILWAY WALKS: Guided walks in and around Barnard Castle to follow original tracks and view remaining buildings and other structures are already under way. These will continue

into September. We have produced a free, eight-page A5 booklet to illustrate the walks, designed by Jonathan Ratcliffe who is leading the walks.

BARNEY MEET FLOAT: in line with the theme of this year's Meet, "transport", our group took part in the Meet parade with a replica vintage locomotive. Designed by Catherine Yates and followed by "George Stephenson", we had an enthusiastic reception along with all the other participants in the parade.

LONGER TERM AIMS: we hope to find a suitable place where the public can view our collection of railway memorabilia, not a fully-fledged museum but somewhere open to the public.

GSK (formerly GLAXO). The railways were an important factor in bringing Glaxo to Barnard Castle at the end of WW2. Since then, the company has been a major employer and crucial to the economy of the area. Also, when our local railways were all closed in the 1960s, Glaxo took over a good deal of redundant railway land to expand their plant. Eighteen months ago, our group secretary Jane Hackworth-Young and I met with GSK to discuss this year's celebrations. The local GSK staff could not have been more helpful and supportive. It is a happy coincidence that this year (2025) is the 80th anniversary of Glaxo opening its original plant. It was agreed that we would be given full use of the Crossing-keeper's Cottage on Harmire Road (owned by GSK, at present unused) during our exhibition. Later it was agreed we could place an original railway signal pole next to the cottage as a permanent memorial to our railway history.

Earlier this year, we received a brief note to say that GSK had decided to withdraw from these agreements, but without giving any explanation. Since then, we have tried in vain to arrange a meeting with GSK either here or at their headquarters in London. It was only last week that we were told the reason for GSK's refusal by email in confidence but were still denied a meeting. Their decision is final, so we must accept the situation with regret.

Both our group and the Friends of the S&DR are concerned about the future of the Crossing-keeper's cottage, an authentic and largely unchanged building from the early days of the railways. Niall Hammond, chairman of the Friends, has now asked GSK if they would consider selling the cottage to the Friends of the S&DR who would maintain and preserve it.

Cllr Foote-Wood distributed copies of the Barnard Castle Circular Walk to members. Colour copies will be printed and made available.

Resolved – (a) That the information be received and noted; and (b) That in principal approval be given to place small plaques on the old railway benches.

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL
SERVICES COMMITTEE**

21 JULY 2025

PRESENT: Councillors Turnbull, Foote-Wood, Rowell & Ing

Also in attendance:

Officers: Mr Clark (Town Clerk).

1. ACCEPTANCE, OR OTHERWISE, OF APOLOGIES

Apologies were submitted by Cllr's Ewart & Colledge

Resolved – That the submitted apologies be approved.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR FOR MUNICIPAL YEAR 2025-26

Resolved – That Cllr Rowell be appointed as Vice Chair of Services for the municipal year 2025/26.

3. 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.

4. SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING – 14 APRIL 2025

Resolved – That the minutes be deferred for approved until the next Services meeting.

5. ALLOTMENTS

(i) General Update

Since the Services Committee meeting in April 2025 2 residents have been added to the Parishioner waiting list. Following the annual Tenancy and rent period, 5 tenants gave up their allotments. 2 of the vacant plots have yet to be reallocated. The waiting list for parishioners stands at 21, and the non-parishioner list stands at 7.

Members were advised on how the council deal with vacant plots, and action taken before they are re-tenanted.

A question was raised over tenants holding more than one allotment plot. The Clerk advised that this was a historic issue that occurred when the allotments were first established by the council and no waiting list was required. The rules now state that only one plot per household - There are only 2 tenants with more than one plot.

The Clerk is currently working with William Smiths on the potential creation of a new allotment site on their land, and how allotments gardens are created, managed and maintained. William Smiths are considering the options to manage these themselves. Currently the conversations are around giving them advice and sharing information to enable them to make decisions.

(ii) Harmire Road Allotment site

One garden on Harmire has had a warning letter due to the untidy state of their garden. They have until the beginning of August to improve and to show signs of cultivation in line with their signed Tenancy Agreement. A further inspection will take place.

(iii) Raby Avenue

Due to a report of rats on the site DCC Pest Control have been contacted to explore the potential of a contract with them to remove and maintain across all of our allotment sites.

(iv) Demesnes

The Clerk advised members that one tenant has been issued with a Notice to Quit following their failure to act after issue of a final warning to improve.

A second tenant has been issued with a first warning to improve their allotment. This will be followed up in a month to check action has been taken.

(v) Crook Lane & Town Head

No issues currently to report.

Recommendation – That the information is received and noted.

6. PLAY AREAS

(i) There are currently no issues (repairs or otherwise) at any of the play areas. Weekly checks of each play area continue to be carried out.

(ii) Outdoor Gym Equipment (Dawson Road)

Pursuant of minute 50(iii)/April 24 & 10(iv) July 24 refers

Cllr Foote-Wood, as County Councillor is requesting from the town council approval to explore, with local residents, fund raising to have outdoor gym equipment located at the Dawson Road play area

Resolved – (a) That the information is received and noted; (b) that Cllr Foote-Wood is given delegated authority to explore fund raising options for outside gym equipment to be located at Dawson Road play area; and (c) that Cllr Foote-Wood refers to the council, via Services before any decisions are finalised on funding streams or equipment.

7. MINI GOLF

The 2025 Season opened on 12 April 2025 to date takings are approximately £5,100.00 (Net).

The mini golf hut facias have been repair and painted.

There are three attendants on the rota for the summer season.

Resolved – That the information be received and noted.

8. WEDNESDAY MARKET

In the weeks from 9 April to 08 July 2025 inclusive, total rental receipts have been £1914.00, an average of £159.50 per week. 6 charity pitches have been utilised, and trading opportunities are being offered to those on the waiting list to cover regular trader absences.

A discussion took place on how potential market traders are attracted and how the market is promoted via social media.

Members were reminded that the Farmer Market on the one Saturday in the month is not

council run.

The Market Supervisor to be invited to a Services meeting in future.

Resolved – That the information is received and noted.

9. FLORAL AND OPEN SPACES

The summer planting has been carried out by One3One, and regular watering is carried out by Mr Wearmouth.

Unfortunately, approximately 72 plants in the Niche Living bed failed and had to be replaced.

Resolved – That the information is received and noted.

10. DOG FOULING PROJECT

Cllr Turnbull gave members a brief update on the project.

- Thanks to Cllr Foote-Wood for his assistance
- Have decided to regroup in September (12th)
- Weren't able in time to involve the schools in the Meet parade
- Hoping to get a new bin in King Street

The Clerk informed Cllr Turnbull that he has been informed a bin will be placed on the fence near Green Lane school.

Resolved – That the information be received and noted.

11. SOUTH DURHAM NORTH YORKSHIRE CROSS COUNTRY

Approval is sought for Teesdale Athletic Club (TAC) to host one round of the winter cross country season on the Demesnes on 4th January 2026.

Resolved – That in principal approval is given to TAC to host one cross country race on the Demesnes on 4th January 2026.

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL
RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

01 SEPTEMBER 2025

PRESENT: Cllrs, Kirkbride, Ing, Thompson, Foote-Wood & Chatterjee

Officers: Mr Clark (Town Clerk)

10. ACCEPTANCE, OR OTHERWISE OF APOLOGIES

No apologies were received from Cllr Stenson.

Resolved – That the submitted apologies be accepted.

11. 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.

12. RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING – 09 JUNE 2025 – MINUTES

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting on the 09 June 2025 be approved as a true record.

13. BUDGET MONITORING REPORTS

Received – Reports on the income and expenditure activity of the Council from 1 April to 31 July 2025.

Resolved – That the information be received and noted.

14. BUDGET 2026-27 TIMETABLE & ASSUMPTIONS

Received - Received – A report setting out a preparation timetable for the 2026/27 budget and the pressures to be considered in preparing the budget, seeking members' views and direction on the principles to be adopted.

Resolved – That the detail within sections 2 to 5 of the report be agreed:

- (a) That the budget timetable is as detailed in Appendix A;
- (b) That pay inflation of 4% be modelled;
- (c) That non-pay inflation of 3% be assumed; and
- (d) That any proposals for new budget items be submitted by 03 October 2025.

15. WOODLEIGH

- Since the last Resources meeting repairs have been carried out to the Woodleigh offices all related to improving the plumbing.
- The annual emergency lighting and asbestos monitoring inspections are due shortly.
- Discussions have taken place with Cash Access but at this point there is nothing to refer to full council with.

Resolved – That the information is received and noted.

16. 2025/2026 PAY AWARD

Agreement has been reached on the pay award for local government services (Green Book) employees, covering the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026. The award is an increase of 3.2% on all spine points.

Resolved – That the information is noted.

17. INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2025/26

Received – Audit Plan (Internal)

Resolved – That the Audit Plan for 2025/26 completed by the council's internal auditor be approved.

DRAFT