

**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.