

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL
FULL COUNCIL MEETING**

17 NOVEMBER 2025

PRESENT: Councillors Ing (Town Mayor), Ewart, Stenson, Turnbull, Kirkbride, Chatterjee, Thompson, Rowell & Foote-Wood

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

Others: Mr Marc Cole & Mr Roger Peat

43. ACCEPTANCE, OR OTHERWISE OF APOLOGIES

Cllr Colledge submitted his apologies.

Resolved – That the submitted apologies be approved.

44. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Resolved - No declarations were made.

45. MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr Ing referred to the tragic loss of life of a young woman kayaker on the river Tees over the weekend.

As a mark of respect, the council held a minute's silence.

46. COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

15 September 2025

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

47. 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) Services Committee – 06 October 2025 – Draft minutes**
- (2) Partnership Committee – 27 October 2025 – Draft minutes**
- (3) Resources Committee – 03 November 2025 - Draft Minutes**
- (4) Town Mayor Activities**

Since the Council meeting on the 15 September 2025, the Town Mayor accompanied by Consort, David Walker, has attended the following:

20th September	30 th Anniversary Teesdale Aviation Day
11 th October	Inaugural Demesnes parkrun
22 nd October	Barnard Castle Bowls Club (David Walker)
7th November	Deerbolt Remembrance Service
7th November	Barnard Castle Firework display

Cllr Chatterjee, as Deputy Mayor attended the Remembrance Service and Parade on 9th November

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

48. UPDATES, AND REFERRALS FROM COMMITTEES

From the meetings outlined above at item 47 the following updates are noted:

No referrals to full council from committees.

Resolved – That the information be received and noted.

At this point it was agreed by all those present to hear agenda item 50 – West Ward Vacancy

49. REPRESENTATION ON OTHER BODIES

(1) Teesdale Residents' and Travellers' Forum - (Clerk & Cllr Stenson)

Meeting held post Appleby to plan for 2026.

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

No meetings.

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

No meetings.

(4) Dawson Cottages Trust (Cllrs Ewart)

Cllr Ewart informed members the 2 vacant properties had been refurbished and tenanted. The Trust were looking for a new Trustee with financial and possibly legal knowledge. They were sorting relevant policies to ensure they were compliant with the Charity Commission.

(5) St Mary's Barnard Castle Hall Association (vacant)

Still looking for a member to come forward to represent the council.

(6) Cultura Trust/Raby (Cllr Turnbull)

Cllr Turnbull referred to a recent meeting held at the former Nat West bank; had a tour of the building and discussions took place on building plans. Communications with the town need to be improved – DCC to assist with key messages. Links with local schools will be established. An expression of interest will be submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund by February 2026, once DCC have signed up to support.

50. WEST WARD VACANCY

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

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

A secret ballot was called, and the candidates left the room.

Resolved – (a) That Roger Peat be co-opted onto Barnard Castle Town Council West Ward; (b) that their Declarations of Office were signed, and Cllr Peat joined the meeting; and (c) That Marc Cole was thanked for his application.

51. NOTICE OF MOTION

Cllr's Rowell & Colledge have submitted the following written motion in the form of a report (received)

We, I think, we would all agree that Barnard Castle is a great place to live and for people to visit and has been publicised as such in various places. We as town councillors have a duty to maintain this and improve the offering to locals and visitors alike. Conversations with Councillor Rowell who, is herself a business owner within the town, about how businesses are doing reveals many are struggling financially even though footfall appears good.

However, we have also been made aware through Barnard Castle Official Facebook pages that both residents and retailers feel we are not very visible or consulting them and getting their views on how things might be improved. Consequently, it seems appropriate that we canvas views and develop from that plans of action that we as councillors can undertake to achieve the objective of making Barny a town where all can benefit.

Resolved - Cllr Rowell referred to not realising her item was on the agenda and requested the item be deferred.

52. CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

St Mary's Barnard Castle Christmas Tree Festival is being held from Wednesday 3rd to Sunday 7th December. The theme for decoration this year is 'Christmas and Travel'. The Town Council has sponsored a tree which will need to be decorated on the evening of 1st December or during the day on the 2nd or 3rd.

Resolved – (a) That the information is received and noted; and (b) That Cllr Thompson assists with decorating the tree.

53. EAST WARD VACANCY

Following the resignation of Cllr Caroline Nilsson the Notice of Vacancy for the East Ward was posted on the 14 November 2025. If no poll is called for by Thursday 4th December, the council would be able to consider the co-option process.

Resolved – That the information is received and noted.