

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL
FULL COUNCIL MEETING**

23 MARCH 2026

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

Officers: Mr Clark (Town Clerk),

Others – 3 residents, Teesdale Mercury

69. ACCEPTANCE, OR OTHERWISE OF APOLOGIES

Cllr Turnbull submitted her apologies.

Resolved – That the submitted apologies be approved.

70. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Resolved - No declarations were made.

71. MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr Ing referred to his visit to Green Lane Nursery and how impressed he was with the building, teaching and pupils.

72. COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

19 January 2026

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

73. 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 – 02 February 2026 – Draft minutes

(2) Services Committee – 16 February 2026 – Draft minutes

(3) Resources Committee – 09 March 2026

(4) Town Mayor Activities

Since the Council meeting on the 19 January, the Town Mayor opened the renovated area of Green Lane Nursery and Childcare Centre.

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

74. UPDATES, AND REFERRALS FROM COMMITTEES

From the meetings outlined above at item 73 the following updates are noted:

(1) Partnership Committee

No referrals to full council.

(2) Services Committee

No referrals to full council.

(3) Resources Committee

No referrals to full council

Resolved – That the information be received and noted.

75. REPRESENTATION ON OTHER BODIES

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

The Clerk informed members that the last meeting was about early preparation for this year's migration.

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

Cllr Foote-Wood informed members that he will be submitting a report.

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

No meetings

(4) Dawson Cottages Trust (Cllrs Ewart)

Cllr Ewart informed members that they were at full occupancy. A number of repairs were ongoing including roof and insulation work.

(5) St Mary's Barnard Castle Hall Association (Cllr Foote-Wood)

No meetings

(6) Cultura Trust/Raby (Cllr Turnbull)

In Cllr Turnbull's absence no report was possible.

76. EAST WARD VACANCIES

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

The three 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. The vote for two candidates was tied with the Mayor having a casting vote.

Resolved – (a) That Richard Witham & David Hand be co-opted onto Barnard Castle Town Council East Ward; (b) that their Declarations of Office be signed; and (c) That Marc Cole was thanked for his application.

77. TOWN OF CULTURE 2028

The delegated committee of councillors and external partners have completed the Expression of Interest (EOI) application to put Barnard Castle forward for consideration for the UK Town of Culture 2028.

Cllr's Chatterjee and Kirkbride thanked those that had assisted in construction the expression of interest which should be finalised by the end of the week.

Resolved – That the final EOI be entered into the Town of Culture 2028 competition.

78. BUTTERMARKET (MARKET CROSS)

The council have received the sum of £10,000 from the estate of the late Mrs Stout to be applied towards the cost of minor repairs to the Market Cross in Barnard castle.

Resolved – (a) That the information be received and noted; and (b) through the Teesdale Mercury thanks are given to the late Mrs Stout and her family; (c) That an EMR is established to ring fence the funds.