



# BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL

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## **SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING** **(Convened in accordance with Council Minute 124(3)/Oct/11)**

**MONDAY, 31<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER, 2011**

Dear Councillor,

You are hereby summoned to attend the Special Meeting of Barnard Castle Town Council to be held in the Council Chamber at Teesdale House, 43 Galgate, Barnard Castle on Monday, 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2011 commencing at 6.15 p.m. when the items of business listed below will be considered.

Please note that, as this is a Special Meeting, there is no public participation 'slot' immediately prior to the Meeting.

ASSISTANT CLERK  
25<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2011

### **AGENDA**

#### **135. APOLOGIES**

#### **136. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

In accordance with this Council's adopted Code of Conduct (Minute 20/Jun/07 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.

#### **137. SCAR TOP AND WOODLEIGH REDEVELOPMENT PLANNING APPLICATION**

To consider, in accordance with Council Minute 124(3)/Oct/11, a planning application for the redevelopment of Scar Top and the grounds of Woodleigh. Officers from the Heart of Teesdale Landscape Partnership will be in attendance.

A Design and Access Statement is being circulated with this agenda to aid Members in their deliberations and further supporting documents are available for Members to view in the Town Council office.

#### **138. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY TRAINING**

Pursuant to Minute 66/Aug/11, the equality and diversity training duly took place on 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2011 and was attended by six Councillors (Councillors Mrs Bailes, Blissett, Cooke (Town Mayor), Mrs Hamilton, Harrison and Peat) and all four of the office staff. The session aimed to achieve an overall understanding of equality and diversity, i.e. equality involves treating people fairly regardless of any difference between them and diversity involves valuing difference and the specific contributions that different people make. The Equality Act 2010 was also outlined.

**Recommendation** – That the information be noted.

### **139. ROTARY CLUB OF BARNARD CASTLE – TALK BY CLERK**

The Clerk has received an invitation from the Rotary Club of Barnard Castle to give a talk at one of their informal evenings at The Morritt Arms, Greta Bridge. The evening in question is on Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2011 and the talk is expected to last about 20 minutes, plus an opportunity for a 10-minute session of 'questions and answers'. Whilst the expectation is that the Clerk will primarily speak about the Town Council and its work, Members should also be aware that (to make the talk slightly more interesting) the Clerk will also speak about the remainder of his career in local government.

**Recommendation** – That authority be given to the Clerk to give a talk to the Rotary Club of Barnard Castle on 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2011.

### **140. PRESENTATIONS TO TOWN COUNCIL**

As outlined in a letter sent to Councillors on 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2011, there are three major ongoing local projects in respect of which Town Councillors are involved in the associated consultation processes. Whilst this item was to be initially considered at the Council meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2011 because of the perceived difficulties surrounding two of the presentations and it was considered that Members might have wished to take further action in this matter, the passing of time has provided additional information in respect of the matter.

The arrangements in respect of The Witham Hall and 'The Teesdale Bridge and Woodland Walk Experience' projects solely involved individual Town Councillors attending public exhibitions, albeit that the Council could then consider the projects at a subsequent Council meeting. However, only two Members are known to have attended both exhibitions.

Whilst a separate presentation to the Town Council was expected in respect of the 'Teesdale Bridge' project, due to a misunderstanding on the County Council's behalf, this was not arranged. However, this has now been rectified and a presentation will be provided at the Council meeting scheduled on 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2011.

The Bowes Museum Park Master Plan Project involved a separate meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2011. However, only three Councillors and the Assistant Clerk attended the presentation.

**Recommendation** – Members' views are requested.

### **141. SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED LOCAL COUNCILS' FORUM (report enclosed)**

### **142. PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF TEESDALE HOUSE (Councillor Watson) (report enclosed)**

### **143. METAL THEFTS (report enclosed)**