

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL
PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE**

20 MAY 2013

PRESENT:- Councillor Yarker (in the Chair); Councillors Cooke, Deacon, Mrs Grady, Peat and Robinson (Minutes 10 to 12 inclusive).

Officers:- Mr King (Town Clerk) and Mrs Plant (Assistant Clerk).

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR FOR MUNICIPAL YEAR 2013/14

Councillor Yarker was proposed and seconded. Councillor Peat was proposed but not seconded. There were no other nominations.

Resolved – That Councillor Yarker be appointed Chairman of this Committee for the Municipal Year 2013/14.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR FOR MUNICIPAL YEAR 2013/14

Councillor Robinson was proposed and seconded. Councillor Peat was proposed but not seconded. There were no other nominations.

Resolved – That Councillor Robinson be appointed Vice-Chairman of this Committee for the Municipal Year 2013/14.

3. ACCEPTANCE, OR OTHERWISE, OF APOLOGIES – NONE.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with this Council's adopted Code of Conduct (Minute 72(a)/Sep/12 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. There were no declarations of interest at this juncture.

5. DATES AND TIMES OF PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Submitted - A schedule of the dates and times of Committee meetings during the Municipal Year 2013/14, as determined at Council Minute 135(1)/Mar/13.

Resolved – That the information be received.

6. FLORAL COMPETITION WORKING GROUP MEETING – 9 AUGUST 2012 – NOTES

Resolved – That the Notes be accepted as a correct record.

7. CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL COMMITTEE MEETING – 25 MARCH 2013 – MINUTES

Resolved – That the Minutes be accepted as a correct record.

8. COMMUNITY EVENTS WORKING GROUP MEETING – 8 APRIL 2013 – NOTES

Resolved – That the Notes be accepted as a correct record.

9. CO-OPTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

In accordance with the Partnership Committee's Terms of Reference, consideration was given to the co-option of two non-voting member(s) of the community onto the Partnership Committee.

It was noted that Mr Stokell of Shirl's Shakes, a member of the Barnard Castle Business Guild and who was previously co-opted onto the Christmas Festival Committee, had asked to become a co-opted member of this Committee.

It was also noted that Mr Atkinson, who was also previously co-opted onto the Christmas Festival Committee, has indicated that, whilst he was still willing to assist with the collection and installation of the town's Christmas tree, he would prefer to stand down as a co-opted member.

Reference was made to the newly appointed Centre Manager for The Witham, Ms Morris, who had expressed an interest in being involved with the town's community events in some way.

Resolved – (a) That the Barnard Castle Business Guild be advised that Mr Neil Stokell is accepted as a co-optee on the Partnership Committee.

(b) That Ms Morris, Centre Manager for The Witham, be invited to become a co-optee on the Partnership Committee.

10. COMMUNITY EVENTS

Floral Competition

Following the decision to discontinue the Floral Competition (Council Minute 148(5)/Apr/13 refers), it was confirmed that a letter had been sent to Mr Robinson of Butterfly Services, Darlington (the traditional Judge of the Competition), advising him of the Council decision to abolish the Competition and to thank him for his support over the years and that the 2012 Competition winners would be contacted in the forthcoming months to arrange for the collection of the cups.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

Mini Golf Formal Opening

It was confirmed that, further to Council Minute 148(5)/Apr/13, the formal opening event for the new mini golf course, incorporating a civic, inter-mayoral competition and the presence of members of the British Mini Golf Association National Team would be 20 July and that the office would continue to progress the development of this event within the agreed budget.

Discussion ensued and the question of whether the course would be available for private hire was raised. It was acknowledged that a potential 'business rate' and a 'not-for-profit organisation rate' would need to be considered by the Services Committee in due course.

Resolved – (a) That the information be noted.

(b) That the office carry out further investigations into the issues of the Mini Golf course being privately hired out with a relevant report to be submitted to the Services Committee meeting on 10 June 2013.

Summer Scar Top Concerts

A verbal update on progress was provided at the meeting, including the facts that a number of suitable entertainment groups had been identified and that consideration might need to be given to the involvement of Durham County Council, e.g. to request the use of the land and to consult with the Safety Advisory Group. However, it was considered that further planning was required to determine the scale and content of the Concerts.

Resolved – That a task and finish group be formed, consisting of Councillors Deacon, Mrs Grady and Robinson, to formulate a detailed scope for the events for approval at the next meeting (22 July 2013).

August Bank Holiday Event

It was reported that the town's participation in the agreed event (Exempt Council Minute 156/Apr/13 refers) had been confirmed with the event organisers. However, their formal launch and event publicity was awaited but expected by the end of May.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

Christmas Event 2013

It was agreed that further planning was required to determine the scale and content of the 2013 Christmas event, which would support the switch-on of the town's illuminations and the hosting of Santa's grotto.

Resolved – That a task and finish group be formed, consisting of Councillors Cooke, Deacon and Peat, to formulate a detailed scope for the event for approval at the next meeting (22 July 2013).

Remembrance Sunday

It was noted that there was no current update in respect of the 2013 Remembrance Sunday event.

11. CHRISTMAS LIGHTING DISPLAY 2013/14

Pursuant to the decision for a meeting to be arranged with The Witham trustees to discuss a potential lighting display for that building (Christmas Festival Committee Minute 27(a)/Mar/13 refers), it was confirmed that a meeting had taken place with Board member, Ms McDermott and that investigations as to whether the curtain lights that previously lit the Market Cross could be relocated onto that building were being made.

It was also confirmed that Durham County Council had been requested to provide a quotation for the costs of having power kiosks installed in upper Galgate so that some of the trees can be included in the overall Christmas lighting display (Christmas Festival Committee Minute 27(c)/Mar/13 refers).

Resolved – That the information be noted.

12. POPPY APPEAL

It was noted that a couple who had links with Cockfield Methodist Church had come forward to offer their assistance with the task of the delivery and collection of poppy supplies and wreaths for the village of Cockfield that had been previously undertaken by this Council's office staff.

Resolved – That the information be noted.