

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL
PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE**

21 OCTOBER 2013

PRESENT:- Councillor Yarker (in the Chair); Councillors Deacon, Mrs Grady, Mrs Moorhouse, Peat and Robinson (Minutes 27 to 40 inclusive); Neil Stokell (Barnard Castle Business Guild)(Minutes 25 to 38 inclusive).

Also in attendance:- Ms Whittaker and Mr Welsby (The Bowes Museum)(Minutes 25 to 27 inclusive).

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

25. ACCEPTANCE, OR OTHERWISE, OF APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Cooke and Ms Morris (The Witham).

Resolved – That Councillor Cooke and Ms Morris's apologies be accepted.

26. 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. Councillor Deacon declared a personal non-pecuniary interest in respect of Minute 39 and took no part in the voting on that item.

27. THE BOWES MUSEUM – WORLD WAR 1 COMMEMORATIVE PROJECT

Jane Whittaker, Principal Keeper, and Richard Welsby, Head of Finance, from The Bowes Museum, attended the meeting and gave a presentation on the Museum's First World War Commemorative Project and explained how the Town Council could be involved. A question and answer session ensued.

Resolved - (a) That it be formally noted that this Committee supports The Bowes Museum's First World War Commemorative Project.

(b) That Ms Whitaker and Mr Welsby be thanked for their attendance.

28. PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING – 22 JULY 2013 – MINUTES

Resolved - That, subject to the following correction, the Minutes be accepted as a correct record:-

In respect of Minute 17 (Scar Top Summer Concerts), resolution (c) be amended as follows:-

(c) That, *in support of the Barnard Castle Business Guild position*, no food services be provided at the 2013 Summer Scar Top Concerts.

29. SPECIAL PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING – 23 SEPTEMBER 2013 – MINUTES

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

30. 2013 CHRISTMAS EVENT TASK & FINISH GROUP MEETING – 14 AUGUST 2013 – NOTES

Resolved – That the Notes be received.

31. 2013 CHRISTMAS EVENT TASK & FINISH GROUP MEETING – 4 SEPTEMBER 2013 – NOTES

Resolved – That the Notes be received.

32. 2013 CHRISTMAS EVENT TASK & FINISH GROUP MEETING – 26 SEPTEMBER 2013 – NOTES Resolved – That the Notes be received.

33. 2013 CHRISTMAS EVENT TASK & FINISH GROUP MEETING – 30 SEPTEMBER 2013 – NOTES Resolved – That the Notes be received.

34. COMMUNITY EVENTS

(1) Summer Scar Top Concerts

It was confirmed that the Buskers Day, Brass Band Concert, Medieval Day and Teddy Bears Picnic duly took place and were all well received by their respective audiences.

(2) August Bank Holiday Event

It was confirmed that The Streets of Durham Festival took place on August Bank Holiday and was considered to be a great success.

An Evaluation Report, by Councillors Deacon and Robinson, was submitted in respect of Minutes 34(1) and (2) above, and whilst a number of recommendations were included, it was agreed that most of these should be considered at Minute 35.

A member raised an issue in respect of the new bins on Scar Top and the fact that 'bird proof flaps' prevent all rubbish being pushed down into the bins causing them to overflow. It was considered that for any future events being held on Scar Top, provisions should be put in place to prevent the issue reoccurring.

Resolved – (a) That, in respect of future events being held on Scar Top, provisions be put in place to prevent the bins from overflowing with rubbish.

(b) That the information be noted.

(3) 2013 Christmas Events

Christmas Tree Lights Switch-on Event

It was confirmed that arrangements for this event, scheduled for 6 December, were progressing well. Volunteers were sought to help with the clean up operation after the event.

'Twelve Days of Christmas' Trail

It was confirmed that the competition to help design the baubles for the Christmas town trail had been launched and publicised and that the actual 'Twelve Days of Christmas' town trail would be launched on 29 November at the Friends of The Bowes Museum's Lighting of the Christmas Tree event.

Grand Christmas Fireworks Event

It was also confirmed that the Grand Christmas Fireworks Event, scheduled for 13 December, was also progressing well and the event details were outlined.

Reference was made to Note 13(c)/Sep/13 of the 2013 Christmas Event Task & Finish Group and it was confirmed that the application for a Street Collection permit had been declined by Durham County Council because the Town Council was not a charity and DCC does not grant permissions for street collections, which do not benefit either local or UK charitable causes. Discussion ensued, including whether other charitable organisations might wish to apply for permits for both events.

Resolved – (a) That Cllr Moorhouse enquire whether the Mid-Teesdale Project Partnership wishes to apply for a Street Collection Permit at the Christmas events with a view to a donation being given to the Town Council.
(b) That the information be noted.

(4) Remembrance Sunday

It was reported that arrangements for Remembrance Sunday were well underway and the details were summarised, including the fact that a meeting had taken place between the Clerk, Rev Stephen Ridley, Chaplain of Barnard Castle School and Rev Canon Alec Harding of St Mary's Church to co-ordinate plans for this year's event.

Resolved – That Members advise the Office as soon as possible if they plan to attend the Remembrance Sunday service.

35. COMMUNITY EVENTS 2014/15 - BUDGETARY BID

Submitted – A report to consider a budgetary bid for Community Events 2014/15 for inclusion in the overall Town Council's budget for 2014/15. Whilst it was acknowledged that the first year of the expanded Community Events programme was yet to be completed, it was considered that the new events that had taken place to date had been well received and were worth developing and that there should be an aim for a more all year round programme of events.

Resolved – That a Community Events 2014/15 budgetary bid of £14,000 (no change) be submitted for consideration at the Resources Committee meeting scheduled for 18 November 2013, and apportioned as follows:-

Spring/Summer Events	£	5,500
Remembrance Sunday	£	500
Autumn/Winter Events	£	<u>8,000</u>
Total	£	14,000

36. CHRISTMAS LIGHTING DISPLAY 2013/14

Street Lighting Column Testing

It was confirmed that the necessary windage tests had been carried out on the columns that required testing prior to the installation of the 2013 display and that no columns failed the tests.

Lighting Display

It was confirmed that Lamp Lighter had PAT Tested the lighting display and that 20 motifs were defective and required necessary repairs prior to installation.

Christmas Tree

It was anticipated that the Christmas tree would be transported and installed towards the end of November with the help of the usual team of volunteers.

Crib

Volunteers were sought to install the Crib in the grounds of the Methodist Church.

Relocation of Curtain Lights

It was confirmed that the new NeST Gallery Manager had declined the use of the curtain lights and that alternative locations were still being sought. Clarification was sought as to why the lights were no longer used on the Market Cross and the reasons were outlined. Discussion ensued in respect of the curtain lights future use.

The Witham

It was confirmed that, whilst there was an intention for The Witham to have an architectural lighting scheme that could be adapted throughout the year, including the Christmas period as the Castle lighting scheme does, all efforts were currently focused on getting both The Witham and the Library operational. Members' views were sought as to whether this Council would contribute towards The Witham's architectural lighting scheme.

Resolved – (a) That, it be recommended to the Resources Committee meeting on 18 November 2013, that the curtain lights be donated to, and appropriately used by, the Barnard Castle Business Guild.

(b) That this Committee agrees in principle to support The Witham's architectural lighting scheme pending further information being provided.

(c) That the information be noted.

37. CHRISTMAS LIGHTING DISPLAY 2014/15 – BUDGETARY BID

Submitted - A report to consider a budgetary bid for the Christmas lighting display 2014/15 for inclusion in the overall Town Council's budget for 2014/15, including a breakdown of all the known 2014/15 expenditure. It was noted that no column windage tests were required prior to the installation of the 2014 Christmas lighting display, resulting in a significant decrease in the proposed budget.

A budgetary bid proposal by Cllr Robinson was also included in the report, suggesting that an independent voluntary group be formed to administer the lights and to raise its own funds to finance the necessary lighting display costs. Drawbacks to this suggestion were outlined.

Members were requested to consider the future use of the Christmas Lighting Contingency Fund, approved for emergency use only (Council Minute 23(b)/Jun/09 refers), as part of the Council's overall Earmarked Reserves review.

Resolved – (a) That a Christmas Lighting Display 2014/15 budgetary bid of £6,500 (decrease of £1,500) be submitted for consideration at the Resources Committee meeting scheduled for 18 November 2013.

(b) That the future management of the Town's Christmas lighting display remain with the Town Council.

(c) That it be recommended to full Council, at its meeting on 2 December 2013, that the Christmas Lighting Contingency Fund be renamed as the Christmas Lighting Support Fund and be used for emergency repairs/maintenance or to improve the existing display, should an opportunity arise.

38. POPPY APPEAL

It was reported that arrangements for the 2013 Poppy Appeal were well underway with the collection boxes and supplies being delivered during week commencing 21 October ready for the commencement of the Appeal on 26 October. There would be a manned static collection point in Wm Morrisons as well as a street collection during the two-week period. Barclays Bank had also confirmed their support for the counting purposes. A letter from the Mayor to promote the 2013 Appeal would be in the press during week commencing 21 October.

It was also reported that, whilst the 2012 Appeal had now closed, a final statement had yet to be received confirming the total amount raised. It was anticipated that this information would be available by the next meeting.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

(NOTE – At this point, Councillor Robinson declared a personal non-pecuniary interest in respect of Minute 39 and took no part in the voting.)

39. GRANTS TO OTHER BODIES

(1) Financial Donation Requests

Submitted – In accordance with the Terms of Reference of Council and Committees 2013/14 and the Financial Donations Policy, a report summarising the financial donations situation. It was confirmed that this Council's 2013/14 budgetary allocation for financial donations was £1,500 and that, to date, there had been one donation of £250 made from this year's allocation, therefore £750 was available at this meeting. It was reported that the following applications had been received:-

(i) Butterwick Hospice – support towards the continuation of services provided by the organisation. It was noted that two previous donations had been made towards the provision of services of this organisation.

Resolved – That a donation of £100 be made to Butterwick Hospice towards the continuation of services provided by the organisation.

(ii) Great North Air Ambulance – support towards the work of the organisation. It was noted that five previous donations had been made towards the provision of services of this organisation.

Resolved – That a donation of £200 be made the Great North Air Ambulance towards the work of the organisation.

(iii) Veg Out in Barney – support towards the continuation of the project. It was noted that no previous requests had been received from this organisation.

Resolved – That a donation of £50 be made to Veg Out in Barney towards the continuation of the project.

(iv) North Pennine Dales Leader – support towards the operation of a transition year during 2014. It was noted that no previous requests had been received from this organisation.

Resolved – That a donation of £200 be made to North Pennine Dales Leader towards the operation of a transition year during 2014.

(v) Friends of Green Lane School – support for fundraising event to enable the purchase of microphones and lighting for school hall. It was noted that no previous requests had been received from this organisation.

Resolved – That a donation of £200 be made to Friends of Green Lane School for a fundraising event to enable the purchase of microphones and lighting for school hall.

(2) Community Events Sponsorship

Pursuant to Council Minute 58/Oct/13, it was confirmed that sponsorship of £1,500 had been made to the Barnard Castle Meet from the Town Council's Community Events budget, which this Committee would ordinarily oversee, towards partnership presentation of The Meet's firework display on 1 November 2013.

Resolved – That the situation be noted.

40. GRANTS TO OTHER BODIES – FINANCIAL DONATIONS 2014/15 BUDGETARY BID

Submitted – A report to consider a budgetary bid for Financial Donations 2014/15 for inclusion in the overall Town Council's budget for 2014/15, including a budgetary bid proposal by Cllr Robinson. The use of the Financial Donations budget was confirmed.

Resolved – That a Financial Donations 2014/15 budgetary bid of £3,000 (increase of £1,500) be submitted for consideration at the Resources Committee meeting scheduled for 18 November 2013.