

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL
PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE**

9 DECEMBER 2013

PRESENT: Councillor Robinson (in the Chair); Councillors Deacon, Mrs Grady, Mrs Moorhouse and Peat.

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

41. ACCEPTANCE, OR OTHERWISE, OF APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Cooke and Yarker and Neil Stokell (Barnard Castle Business Guild).

Resolved – That Councillors Cooke and Yarker and Mr Stokell's apologies be accepted.

42. 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.

43. PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING – 21 OCTOBER 2013 – MINUTES

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

44. 2013 CHRISTMAS EVENT TASK & FINISH GROUP MEETING – 27 NOVEMBER 2013 – NOTES

Resolved – That the Notes be received.

45. COMMUNITY EVENTS

(1) Remembrance Sunday

It was reported that the arrangements for Remembrance Sunday 2013 had worked well and that the event had been well supported by both the Councillors and the public.

Resolved – That this Committee's thanks be extended to all those individuals and organisations involved on the day.

(2) 2013 Christmas Events

(i) Christmas Tree Lights Switch-on Event

It was reported that the above event had taken place on 6 December, that it had been well-attended and had 'gone according to plan', albeit that there was a slight issue with the sound system. However, it was confirmed that the issue would be addressed prior to the system's use at the Grand Christmas Fireworks Event scheduled for 13 December. Concerns were raised in respect of the enforcement procedure of the road closure, including the fact that an Arriva bus driver had apparently not been aware of the closure.

Resolved – (a) That this Committee's concerns in respect of bus companies not being aware of the road closure details be raised with Durham County Council's Safety Advisory Group.

(b) That this Committee's thanks be extended to all the volunteers that helped with the event.

(ii) Grand Christmas Fireworks Event

It was confirmed that the arrangements for the above event, scheduled to take place on 13 December, were in hand and that attempts continued to be made with Durham County Council for clarification regarding its landlord responsibilities for controlling the sale

of food on Scar Top/grounds of Woodleigh and to identify a named officer with operational responsibility for the site.

It was also confirmed that the 12 Days of Christmas Trail was launched at the Friends of The Bowes Museum's lighting of the Christmas tree event on 29 November.

Resolved – That the situation be noted.

(3) The Bowes Museum – Pre-launch Consultation Event

Submitted – A report outlining proposals from the Bowes Museum in respect of its pre-launch consultation event for its project, "To Serve King and Country", commemorating the role of Teesdale people in the First World War, and sought the town council's financial support. The current state of the community events budget was detailed to aid members in their deliberations.

Resolved – (a) That it be agreed to contribute £845 from the Community Events budget to The Bowes Museum's First World War pre-launch consultation event.

(b) That Councillors Mrs Grady and Mrs Moorhouse (in their absence, an officer to act as substitute) work in partnership with the Museum to help with the arrangements of the event at (a) above.

46. CHRISTMAS LIGHTING DISPLAY 2013/14

It was confirmed that the Christmas lighting display, i.e. column motifs, tree lights, the Crib and the Market Cross upper room lights, were all installed and that attempts were being made to rectify the motifs that were not working.

It was also confirmed that, pursuant to the Council decision for alternative locations coming forward to use the curtain lights which previously lit the Market Cross, to date, none had come forward.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

47. POPPY APPEAL

It was reported that the arrangements for the 2013 Poppy Appeal had worked well. Details were provided of the procedures involved and the support received and that the total raised to date was in the region of £9,273. An appropriate letter had been sent to the media.

Resolved – That this Committee's thanks be extended to all those individuals and organisations and businesses involved in the successful co-ordination of the Appeal during the Remembrancetide period.