

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL
PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE**

10 FEBRUARY 2014

PRESENT: Councillor Robinson (in the Chair); Councillors Cooke, Deacon, Mrs Grady (Minutes 49 to 54 inclusive), Mrs Moorhouse, Peat (Minutes 52(2) to 55 inclusive) and Yarker; Ms Morris (The Witham) (Minutes 52 to 54 inclusive)

Also in attendance: One member of the public (whom filmed the meeting by prior agreement) and two members of the press.

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

48. ACCEPTANCE, OR OTHERWISE, OF APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Neil Stokell (Barnard Castle Business Guild).

Resolved – That Mr Stokell's apologies be accepted.

49. 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.

50. PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING – 9 DECEMBER 2013 – MINUTES

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

51. 2013 CHRISTMAS EVENT TASK & FINISH GROUP MEETING – 6 FEBRUARY 2014 – NOTES

Resolved – That the Notes be received.

52. COMMUNITY EVENTS

(1) 2013 Christmas Events

It was reported that, following the permitted street collections that were carried out by the Mid-Teesdale Project Partnership (Dickens in Teesdale) at the town council's Christmas events on 6 and 13 December, a confirmed sum of £65 had been donated towards the costs of these events and that a further amount was being retained by the group but specifically ring fenced towards this council's future Christmas events involving Dickens in Teesdale again.

Resolved – That this Committee's thanks be extended to the Mid-Teesdale Project Partnership for the donation towards the events.

(a) Christmas Tree Lights Switch-on Event

Pursuant to Committee Minute 45(2(i))/Dec/13, it was confirmed that this Committee's concerns in respect of bus companies not being aware of the road closure details had been raised with Durham County Council's Safety Advisory Group and that a reply had been subsequently received confirming that all bus companies, including Arriva, were advised of the event's road closure.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

(b) 2013 Grand Christmas Fireworks Event – 13 December 2013

It was confirmed that the above event had been well attended, with the crowd considered to be in excess of 1,000 and had 'gone according to plan', albeit there remained a slight issue with the microphone sound system but not with the music system that accompanied the fireworks. Positive feedback had been received.

As reported to the council meeting on 20 January, two requests for information 'under the Freedom of Information Act 2000' had been received regarding the fireworks event. It was confirmed that both were answered with reference to information already in the public domain and as part of the town council's publication scheme and that no further correspondence had been received in respect of the requests.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

(c) 12 Days of Christmas Trail

It was confirmed that a number of entries had been received in respect of the 12 Days of Christmas Trail but only one entry had correctly located all 78 baubles hidden in businesses throughout the town. An associated press release announcing the winner etc. was duly submitted.

It was also confirmed that the majority of the baubles had been collected from the businesses so that they could be reused at some point.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

(2) 2014 Spring/Summer Events

Submitted – A report to determine this council's 2014 spring and summer events programme, including the scale and content, which could be achieved within the identified budget of £5,500, including details of two expressions of interest that had been received.

Resolved – (a) That Onyx Brass's offer of a free performance on Saturday 19 July as part of its Tour de Brass project be accepted and that the performance be as part of this council's summer schedule of performances on Scar Top.

(b) That £2,500 be set aside in the event of Visit County Durham's Streets Of Festival being confirmed.

(c) That a task and finish group be formed, consisting of Councillors Cooke, Deacon and Mrs Grady to formulate a detailed scope for the 2014 Spring/Summer events for approval by the Committee at a future meeting.

(3) 2014/15 Autumn/Winter Events

Submitted – A report to determine this Council's 2014/15 Autumn/Winter Events, including the scale and content, which could be achieved within the designated allowance of £8,000 and whether the Christmas Tree Lights 'Switch-on' Event and Fireworks Display should be repeated. Reference was made to the recommendations of the 2013 Christmas Event Task and Finish Group (at Note 23 in the set of Notes at Minute 51 above) and it was confirmed that BBC Tees (radio) had expressed an interest in being involved with the Christmas Tree Light Switch-on event again.

Resolved – (a) That investigations be made as to whether this council can directly implement traffic management controls for any road closures associated with an event.

(b) That investigations be made into the costs and means of constructing this council's own sleigh.

(c) That the issues encountered with the siting of microphones and the coverage of

speakers be addressed for future events.

(d) That the Christmas Tree Lights Switch-on event be kept as a 'stand-alone' event, to be scheduled on Friday, 5 December 2014 within an agreed budget of £1,500 and that BBC Tees (radio) be invited to take part in the event.

(e) That a task and finish group be formed, consisting of Councillors Cooke, Mrs Grady and Mrs Moorhouse to formulate a detailed scope for the 2014/15 Autumn/Winter events for approval by the Committee at a future meeting.

(4) Mayoral Christmas Card Competition

Submitted – A report setting out proposals to engage local primary schools in an inter-school competition to design a mayoral Christmas card for 2014, including that fact that the cards would be reproduced in-house at minimal cost utilising the office photocopier. Discussion ensued and it was considered that Teesdale School should also be involved.

Resolved – That an inter-school Mayoral Christmas Card competition be approved involving the town's primary schools and Teesdale school.

(5) Mayoral Event

It was reported that options for an event to mark the end of the current Town Mayor's year of office had been explored with the Town Mayor, venues in town and with the mayor's nominated charity, Teesdale YMCA and the proposed event details were outlined, including the fact that the event would be self-financing.

Resolved – That a mayoral event be held on 9 May, with all proceeds above cost being donated to the Teesdale YMCA, using the council's powers under s137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

53. CHRISTMAS LIGHTING DISPLAY 2013/14 – REVIEW

It was reported that during the display period, 4 out of the 55 motifs installed did not work with the reasons outlined and the fact that two motif frames had been damaged in the wind. It was confirmed that Lamp Lighter was undertaking a full survey to assess any other damages and would consequently carry out all necessary repair works.

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, no locations had come forward. However, a couple of the curtain lighting sections were used to decorate the Methodist Church balcony during the Christmas event on 6 December to light the way to Santa's grotto which provided a great effect.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

54. CHRISTMAS LIGHTING DISPLAY 2014/15

Submitted - Following the completion of the Council's budgetary process, a report outlining the fact that the Christmas lighting display for 2014/15 would consist of the standard display within the agreed budget of £6,500 and a decision in respect of the installation/dismantling service contractor was required.

It was also reported that an opportunity to improve the existing display by potential use of the Christmas Lighting Support Fund had arisen and potential options were summarised.

It was confirmed that endeavours would continue to be made to bring back into use the curtain lights which previously illuminated the Market Cross and that the office would pursue with Durham County Council to introduce an overall lighting scheme to the Market Cross.

Resolved – (a) That Lamp Lighter be requested to carry out the 2014/15 Christmas lighting display installation/dismantling service and PAT testing.

(b) That investigations be made into the suitable options and associated costs for an illuminated scene to be provided at St Mary's Church.

(c) That the Christmas tree lights be programmed as normal during the 2014/15 lighting display, albeit that the tree lights be constantly lit from 24 to 26 December.

55. GRANTS TO OTHER BODIES

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. It was also confirmed that the financial donation of £200 awarded to North Pennine Dales Leader for support towards the operation of a transition year during 2014 at the Partnership meeting on 21 October had been returned by NPD as the organisation had been successful in receiving the remaining funding needed through another funding application. Therefore £700 was available at this meeting. It was reported that the following applications had been received:-

(i) **North East War Memorial Project (NEWMP)** – support towards website project and running costs of the organisation. It was noted that no previous requests had been received from this organisation.

Resolved – That a donation of £100 be made to the North East War Memorial Project towards its website project and running costs of the organisation.

(ii) **Teesdale Disability Access Forum** – support towards the provision of services provided by this organisation. It was noted that five previous donations had been made towards the provision of services of this organisation.

Resolved – That a donation of £400 be made to the Teesdale Disability Access Forum towards the provision of services provided by the organisation.

(iii) **Groundwork North East** – support towards tools, protective equipment and mini bus hire for Healthy Parks : Healthy Minds project. It was noted that one previous donation had been made towards the provision of services of this organisation. Discussion ensued and it was considered that because of the limited donation amount on offer, it would have a greater beneficial impact to the other organisations that had applied.

Resolved – That no donation be made to Groundwork North East.

(iv) **Teesdale YMCA** – support towards Friday Night Diversionary Activities. It was noted that five previous donations had been made towards the provision of services of this organisation and that £100 had been requested to fulfil the projects' needs.

Resolved – That a donation of £200 be made to the Teesdale YMCA towards Friday Night Diversionary Activities to enable the project to be either enhanced or extended.