

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL
SPECIAL PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE**

2 MARCH 2015

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs Moorhouse (Chair); Councillors Cooke, Peat and Mrs Grady.

Also in attendance: Councillors Kinch, Blissett, Harrison and Yarker; one member of the press and one member of the public.

Officers: Mr King (Town Clerk) and Mrs Woodward (Deputy Clerk).

58. ACCEPTANCE, OR OTHERWISE, OF APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Councillors Robinson, Deacon and Hinchcliffe.

Resolved – That Councillors Robinson, Deacon and Hinchcliffe's apologies be accepted.

59. 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. None were received.

60. PUBLIC MEETING CHRISTMAS LIGHTING 16 FEBRUARY

Received – a report reviewing the feedback from the public meeting held on Monday 16 February. It was noted that nine members of the public and nine Councillors attended the meeting. It was further noted that there was no representation from the Guild.

It was confirmed that the Town Council Christmas Lighting budget for 2015/16 was £6,500. Various constraints for the town council were outlined, including costs of windage testing columns; DCC restrictions and permissions; health and safety and conservation rules.

Ideas and suggestions from the public meeting were noted. Concern was raised over selling assets (motifs) and running spare cable from a 12volt transformer.

It was noted that nine people had expressed an interest in joining a 'Christmas Lights Working Group' (four Councillors and five members of the public).

Resolved – (a) That the report be received.

(b) That a 'Christmas Lights Working Group' be formed led by the town council.

(c) That further publicity be considered to generate interest and ideas.

(d) That Committee members may consider any proposal within the current budget, to give funding to a voluntary/community group to organise Christmas lights (with BCTC retaining any assets) should such a proposal be forthcoming.

(e) That Staindrop be contacted to see how they organise their lights.

(f) That Egglestone be contacted to discuss how trees are lit.