

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL  
PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE**

**5 OCTOBER 2015**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Deacon (in the Chair), Cooke, Peat, Hinchcliffe, Marshall and Mrs Moorhouse.

**Also in attendance:** Councillor Kinch; One member of the press

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

**24. ACCEPTANCE, OR OTHERWISE, OF APOLOGIES**

Apologies had been received from Councillor Mrs Grady (due to work related reasons), Ms J. Whitaker and Mr R. Welsby (The Bowes Museum).

**Resolved** – That the apologies be accepted.

**25. ELECTION OF CHAIR**

Members were reminded that the Chair of Partnership Committee remained vacant. Councillor Deacon was proposed and seconded to chair this meeting.

**Resolved** – (a) That Councillor Deacon be elected Chair for this committee meeting; and (b) That Chair of Partnership Committee be recommended to be formalised at Council on 16 November.

**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 Peat declared an interest in respect of Item 35 and left the meeting before this item was debated and voted upon.

**27. TEESDALE VIEWMARKERS PROJECT (PRESENTATION)**

Jill Cole and Judy Caplin, co-managers of ARTworks in Teesdale, explained the project and shared mock-up designs and samples. The project was funded by Heart of Teesdale and an artist had been chosen to create bespoke pieces of representational cast-iron artwork to be placed in the landscape, along the Teesdale Way. Approx. 14 objects would be placed in 9 locations around Teesdale (one in Barnard Castle). There would also be an app. It was proposed that in Barnard Castle, a cast-iron open book, representing Charles Dickens, would be placed on the stone wall next to the seat at the bus stop opposite the King's Head, where Charles Dickens had stayed. It was confirmed that Durham County Council would have overall responsibility and liability for the artwork. A block planning application for all the artworks was to be submitted.

**Resolved** – That the town council supports the Teesdale Viewmarkers Project via the council's Planning Committee following submission of the planning application.

**28. PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING – 6 JULY 2015 – MINUTES**

**Resolved** – That the minutes be accepted as a correct record.

## **29. POPPY APPEAL**

It was reported that The Royal British Legion's 2014 appeal did not officially close until 30 September 2015 and that official confirmation of the grand total had not been received. However, a previous statement from the Legion in May confirmed that the net total at that time stood at £15,213.67, which was likely to be indicative of the grand total.

Preparations were well underway for the 2015 appeal, which launched locally on Saturday 24 October 2015. Appeal supplies would be rolled out to participating businesses/organisations during week commencing 19 October and collected in during week commencing 9 November. Councillor volunteers were needed to assist with this.

It was confirmed that a pre-poppy appeal letter from the Mayor, would be submitted to the press prior to the launch of the 2015 Appeal.

**Resolved** – (a) That the information be noted and;  
(b) That Councillors Mrs Moorhouse, Deacon, Peat and Harrison volunteer.

## **30. COMMUNITY EVENTS**

### **(i) Mayoral Events**

#### **(a) YSL Exhibition – 1 September**

It was reported that the Town Mayor, in association with the Friends of The Bowes Museum, had hosted a champagne reception and private viewing of the Yves Saint Laurent 'Style is Eternal Exhibition' at The Bowes Museum. The evening was very well received and attended by Mayoral representatives from sixteen different authorities from across County Durham and North Yorkshire. Proceeds from the evening would be donated to the Mayor's Charity.

**Resolved** – That the information be noted.

#### **(b) Walking with the Wounded – 6 September**

The Walking with the Wounded Charity's Walk of Britain 2015 involved six wounded soldiers walking 1,000 miles in 72 days commencing in Scotland on 22 August and ending at Buckingham Palace (Prince Harry was the Royal Patron of the Charity) on 1 November. The walk brought the soldiers through Barnard Castle on 6 September 2015 and in the absence of the Town Mayor, the Deputy Town Mayor welcomed the walkers to the town. The 'Arrival Ceremony' took place at Scar Top and there were many residents and visitors along Galgate and on Scar Top to greet them and cheer them on. Councillor Marshall joined with walkers at Stanhope to accompany them into Barnard Castle. He explained that the soldiers were impressed with the welcome and praised the reception and generosity from the town. He had also collected personal messages from the soldiers to the town.

**Resolved** – (a) That the information be noted and;  
(b) That special thanks be given to Services Officer, Mrs Smith, for organising the event at such short notice.

## **(ii) Remembrance Sunday – 8 November**

It was reported that preparations for Remembrance Sunday were in hand and a meeting had been held on 5 October with Reverend Canon Alec Harding of St Mary's Parish Church, Father Owen of Barnard Castle School and Rupert Philbrick, co-ordinator for The Bowes Museum, to discuss the detailed arrangements.

Members would be provided with details of the arrangements nearer the time and were encouraged to advise the Office in advance of their attendance. It was noted that the town council was linking in with The Bowes Museum's First World War Commemorative Project.

**Resolved** – (a) That the information be noted and;  
(b) That members confirm attendance.

## **(iii) Mayoral Christmas Card Competition**

Following on from the Partnership Meeting in February (Min/54(h)/Feb/15 refers), a meeting was held with the Editor of the Teesdale Mercury to discuss and agree upon a timescale for publicising and co-ordinating the competition. It was reported that the Town Mayor would decide upon a shortlist from the received entries, which would be put to a public vote in the Teesdale Mercury. The Mayoral cards would be sent out during week commencing 1 December.

**Resolved** – That the information be noted.

## **31. CHRISTMAS LIGHTING 2015/16 UPDATE**

### **a. Christmas Lights Working Group – 14 July – notes**

### **b. Christmas Lights Working Group – 27 July – draft notes**

It was noted that the Christmas Lights Working Group was dissolved by resolution of Council on 21 September.

Members noted that 2015 was the bi-annual Christmas tree festival at St. Mary's Parish Church, from Thursday 10 to Sunday 13 December. Pursuant to approval of the 2015/16 Christmas lighting budgetary bid at Council (Minute 99/Jan/15 refers), a tree had been sponsored by the town council at a cost of £35, plus £15 allocated for decoration.

*Barnard Castle Christmas Lights* group had asked the town council to consider the donation of the town council's motifs to the group. Much discussion ensued over the value of the motifs as town council assets. It was concluded that the motifs were currently surplus to operational requirements and past their best, with several not working or in disrepair. The town council was acquiring new assets over the next three years and would need storage for these after 2018. Councillor Peat currently stored the motifs in the town council's container.

**Resolved** – (a) That the notes and information be noted;  
(b) That the 27 July meeting notes of Christmas Lights Working Group be approved as a correct record and;  
(c) That, as the town council's motifs were currently surplus to operational requirements, a residual value be recommended to Resources Committee on 2 November for disposal.

## **32. CHRISTMAS LIGHTING 2016/17 – BUDGETARY BID**

Submitted – a report considering a budgetary bid for the Christmas Lighting Display 2016/17 for inclusion in the overall Town Council budget for 2016/17. Members were

reminded that a three-year contract had been awarded to Christmas Plus Ltd (Council Minute 55/July/15 refers) and that an independent group, 'Barnard Castle Christmas Lights', was fundraising to complement the town council displays.

**Resolved** – That a Christmas lighting budgetary bid for 2016/17 of £6,500 (no change) be submitted to Resources Committee on 2 November 2015.

### **33. EVENTS 2015 TASK & FINISH GROUP NOTED AND UPDATE**

- a. **Events T&F Group – 16 July - notes**
- b. **Events T&F Group – 23 July – notes**
- c. **Events T&F Group – 28 September – draft notes**

**Resolved** – (a) That the notes and information be noted and;  
(b) That Councillor Blissett be a member of the 2015 Events Task & Finish Group.

### **34. COMMUNITY EVENTS: 2015/16 EVALUATION & 2016/17 BUDGETARY BID**

Received – a report outlining the conclusions drawn by the 2015 Events Task & Finish Group in its review of the events programme to date and considering a budgetary bid for Community Events 2016/17 for inclusion in the overall Town Council's 2016/17 budget.

It was confirmed that the current 2015/16 budget had been largely spent – with a current underspend of £428. It was noted that there was another Easter bank holiday within the current financial year (25 to 28 March 2016) and that the remainder of the 2015/16 budget had been allocated to this.

Overall, it was considered that the events budget for 2016/17 should focus on no more than two main town council led events, with the majority of the budget allocated to third party event sponsorship.

Members noted that 'Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth' was confirmed as 14 March; that the council had already committed to support 1940s weekend in 2016 (25/26 June); and that it had taken over organisation of Aviation Day from 2016 (24 June).

**Resolved** – That a Community Events Budgetary Bid for 2016/17 of £13,589 (no change) be submitted to Resources Committee on 2 November 2015, and apportioned as follows:

<b>Event</b>	<b>Proposed Expenditure</b>	
Mayoral Events	£	250
Remembrance Sunday	£	500
Aviation Day	£	200
Christmas Event	£	4,500
All other events (including Third Party Sponsorship)	£	8,139
<b>Total</b>	£	<b>13,589</b>

### **35. GRANTS TO OTHER BODIES: APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL DONATIONS**

Submitted – In accordance with the Terms of Reference of Council and Committees 2015/16 and the Financial Donations Policy, a report summarising the financial donations situation. It was confirmed that this Council's 2015/16 budgetary allocation for financial donations was £3,000 and that a total of £800 had been awarded. This was the second meeting of 2015/16. It was reported that the following applications had been received:-

**Abbeyfield Barnard Castle Society** – support towards improvements to the garden to create a patio area for residents, their families and visitors. It was noted that no previous requests had been made.

**Resolved** – That a donation of £1,000 be made to Abbeyfield Barnard Castle Society.

**Barnard Castle Christmas Lights** – support towards purchase of LED battery lights for twelve smaller, permanently-planted trees throughout the town to supplement the Christmas lighting being provided by the town council and trees to shop fronts of local businesses. It was noted that no previous requests had been made.

**Resolved** – That a donation of £400 be made to Barnard Castle Christmas Lights.

### **36. GRANTS TO OTHER BODIES: FINANCIAL DONATIONS 2016/17 BUDGETARY BID**

Submitted – a report considering a budgetary bid for Financial Donations 2016/17 for inclusion in the overall Town Council's budget for 2016/17. The use of the Financial Donations budget was confirmed. It was considered that small amounts of support provided a huge benefit to local groups, organisations and charities eligible to apply and that the budgetary allocation should remain.

**Resolved** – That a Financial Donations 2016/17 budgetary bid of £3,000 (no change) be submitted for consideration at Resources Committee on 2 November 2015.

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