

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL
PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE**

30 NOVEMBER 2015

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

Also in attendance: Ms J. Whitaker (The Bowes Museum); Mr M. Hanby (Business Guild); One member of the press

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

37. ACCEPTANCE, OR OTHERWISE, OF APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Mr R. Welsby (The Bowes Museum).

Resolved – That the apologies be accepted.

38. 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.

39. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Councillor Marshall was proposed, seconded and duly elected.

Resolved – (a) That Councillor Marshall be elected Vice Chair for Partnership Committee for the rest of the Municipal Year 2015/16.

40. DALES PONY SOCIETY CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS 20 JULY 2016 (PRESENTATION)

Mrs Anne Alderson, Chair of the Dales Pony Society Centenary Committee; Ms Anna Pennell, Secretary and Mrs Freda Longstaff, Finance Officer attended and presented information about the President's Ride on Saturday 30 July 2016.

In 2016 the Dales Pony Society celebrated 100 years. The dales pony was critically endangered and Barnard Castle was the ponies' home town. The President's ride was the most significant event and would bring together all members locally and as far as Europe and USA. The ride would start in April and move progressively up the country. On 30 July, at approximately 2pm, 50 ponies would ride together as one group through Barnard Castle, creating a spectacular sight to residents and visitors.

The Bowes Museum was hosting an exhibition in Sumer 2016 focussing of WW1 and lead mining and could link into the event.

Resolved – (a) That the information be noted; and
(b) That the Town Council supports and publicises the event via its 2016 events programme.

41. PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING – 5 OCTOBER 2015 – MINUTES

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

42. POPPY APPEAL

A summary of donations report received from the Legion in respect to the 2014 Appeal confirmed that the final total stood at £15,273.67; a 30% increase on 2013.

It was noted that this was an exceptional amount and currently the highest total amount raised since the Town Council took over administration of the local appeal in 2006. The total was boosted significantly due to the proceeds of a VE Day event organised by Mr Allan Jones and Miss Iris Hillery.

The 2015 Appeal was launched on 24 October. All the tins and supplies had been collected in and the monies counted and banked.

Throughout the two-week collection period, a total of £11,304.40 had been raised so far, including collections from the street, Morrisons, Farmers' Market Stall, House to House collections and donations received from various local businesses, organisations and schools. At this point, it did not include any monies received from any church collections, wreaths or personal donations.

During the same two-week period last year (2014 appeal), the total at that time stood at £11,027.22. Whilst it was unlikely that the £15,000 threshold would be reached this year, it looked like being a very 'healthy' appeal.

It was noted that without the continued support of Morrisons, Barclays Bank and the volunteers, none of this would be possible. Volunteers played an integral part in the success of the appeal and it was important that the town council did not ask too much of those who had offered support for many years. Therefore, it was acknowledged that additional volunteers would be actively sought for future appeals.

Thank you cards had been sent out to all those who had taken part, detailing the individual amounts raised. A post-appeal letter from the Town Mayor was submitted to the press to thank the public for their continued generosity, along with details of the amount raised so far and also to thank all those who had taken part in some way.

Resolved – (a) That the information be noted;

(b) That thanks be given to Kelly Blissett, Tom Deacon and Bella, Jane Hackwork-Young, Sam Henderson, Iris Hillery, Peter Holmes, Cyril Humphries, Allan Jones, Sue Kitching, Maxine Moore, David Peat, Tim Smith, Mrs Virginia Trotter MBE, Mark Wilkes, Cllrs Blissett, Harrison, Marshall and Peat and, not forgetting the Town Mayor Cllr Mrs Sandra Moorhouse, who braved the torrential down pour on Farmers Market Day to lend her support;

(c) That thanks also be extended to the public and all those volunteers who took part and;

(d) That special thanks be given to Mrs Farren, Services Officer, for all her hard work organising and administrating the Poppy Appeal.

43. COMMUNITY EVENTS 2015/16

(i) Mayoral Events

(a) Remembrance Sunday – 8 November

Despite the weather, the event was well supported by all sectors of the community, with over twenty-five wreaths and numerous crosses laid at the cenotaph. The event mat purchased last year was laid at the foot of the memorial to provide a safe threshold.

The Temporary Road Closure was implemented by the Police and Parade Marshall Rowan Jefferies organised and led the parade along Newgate accompanied by a drumbeat provided by members of Barnard Castle Band.

Nigel Farren assisted with the distribution of the Order of Service Sheets at the Museum and Ian Kirkbride, along with Oliver Rogers (a member of the Scouts), jointly read the Exhortation.

The Laying of the Wreaths ceremony commenced with the Deputy Lieutenant of County Durham laying the first wreath and the Ceremony concluded with the haunting Last Post and Reveille, played by Andrew Nicholson. A letter was sent to the press thanking all those organisations and individuals who took part in the Service.

The Town Council had been requested to mark Armistice Day in some way. It was noted that there needed to be co-ordination with other events on this day.

Resolved – (a) That the information be noted.

(b) That particular thanks be extended to Rev Canon Alec Harding and Church Wardens of St Mary's Church; Deputy Lieutenant Bernard Robinson; members of Barnard Castle Band; the students and staff of Barnard Castle School; the Parade Marshall, Rowan Jefferies; Oliver Rogers; Ian Kirkbride; and Nigel Farren for the roles they played.

(c) That Armistice Day be marked in future years with the raising of a Union flag at the Remembrance Gardens and 2 minute silence at 11am.

(d) That a Union Flag be purchased from 2015/16 Events budget.

(b) Bangers & Mash – 4 December

It was reported that, in aid of the Town Mayor's Charity and supporting Barnard Castle Christmas Lights, the Town Mayor was hosting 'Bangers in Barney' at Barnard Castle Rugby Club from 7pm, following the Christmas Tree Switch-On Event on 4 December 2015. Members were urged to promote and support the event; flyers and tickets were available from the Office.

Resolved – That the information be noted and that Members promote and support the event.

(ii) Mayoral Christmas Card Competition

Entries were shortlisted by the Town Mayor and two entries per age category (5 to 7 years and 8 to 11 years) were submitted to the Teesdale Mercury for publication to be put to a public vote. The winning designs were to be reproduced in-house and cards sent out early December. At the Christmas Tree Switch-On Event on 4 December 2015, the winners were to be presented by the Town Mayor with a framed copy of their entry along with 20 cards for their personal use.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

44. CHRISTMAS LIGHTING 2015/16

(i) Update

Christmas Plus Ltd were scheduled to install Icicle Lights along fascia of buildings between Methodist Church and Market Cross commencing 1 December. All businesses had now given permission to install Icicle Lights. The town's Christmas tree and the tree outside St. Mary's Parish Church (kindly donated by Lord Barnard and Raby Estates) would be in-situ ready to be dressed on 1 December. Eight Lamp post motifs (including 5 swan motifs)

were to be installed along Newgate on 1 December. It was noted that nine Christmas trees had been spray painted white by William Smith at no cost to the town council and placed on Galgate Greens.

(ii) Barnard Castle Christmas Lights (BCCL)

Following the financial donation award of £400 to BCCL at the October meeting, a thank you letter received from the group was acknowledged. Councillor Peat gave a verbal update on lighting installed by BCCL to complement and enhance the town's 2015/16 Christmas lighting display. BCCL had raised approximately £12,000 via fundraising and donations and had spent approximately £10,500 on the following:

- 10 battery powered lights on trees along Galgate.
- 3000 white LED lights on the town's Christmas tree.
- 61 pre-lit Christmas trees for the town's shops and businesses.
- A new creation on top of the marketplace public toilets.
- 10 festive globes in the tree outside Il Palazzo.
- A wrapped tree on Scar Top, outside Woodleigh.

(iii) Swan Motifs

Pursuant to the resolution in October that, as the town council's motifs were currently surplus to operational requirements, a residual value be recommended to Resources Committee for disposal (Minute 31(b)/Oct/15 refers), Resources Committee (Minute 48(b)/Nov/15 refers) subsequently resolved that The Bowes Museum be approached regarding purchase of swan motifs. Ms Whitaker, on behalf of The Bowes Museum, stated that they had no lampposts and that they were too costly for the museum to maintain, repair and test. However, there was a possibility that the museum would contribute towards repair costs and purchase of more swan motifs if they continued to be displayed and extended along Newgate.

Resolved – (a) That the information be noted and;
(b) That disposal of motifs be referred back to Resources Committee on 11 January 2016.

45. EVENTS 2015 TASK & FINISH GROUP NOTES AND UPDATE

(i) Events T&F Group – 5 November – draft notes

Resolved – That the notes and information be noted.

(ii) Christmas Lights Switch-On & Fireworks Event – 4 December

It was reported that final arrangements were being made for the Town Council's Christmas event on Friday 4 December. A contingency plan was discussed in the event of bad weather.

Resolved – That the information be noted and that members promote and support the event.

46. COMMUNITY EVENTS 2016/17

Submitted – a report proposing a mechanism for specifying and managing the events programme in 2016 and, in particular for progressing arrangements for those events with a longer lead in time. It was recommended that the current Events Task & Finish Group was acting more like a Committee and that it was considered preferable to return key

decision making to Partnership Committee as the parent committee, where decision making was more effective and could be better recorded.

Councillor Mrs Moorhouse asked for clarification on the report. Councillor Kinch proposed an Events Committee be established. Councillor Cooke said that the Events Task & Finish Group offered valuable support and a lead on events.

The role of Partnership Committee with respect to events was outlined, specifically to set parameters on the objectives, content and duration of the event and to set a budget for each event. It was within the responsibility of staff to implement the events programme, returning key decisions to the Partnership Committee for determination in accordance with Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

Members were reminded that the Town Council was committed to producing a themed 1940s event over the weekend of 24-26 June 2016, working in partnership with Iris Hillery and Alan Jones, connected to Armed Forces Day (Council Minute 6(5)/May/15 refers). A proposed outline programme was circulated.

- Resolved** – (a) That the 2016 events programme be overseen by Partnership Committee;
- (b) That an outline budget of £1,000 be set aside for the 1940s weekend, from within the 2016/17 Events Budget, once approved;
- (c) That enquiries be made with Durham County Council to secure the Market Place or a suitable alternative, Scar Top and Woodleigh Grounds for the weekend of 24-26 June 2015 and;
- (d) That re-enactment groups be contacted and invited to support the event.