

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL  
PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE**

**3 OCTOBER 2016**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Mrs Moorhouse (in the Chair), Peat, Cooke, Kinch, Hinchcliffe and Sutherland; Mr M. Hanby (Business Guild);

**Also in attendance:** One member of the press.

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

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

Apologies had been received from Councillor Rowell and Ms J. Whittaker (The Bowes Museum).

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

**35. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

In accordance with this Council's adopted Code of Conduct (Minute 17(b)/May/16 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 declared at this juncture.

**36. PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING – 11 JULY 2016 – MINUTES**

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

**37. POPPY APPEAL**

The Royal British Legion's 2015 appeal did not officially close until 30 September 2016 and official confirmation of the grand total had not been received. However, a previous statement received from the Legion in May confirmed that the net total at that time stood at £14,310.62. It was anticipated that a further £700 still needed to be included in the grand total. It was hoped that official confirmation of the final total from the Legion would be received in time for the next scheduled Partnership meeting in November.

Preparations were underway for the 2016 appeal, which launched locally on Saturday 29 October 2016. Appeal supplies were in the process of being delivered to the office, to be rolled out to participating businesses/organisations during week commencing 24 October and collected in during week commencing 14 November. Councillor volunteers were needed to assist with this.

A pre-poppy appeal letter from the Mayor was to be submitted to the press prior to the launch of the 2016 Appeal.

**Resolved** – (a) That the information be noted; and  
(b) That Councillors Mrs Moorhouse, Peat and Sutherland assist with the 2016 Poppy Appeal.

### **38. MAYORAL EVENTS**

The Town Mayor hosted an inter-mayoral mini golf and darts knock-out tournament in aid of the Mayor's Charity on 14 September 2016. The event was well attended with representatives from six authorities from across County Durham. Monies raised had been passed to the Mid-Teesdale Project Partnership (Mayor's Charity Fund).

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

### **39. MAYORAL CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION**

Pursuant to Minute 53(b)/Feb/16 – Following discussions with the Town Mayor, preparations were underway to run a 2016 Mayoral Card Competition along the same lines as 2015. The Competition would be open to all primary school age children regardless of school. The Teesdale Mercury had once again kindly agreed to support the Competition and would be used as the medium for selecting winners from a printed shortlist put out to public vote.

Members noted that there was not a specific budget allocation for the Mayoral Christmas cards. In previous years, they were produced in-house at minimal cost from office equipment (general photocopying) and stationery budget.

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

### **40. REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY & ARMISTICE DAY**

Preparations for Remembrance Sunday on 13 November were in hand; estimates had been sought for the road closure signage; and a meeting had been arranged with Reverend Canon Alec Harding of St Mary's Parish Church.

The Bowes Museum was working with 16 local schools on a project focussing on this year's Armistice Day commemorations in which they would be making wreaths. Representatives from the schools would join the marching parade on Sunday 13 November and take part in the wreath laying ceremony.

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 confirmed that there would be a 2 minute silence at 11am on Friday 11 November, in the Remembrance Garden on Galgate Greens.

**Resolved** – (a) That the information be noted; and  
(b) That Councillors Mrs Moorhouse, Peat and Sutherland attend on 13 November and other members confirm attendance.

### **41. 2016/17 COMMUNITY EVENTS**

#### **(i) Christmas Lights Switch-On – Friday 2 December**

It was reported that preparations were underway, with the Methodist Church booked for Santa's grotto and activities and refreshments in the Church Hall etc. The switching-on of the town's Christmas tree lights was scheduled for 6.30pm. Due to the absence of the Honorary Town Crier, Mr Ian Kirkbride, he had suggested that a willing volunteer, Mr Mark Wilkes, temporarily assumed the role of Town Crier for this event. If approved, the hire cost for the outfit (including carriage) was approximately £94.

There was currently an underspend of £1,744 on the 2016/17 Events Budget. Members considered enhancing the town council's annual Christmas Event with additional festive entertainment prior to the tree lights switch-on, such as a snow globe, skating rink, street entertainment and festive fayre etc.

Members were informed that the Mayor's Charity and Dickens in Teesdale wanted to contribute towards the event.

**Resolved** – (a) That the information be noted;  
(b) That approval be given in principle to extend the activities on offer for children on Friday 2 December utilizing a snow globe, skating rink or similar display, with delegated authority given to the Clerk, in consultation with the Chair and vice-Chair of Partnership, to purchase a suitable attraction within a maximum of £1,500; and  
(c) That approval be given to Mr Mark Wilkes to assume the role of Town Crier for the Christmas event on 2 December, with costume hire costs approved of up to £100 from the 2016/17 Events budget.

#### **(ii) Barnard Castle Walkers are Welcome (BCWAW)**

Pursuant to Council on 19 September (Minute 55(8)(d)/Sept/16 refers), it was resolved that the request for up to £300 initial funding be considered by Partnership Committee as part of the 2016/17 Events Budget. Additional information was provided via email from Councillor Mrs Thompson that the BCWAW constitution had been approved and signed by all members at a meeting on 8 September. It was clarified that costs for funding included £50 towards a launch event in early 2017 (date not yet confirmed).

**Resolved** – (a) That the information be noted; and  
(b) That more information, including a signed copy of the BCWAW constitution and breakdown of event launch costs be presented for consideration at a future Partnership Committee meeting.

#### **42. 1940s EVENT – 23 TO 25 JUNE 2017**

(i) 1940s Event Task & Finish Group – 6 September – draft notes

**Resolved** – That the draft notes and information be received.

#### **43. THE BOWES MUSEUM UPDATE**

There was no representative present at the meeting. However, an email had been sent from Ms Whittaker informing members of a forthcoming exhibition by artist Mark Clarke, '*Shelf Life: the ornaments are talking to me*', created in response to his mother's experience of dementia and the contents of her house after her death. It was also reported that The Bowes Museum would be holding their Christmas Market on 17 and 18 December.

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

#### **44. BUSINESS GUILD UPDATE**

There was little to report as there had been no meeting. There was reportedly a new guild map. Concern was expressed that the Business Guild appeared to be inactive.

**Resolved** – (a) That the information be noted and;  
(b) That a letter be sent to the Secretary of the Business Guild to clarify its current position in representing the town's business community.

#### **45. BARNARD CASTLE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS (BCCL) UPDATE**

An update was submitted from Sue Smith, Secretary, BCCL as follows:

##### **Fundraising**

The Summer ball at the Hub raised £1,800.00. The next fundraising event was a Curry Night at Spice Island in October followed by a Race Night at The Cricket Club on 19 November.

##### **Galgate Greens**

Power was now in a cabinet on the first green, with power to the first green and a cable to the second green ready to be connected. A meeting was held on 27 September attended by the Chair of the Town Council's Partnership Committee to discuss lights and decorations on Galgate Greens. There was to be a memorial tree in the Remembrance Garden, on which memorial cards could be placed. These would be available at the town council office and Andalucia on Galgate, for a donation. The Meet would provide barriers for the tree. These trees would be lit earlier in order to acknowledge support.

One tree would be wrapped with lights and there would be lit globes in two further trees.

##### **Icicles**

There had been a very positive response so far from businesses and residences on The Bank regarding festoon lights.

Thirty-five sets of icicle lights had been delivered to be erected on both sides of Galgate as far as 149 Fish & Chips and McGarry Solicitors. There was only one more property remaining in Galgate to grant permission for icicles. McGarry solicitors said power could be obtained from them for the icicle lights.

In addition, it was confirmed that last year's lighting display would be installed again, comprising: lit Market Cross windows; lit Christmas tree creation on top of Market Place toilets; 65 lit Christmas trees above shops and businesses and lit tree outside Co-op garage.

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

#### **46. CHRISTMAS LIGHTING**

Pursuant to Minute 33/July/16, nine lampposts along Newgate had now been windage tested for loading of 1x festive motif, valid until 26 January 2019.

The five existing swan motifs had now been refurbished with LED rope lights.

All businesses had now given permission for the additional 11 sets of icicle lights to be installed along right side of Galgate from MacFarlane's to 54 Degrees North (inclusive) and remainder of Horse Market and start of The Bank from Penny's Tea Rooms to Shirl's Shakes (inclusive). The installation of infrastructure, if required, would be carried out by Christmas Plus shortly.

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

#### **47. 2017/18 CHRISTMAS LIGHTING BUDGETARY BID**

Received – a report considering a budgetary bid for the Christmas Lighting Display 2017/18 for inclusion in the overall Town Council budget for 2017/18. Members were reminded that this would be the final year of the three-year Christmas lighting contract awarded to Christmas Plus and that the Council would need to resolve henceforth how to deliver Christmas Lighting displays.

Members recalled that there was still £222 remaining in the Christmas Display Support Fund. Members discussed whether the curtain lights, previously used round the Market Cross, could be used as festive lighting to Woodleigh.

**Resolved** – (a) That the 2017/18 Christmas lighting budget be £6,500 (no change); (b) That the matter of delivering Christmas lighting displays from 2018 onwards be deferred to a meeting of Partnership Committee in 2017/18 municipal year; and (c) That PAT testing of curtain lights and additional fixings needed to secure lights to Woodleigh, be funded out of the Christmas Display Support Fund earmarked reserves.

#### **48. 2017/18 EVENTS BUDGETARY BID**

Received – a report providing a review of the events programme to date and considering a budgetary bid for Community Events 2017/18 for inclusion in the overall Town Council's 2017/18 budget.

Members were reminded that there was currently nil budgetary allocation for financial donations.

It was reported that there was currently a projected underspend of approximately £1,744 on the 2016//17 Events budget.

Members recalled that the Council had already committed to support a second 1940s weekend between 23 to 25 June and Aviation Day on 23 June 2017, with a budgetary allocation of £2,000 and £200 respectively (Council Minute 54(1)(i)/Sept/16 refers).

This Committee had also resolved that further discussions be held with Durham County Council with a view to Town Council support for Brass 2017 (Minute 12(b)/May/16).

It was acknowledged that the format of one major summer and one major winter event throughout the year worked effectively. It was suggested that the remainder of the budget could best be spent supporting other community events benefitting the town. Councillor Sutherland suggested funding more events for younger people.

**Resolved** – That the community events budget for 2017/18 be £7,000 (no change)

#### **49. DEMENTIA FRIENDLY TOWN**

It was reported that pursuant to Minute 15/May/16, a meeting to progress forming a community group, with support and advice from the Alzheimer's Society was arranged for 14 October. A Dementia Café was also being launched by the Alzheimer's Society at no. 8 The Bank on Friday 7 October.

Councillor Blissett had proposed a sum of £500 for potential inclusion in the 2017/18 budget to progress Barnard Castle becoming a Dementia Friendly Town. Although community led, it was proposed that the Town Council supports the initiative, occasionally organising events etc.

**Resolved** – (a) That the information be noted; and  
(b) That further information on the proposed project bid of £500 in 2017/18 for Dementia Friendly Town be submitted to Resources Committee for consideration on 31 October.

## **50. ROTARY CLUB – PRESENTATION**

Michael Hanby presented information about Rotary Club activities.

Barnard Castle Rotary Club was very much part of the community in Teesdale, and supported numerous projects and organisations in the area.

The Rotary Club wanted to reach out to more people in the community to let them know what Rotary was able to do and to attract people to volunteer and/or join. Rotary club would use promotional material e.g. suitable signs with the Rotary Logo and meeting details etc. posters, information sheets about events/projects, banners etc. and wanted to identify suitable sites and obtain permission for this.

The Rotary Club welcomed a reference and link on the Council website and would add a reciprocal link. The Club Website was [www.barnardcastlerotary.org.uk](http://www.barnardcastlerotary.org.uk)

The National Young Musician Competition was a well-established and successful competition promoted by Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland. Barnard Castle Rotary Club was planning to again hold the competition in January 2017.

The competition was open to all levels, grades and styles of young instrumentalists and vocalists and aimed to offer young people:

- the experience of performing on a public stage
- an opportunity to showcase their musical talent
- impartial feedback and assessment of their performance by experienced adjudicators.

The Rotary Club hoped that there would be approximately 20 young people taking part in three age groups up to 18 years.

**Resolved** – (a) That the information be noted; and  
(b) That events organised by the Rotary Club of Barnard Castle be promoted and supported via a link on the town council's website, wayfinding units etc.