

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL
PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE**

3 DECEMBER 2018

PRESENT: Councillors Sutherland (in the Chair), Miss Blissett, Chatterjee (from item. 42.), Child, Kirkbride, Mrs Moorhouse, Peat, Raw; Shelagh Avery (The Witham) and Ms Jane Whittaker (The Bowes Museum);

Also in attendance: Cllr Blissett; Matthew Read (The Bowes Museum); and one member of the press.

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

38. ACCEPTANCE, OR OTHERWISE, OF APOLOGIES

None

39. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with this Council's adopted Constitution (Members' Code of Conduct) (Minute 10/May/18 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.

40. PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING – 8 OCTOBER 2018 – MINUTES

An amendment was made to Minute 34(i) removing the reference to wreaths being laid 'at the foot of the flagpole' on Merchant Navy Day.

Resolved – That the Minutes, as amended, be approved as a correct record.

41. THE BOWES MUSEUM UPDATE

There was an overwhelming turnout to the opening of the The First World War exhibition on 20 October. The town council was thanked for its support.

On Remembrance Sunday, 11 November, 'Battle's Over' vignettes performed by members of the Castle Players were well received.

Young parents' workshops, for which TAP funding had been received, proved not as popular as expected. The remainder of the funding will be used in conjunction with YMCA to employ a graffiti artist to build rapport with young people and link into the Young Voices group.

The Christmas Fair was scheduled to take place on 14 to 16 December.

The Bowes Centre for Contemporary Craft opened its first exhibition on 8 November '#Untitled 10 – An Exhibition of Ideas', with the aim of bringing the wider community into the museum.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

42. THE WITHAM

The town council was thanked for its support on 11 November, Remembrance Sunday. Over sixty people attended a community lunch. There was a misunderstanding surrounding the logistics of the 'Battle's Over' monologues, however, this was overcome by spontaneous performances from Laura Shaw, Cllr Mrs Moorhouse and Sandra Spears. Approximately ninety people attended the Requiem on the evening.

Fundraising was ongoing. Interviews for the Interim Centre Manager were being held on 11 December. New trustees were joining the board, which would meet on 7 January. The Spring Programme would be launched on 11 December.

Links were being made with Teesdale School and Barnard Castle School and a stronger collaboration with The Bowes Museum.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

43. POPPY APPEAL

The 2017 Appeal closed at the end of September, and locally our area raised a grand total of £17,326.23, significantly more than in previous years.

The 2018 Appeal launched on 27 October and during the two week period of Remembrancetide, a total of £12,364.08 was raised. This figure accounted for collections from the street, Morrisons, Wednesday Market stall, house to house collections and donations received from various local businesses, organisations and schools. Despite late deliveries of the centenary poppies and the lack of collection volunteers, this was a significant total. Core volunteers had ensured that the Morrison's poppy table was manned every day except for one.

The 2018 Appeal did not close until September next year so there was still plenty of opportunity to increase the total. The total would be boosted by generous donations from the church, wreaths, and once again the Town Council's 1940's event in June 2019 would be hosting some fundraising activities with proceeds going to the Appeal.

This year, a huge team of local knitters, inspired by Pauline Harrison contributed to the magnificent poppy curtain displayed on the outside of Woodleigh. Alongside the Tree of Peace, installed by Barnard Castle Christmas Lights, this established a poignant backdrop to the Appeal and a focus for Remembrancetide leading up to Remembrance Sunday.

The continued support of volunteers was vital to the success of the Appeal.

The management and staff of Morrisons allowed us to collect in store for the full two-week period and looked after our volunteers. Staff and management of Barclays Bank continued with their patience and help.

On 23 November, a Charity Night in aid of the Royal British Legion held by Gainford Drama Club's amateur production of 'The Accrington Pals' raised £575 in ticket sales plus a collection.

- Resolved** – (a) That the information be noted;
- (b) That thanks be given to all the Poppy Appeal volunteers: Cllrs Mrs Moorhouse, Blissett, Harrison, Miss Blissett, Chatterjee, Peat, Kirkbride, Child and Raw; Allan Jones, Anne Richardson, Barbara Wilson, Catrina Knox, Chrissie Barnett, Cyril Humphrey, David Peat, Dorothy Wilson, Flora Wright, HMYOI Deerbolt, Iris Hillery, Jane Hackworth-Young, Janet Sweeting, June Moore, Louise Poole, Nigel Farren, Pauline Harrison, Peter Holmes, Peter Worley, Poppy Knitters, Sam Henderson, Sharon Parsons-Munn, Susan Kitching, Tom Deacon & Bella, Will Wearmouth and Rowan Jefferies; Morrisons and Barclays Bank;
- (c) That collection volunteers be sought for 2019 Poppy Appeal;
- (d) That thanks be given to staff; and
- (e) That discussions be held with The Witham to support with recruitment for volunteers.

44. MAYORAL EVENTS

(i) Fashion Through the Ages – 28 October 2018

The Town Mayor, along with young people from Rotary Interact Club, held a charity afternoon at Barnard Castle School on 28 October.

A traditional afternoon tea was served prior to the young people showcasing fashion and events in Barnard Castle "Through the Ages." A total of £1,658 was raised for Barnardo's and other local charities. Approximately seventeen town councils and local authorities were represented. Requests had been received to repeat the event.

- Resolved** – (a) That the information be noted; and
- (b) That another charity fashion event be considered.

45. 2018/19 COMMUNITY EVENTS PROGRAMME

(i) Juggling Conference – 19 to 21 October 2018

Pursuant to Special Council on 16 July, the town council supported a juggling workshop for young people on 10 October and a free public performance by a five ring circus on Woodleigh performance area on 20 October. The latter was well attended and much appreciated. The performers were keen to return and members were asked to consider including this as an annual event.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

(ii) Remembrance Sunday & Battle's Over: A Nation's Tribute – 11 November 2018

Remembrance Sunday and centenary of the declaration of the Armistice, took place on 11 November. The event was well supported by all sectors of the community. In particular, an unprecedented number of people attended the service at St. Mary's Parish Church and at the Town Memorial in the grounds of The Bowes Museum, both led by Rev. Canon Alec Harding.

The Parade along Newgate was preceded by the Parade Marshall Rowan Jeffries, with the police implementing the temporary road closures and Barnard Castle Band providing a marching band. Parade members included cadets from Barnard Castle School's Combined Cadet force.

Following the wreath laying and sounding of the Last Post and Reveille by Andrew Nicholson, free refreshments were provided at The Masonic Hall and Barnard Castle School, with the opportunity to view a WW1 exhibition at the latter. The Witham opened its doors and offered a subsidised community lunch. Bespoke 'Battle's Over' monologues, written by Sandra Spears and Judi Sutherland, were performed at The Witham and by Castle Players at The Bowes Museum.

On the evening, a Battle's Over Commemorative Choir Concert, organised by Cllr Judi Sutherland, took place in the Methodist Church. Several choirs performed songs commemorating the early part of the 20th Century and in celebration of peace, interspersed with vignettes marking the experiences of Teesdale people during the First World War. At the conclusion of the concert, people gathered on Scar Top, where moving images were projected onto the Castle walls accompanied by poignant music. Once again, Andrew Nicholson played the Last Post and Reveille, which signalled the lighting of a beacon by English Heritage outside the Castle gates and a 'Cry for Peace' by the Town Crier. The evening culminated in the bells of St. Mary's Parish Church ringing out for peace. The Witham later staged a Requiem concert with performers from Barnard Castle School.

Resolved – (a) That the information be noted;

(b) That thanks be extended to the Deputy Lieutenant Bernard Robinson, Rev Canon Alec Harding and the Church Wardens of St Mary's Church, Rev John Moore, Rev Darren Moore and the Combined Cadet Force, students and staff of Barnard Castle School, Andrew Nicholson and members of Barnard Castle Band, Nigel Farren, Libby Forsyth from the Guides Association and Rainbows. The Bowes Museum, The Witham, The Masonic Hall, the Parade Marshall Rowan Jefferies, Ian Kirkbride, Judi Sutherland, Sandra Spears and the Castle Players; and

(c) That thanks be given to staff.

(iii) Christmas Lights Switch-on Event – 30 November 2018

The town council's annual Christmas event was supported in kind or with donations/ sponsorship from Teesdale & District Lions Club; Chocolate Fayre; Dickens in Teesdale; William Smith; Boyes; W.S. Hodgson & Co. Ltd, YMCA; GlaxoSmithKline; S&A Builders Merchants; Simon Pell and The Witham.

There were festive stalls and seasonal treats around Woodleigh, with Aladdin themed crafts and colouring in Dawson Room, Woodleigh. A giant Christmas character photo-board and Aladdin's 'Cave' attracted attention and there were additional photo opportunities with Santa's sleigh and winter wonderland in Woodleigh Grounds.

Barnard Castle Band played Christmas carols prior to announcement of the winner of the Pantomime themed window dressing competition, won by YMCA with Costa Coffee as runner up.

A short Aladdin Pantomime heralded the arrival of Santa from behind a giant Aladdin's lamp. Crowds then accompanied Santa to the tree in front of the post office for the countdown and Christmas tree lights switch-on. The event ended with Santa in his grotto, visited by approximately 150 children, face painting, craft activities led by YMCA and refreshments in Methodist Church Hall.

- Resolved** – (a) That the information be noted;
(b) That thanks be given to all participants and staff;
(c) That a follow up meeting be held to review the event and plan for Christmas 2019.

46. CHRISTMAS LIGHTING 2018/19 (BARNARD CASTLE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS)

A very successful first Bonfire Night was held on 3 November in association with the Clique. It was estimated that 1,500 people attended. It was hoped that this would become an annual event. The next fund raising event was a Wine Tasting Evening on 20 February 2019 at the Cricket Club.

This was the first year that BCCL had been responsible for erecting all of the town's Christmas Lights. Everything had gone to schedule thanks to Martin Bacon and his team. A review meeting would be held in January with the town council.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

47. BUDGETARY BIDS

(i) Community Events

Submitted – a report providing a review of the events programme to date and considering a budgetary bid for 2019/20 Community Events for inclusion in the overall Town Council's 2019/20 budget.

Members were reminded that the 2018/19 budget had been decreased to £7,000. The town council had already resolved to support the 1940s weekend in 2019 (21 to 23 June). There was currently nil budgetary allocation for financial donations. In resolving the 2018/19 budget, Council had combined figures for Remembrance Sunday, Aviation Day and Merchant Navy Day to provide flexibility. The Christmas Tree Festival hosted by St. Mary's Parish Church would take place in 2019 from 4 to 8 December.

Resources Committee had set a baseline of 2% for non-pay inflation in building the 2019/20 budget. (Resources Minute 19(d)/Sep/18 refers).

It was proposed that event management fees and charges remain unchanged, relating to administration of Scar Top Banner Frame bookings and hire agreements for Woodleigh Performance Area and the Demesnes, once leased from Durham County Council.

- Resolved** – (a) That the Community Events Budget for 2019/20 be £7,140 (increase of £140); and
(b) That the fee to commercial organisations to licence use of the performance area, or any other area under the town council's control, and to book the Scar Top banner frame should be £50.

(ii) Christmas Lighting

Councillor Peat and Raw both declared an interest and took no part in voting. In November 2017, Council resolved a three year Service Level Agreement and Indemnity Agreement between the town council and Barnard Castle Christmas Lights (BCCL) for the provision of Christmas Lights, from the 2018/19 season (Minute 87/Nov/17 refers). It was implicit that this would be the Council's Christmas Lighting budget for the duration of the SLA with Barnard Castle Christmas Lights.

Resolved – That the Christmas Lighting budget be set at £6,500 for 2019/20 (no change) and recommended as such to Full Council on 21 January 2019.