

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL
PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE**

2 DECEMBER 2019

PRESENT: Councillor Kirkbride (in the Chair); Councillors Miss Blissett, Chatterjee, Child, Mrs Moorhouse and Sutherland; J Whittaker (Bowes), S Avery (Witham) and R Twedde (TCR HUB)

Also in attendance: Councillor Blissett (Town Mayor), P Crichton (BCCL), two members of the public and one member of the press.

Officers: Mr King (Town Clerk).

38. ACCEPTANCE, OR OTHERWISE, OF APOLOGIES

Apologies were offered by Cllr Finlay.

Resolved – That the apologies be accepted.

39. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with this Council's adopted Code of Conduct (Minute 10/May/19 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. There were no declarations of interest at this juncture.

40. PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING – 7 OCTOBER 2019 – MINUTES

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

41. THE BOWES MUSEUM UPDATE

It was reported that the Norman Cornish exhibition was proving very popular. Plans were in place for the annual Christmas Market, which would be indoors, and the presence of Santa. Concern had been raised by a resident in regard the museum's procedure for securing the vehicular gates from 5pm and the inconvenience to which this would put members of the bowls and tennis clubs. There was also concern expressed about members of the public with limited mobility, who may be prevented from accessing the parkland on lighter, summer evenings. Mrs Whittaker indicated that the museum had made access arrangements with the sports clubs and would be keeping the issue under review. A letter was to be sent to the resident who had raised the original issue.

Resolved – (a) That the information be noted; and
(b) The Town Council shares some of the concerns expressed by residents and hopes that amicable compromise can be found, with a review of winter and summer arrangements and that the Town Council asks the Bowes to consider access for those with a disability.

42. THE WITHAM UPDATE

A verbal update was given at the meeting. The focus for the venue was "Something for Everyone". The future programme was promoting variety to maximise use of the Witham and revenue through ticket sales. The external building works had been completed. Interior works would be complete by Summer 2020.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

43. THE TCR HUB UPDATE

A verbal update was given at the meeting. The Octoberfest had proved popular and plans were in hand to repeat this event in 2020. The 'Speak Out' project was continuing with more specific topic-based meetings with young people.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

44. CHRISTMAS LIGHTING 2019/20

A revised SLA between the Town Council and the Barnard Castle Christmas Lights community group had been prepared. The proposed terms were explained. The lighting display was in place.

Resolved – (a) That the information be noted; and
(b) That the terms of the SLA be approved.

45. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON EVENT – 29 NOVEMBER 2019

The event was supported in kind or with donations or sponsorship by Teesdale & District Lions Club; Chocolate Fayre; The Clique, William Smith; Boyes; YMCA; S&A Builders Merchants; Morrisons, Spec Savers, Barclays and Lord Barnard. Making Barney Brighter Together had put additional activities together across the weekend, including the lantern parade forming the highlight of the switch-on.

An evaluation meeting, involving key partners would be held.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

46. POPPY APPEAL/REMEMBRANCE EVENTS

Remembrance Sunday was held on 10 November 2019. Armistice Day was commemorated with the lowering of the Union Flag at the Galgate Green Memorial Garden at 11am. A summary of activity across the fortnight leading up to Remembrance Sunday, including activity associated with the Poppy Appeal, would be brought to the next meeting.

Resolved – That the information be noted

47. 1940S EVENT – 19 TO 21 JUNE 2020

A meeting of the project group was held on 30 October to proceed with planning for the 2020 weekend. The next meeting was to take place on 10 December. It was noted that there were national proposals related to the 75th Anniversary of VE Day (8 May 2020). It was further noted that the anniversary of VJ Day would fall in August. It was considered appropriate that as the 1940s Weekend fell between these dates, it was the most appropriate opportunity for the Town Council to commemorate these events.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

48. BUDGETARY BIDS 2020/21

Bids against the following responsibilities were considered for recommendation to the Council meeting on 20 January 2020:

(i) Community Events

Resolved – That the Community Events budget is set at £7,280 (an increase of £140) for 2020/21 and recommended as such to Full Council on 20 January 2020.

(ii) Christmas Lighting

It was considered that the Town Council's core commitment to Christmas Lighting should remain the agreed budget of £6,500. It was suggested that it may be possible to install remote control of the town's lighting display prior to the 2020/21 season, utilising growth in the budget of £500. It was noted that the Christmas Lighting budget had remained static for seven years.

Resolved – That the Christmas Lighting budget is set at £7,000 (an increase of £500) for 2020/21 and recommended as such to Full Council on 20 January 2020

