

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL
PLANNING COMMITTEE**

19 AUGUST 2013

PRESENT:- Councillor Harrison (Town Mayor) (in the Chair); Councillors Blissett, Kinch and Watson.

Officer:- Mr King (Clerk).

29. ACCEPTANCE, OR OTHERWISE, OF APOLOGIES – None.

30. 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. There were no declarations of interest at this juncture.

31. MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING – 22 JULY 2013

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

32. PLANNING APPLICATION

The following planning application was submitted for consideration:-

(i) **5 Marshall Street** – Ground floor extension.

Resolved – That conditional approval be recommended.

33. PLANNING APPLICATION DECISION NOTICES

1) It was reported that, pursuant to Minute 22(i)/Jul/13, the following planning application recommended for refusal by this Council had subsequently been approved by Durham County Council:-

20 Bridgegate - Conversion of single dwelling into 2 No. flats.

The reasons for approval were outlined.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

2) It was reported that, pursuant to Minute 22(iii)/Jul/13, the following planning application recommended for refusal by this Council had subsequently been approved by Durham County Council:-

The Witham – Advertisement consent for the installation of external signage.

The reasons for approval were outlined.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

34. DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL – STREET LIGHTING POLICY CONSULTATION

Submitted – A report outlining Durham County Council's proposed changes to its Street Lighting Policy to enable a street lighting energy reduction project to reduce carbon emissions and to generate savings, including details of how the savings would be achieved. It was noted that the deadline for comments was 26 September 2013. (Cllr

Kinch indicated a non-prejudicial interest, in that he had already contributed to a review of this policy through the Durham County Council overview and scrutiny process.)

Resolved – That the Clerk respond to the online questionnaire, submitting the Committee's view:

- a) that it strongly agrees with the proposal to dim streetlights;
- b) that it strongly agrees with the proposal and process of removing (unnecessary) streetlights, subject to an appropriate consultation mechanism for local councils regarding specific removals;
- c) that it strongly agrees with the proposal to replace lit road signs with reflective signs, subject to a suitable programme of cleaning and maintenance being in place; and
- d) (as additional comments) that the needs of emergency services should be paramount, including provision to override dimming, where necessary, that sufficient light should be available for the effective working of traffic-monitoring and crime-prevention CCTV cameras, that monitoring of the effectiveness and proper operation of dimming should be in place and that the positioning of Christmas lighting should be accounted for, including discussion with local councils regarding the use of coloured LEDs to augment decorative lighting, where appropriate. (*On line response made on 20 August 2103*)