

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL
RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

16 JUNE 2014

PRESENT:- Councillor Cooke (in the Chair); Councillors Blissett, Kinch, Mrs Moorhouse and Robinson.

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

3. ACCEPTANCE, OR OTHERWISE, OF APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Deacon and Harrison.

Resolved – That Councillors Deacon and Harrison's apologies be accepted.

4. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR FOR MUNICIPAL YEAR 2014/15

Councillor Mrs Moorhouse was proposed and seconded. There were no other nominations.

Resolved – That Councillor Mrs Moorhouse be appointed Vice-Chair of this Committee for the Municipal Year 2014/15.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with this Council's adopted Code of Conduct (Minute 72(a)/Sep/12 refers), Members were asked whether they have 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.

6. DATES AND TIMES OF RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Submitted - A schedule of the dates and times of committee meetings during the Municipal Year 2014/15, as determined at Council Minute 107(3(e))/Mar/14.

Resolved – That the information be received.

7. RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING – 10 MARCH 2014 – MINUTES

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

8. SPECIAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING – 2 JUNE 2014– MINUTES

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

9. BUDGET MONITORING REPORTS

Submitted – A report and associated appendices relating to payments and receipts for the periods 4 to 31 March 2014 (2013/14) and 1 April to 9 June 2014 (2014/15); income & expenditure relating to the month end of March 2014 (Month 12 - 2013/14) and May 2014 (Month 2 - 2014/15) and income and expenditure by cost centre.

Resolved – That the information be received and noted.

10. DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL PENSION FUND – STATEMENT OF EMPLOYER DISCRETIONS

Submitted – A report setting out a series of discretions, which must be considered by the council as a defined employer under the Local Government Pension Scheme operated by Durham County Council. The pension fund manager had suggested a form of words for a flexible and responsive policy, which the town council could adopt to meet its regulatory requirements. It was noted that the county council required a statement of this council's policy with respect to these discretions by 30 June 2014.

Resolved – That the town council adopts a policy with respect to these discretions that it “will only consider exercising the discretions in ‘exceptional circumstances’ and ‘where it is in the financial interests of’ Barnard Castle Town Council to do so.”

11. INTERNAL AUDIT – AUDIT PLAN 2014/15

Submitted – Pursuant to the submission of this Council's Internal Auditor's Annual Report for 2013/14 (Council Minute 34/June/14 refers), an Annual Audit Plan for Internal Audit 2014/15 outlining the scope of the work to be undertaken at the half-year and end-of-year stages.

Resolved - That the Annual Audit Plan for 2013/14 be approved.

12. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC (IN RESPECT OF MINUTE 13 BELOW)

Resolved – That, under the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 §1(2), the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the matter referred to at Minute 13 below, due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted: in that it involves consideration of an individual, consistent with the council's procedure for considering Honorary Freeman nominations.

13. HONORARY FREEMAN SCHEME – NOMINATION

Submitted – A report outlining details of a nomination to the town council's Honorary Freeman Scheme. Members were reminded that the role of this committee was to consider the nomination against the council's criteria and to make an appropriate recommendation to full council.

Resolved – That, while the merits of the nomination are recognised, the nomination is not considered appropriate for inclusion in the town council's Honorary Freeman Scheme at this time.

NOTE – Cllr Cooke declared a personal interest in Minute 13 and left the meeting prior to the voting on the decision of the item.