

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL
RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

12 JANUARY 2015

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs Moorhouse (in the Chair); Councillors Blissett, Deacon (from item 40), Harrison, Kinch and Robinson (from item 41).

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

In attendance: Two members of the press.

36. ACCEPTANCE, OR OTHERWISE, OF APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Cooke.

Resolved – That Councillors Cooke's apologies be accepted.

37. 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.

38. RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING – 3 NOVEMBER 2014 – MINUTES

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

39. BUDGET MONITORING REPORTS

Submitted – A report and associated appendices relating to payments and receipts for the period 28 October to 29 December 2014, income & expenditure relating to the month end of November 2014 (Month 8), and income and expenditure by cost centre.

Resolved – That the information is received and noted.

40. INTERNAL AUDIT 2014/15 – HALF YEAR INTERNAL CONTROL REPORTS

Submitted – A report and associated appendices detailing the half-year internal control checks on Creditors and Mini Golf (collection of income and banking) carried out during 2014/15 by the Town Council's Internal Auditor (Mr Gordon Fletcher). Full assurance was awarded to both services with no issues.

Resolved – That the information is received and noted.

41. BUDGET 2015/16 – FINAL CONSIDERATION

Submitted – Pursuant to Minutes 8/Sep/14 and 3/Nov/14, a report incorporating prospective final details in respect of the 2015/16 budget, with a view to final consideration being submitted to the budgetary Council meeting scheduled for 19 January 2015. To help Members in their deliberations, details were supplied of the 2015/16 recommendations and the comparison between 2014/15 and 2015/16, with financial details in the Appendix.

Members were reminded of the overall parameters which had to continue to be applied to the budgetary exercise, including the effects of the Local Council Tax Reduction

Scheme Grant (LCTRSG) to the budget. A choice of strategies were outlined. It was noted that Durham County Council's deadline date for Precept notification was 30 January 2015.

Resolved – (A) That the following recommendations be submitted to the Council meeting scheduled for 19 January 2015:

(a) That the following revised expenditure items for 2015/16 be approved:-

- (i) **Co Durham Association (Expenditure Item 6)** £656 (decrease of £40 due to a fall in the number of registered electors, based on information received to date.)
- (ii) **Market Place Toilets (Expenditure Item 42)** £4,661 (decrease of £1,110)
- (iii) **Salaries and Wages (Expenditure Items 10-13)** £81,289 (increase of £960)
- (iv) **Local Government Pension (Expenditure Item 14)** £15,202 (increase of £180)
- (v) **Employer on-costs (Expenditure Item 15)** £6,970 (increase of £132)
- (vi) **Floral and Open Spaces (Expenditure Item 37)** That regular strimming along the permissive footpath in Flatts Woods from Raby Avenue to the rear of Dene Road is paid for out of the Floral and Open Spaces budget.

(b) That the indicated rentals and charges be agreed:-

- (i) Play Areas
 - (a) Ten Fields £100 for 2015/16 (no change) and £100 in years 2016/17 to 2018/19 inclusive (no change)
 - (b) Gate Licence Fees – that the Gate Licence fee per property remain unchanged at £1.00 – total £17.00 for 2015/16 (increase of £3.00)
- (ii) Allotments – (per plot)
 - (a) 2015/16 (already determined) £42 (increase of £2.00)
 - (b) 2016/17 - £45 (increase of £3.00)
- (iii) Mini Golf – 2015 season
 - £2.00 per round for all users (no change)
 - £0.50 lost ball (no change)
 - £5.00 damaged club (no change)
 - £6.00 group ticket (up to 4 players – saving £2.00) (no change); and
 - £10.00 loyalty ticket (7 rounds bought in advance) no change

(B) To calculate the budget on 2% growth in precept, requiring reductions in expenditure or increases on other income totalling £10,000.

(a) That the following, previously proposed, new budgetary items be removed from the draft 2015/16 budget:-

- (i) **Emergency Fund (saving £1,000)**
- (ii) **Defibrillator (saving £1,500)**

(b) That the following expenditure items be reduced in 2015/16 budget:

- (i) **Mini Golf** (Expenditure Item 30) - £9,000 expenditure - £10,000 income (**net income £1,000**) and £1,000 (net income £1,000).
- (ii) **Christmas Lights** (Expenditure Item 31) - £6,500 (**decrease of £3,500** in 2015/16 budget, no change from 2014/15 budget)
- (iii) **Community Events** (Expenditure Item 41) - £13,000 (**decrease of £1,000**)

- (iv) **Neighbourhood Plan** (Expenditure Item 44) - £2,000 to be transferred from (Earmarked Reserve) to support the general fund and balance the budget.

(C) That funding from the health sector and other grant bodies be explored to fund a defibrillator, working in partnership with the community.

(D) That alternative ways to fund/provide Christmas lighting displays is on agenda to discuss at next Partnership Committee meeting on 9 February 2015.

(E) That all possible grant funding sources be pursued for the creation of Neighbourhood Plan, noting the Government's intention to reduce the time.

(F) That the revised 2015/16 budget, be submitted for consideration by the full Council at its meeting scheduled for 19 January 2015.

42. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

Submitted – a report setting out the town council's draft MTFP for 2015/18, with assumptions, projections of income and expenditure.

Resolved – (a) that the report be received and noted and;
(b) that the draft MTFP is referred to full Council for consideration at meeting on 19 January 2015.

43. WOODLEIGH – PROPOSED WORKING GROUP

Submitted – a report setting out arrangements to establish a working group to oversee finalisation of the lease arrangements with Durham County Council; to co-ordinate work with the town council's partners; and to engage with the community on the decoration and set up.

Resolved – (a) That approval be given to formally working with Dickens in Teesdale to design and procure an internal display for Woodleigh.
(b) That a sub-committee be established called 'Woodleigh Working Group', with delegated authority to approve expenditure not exceeding £2000 in total, to advise the Town Clerk and approve actions in response to developments in discussions with DCC and the town council's partners.
(c) That members of the Working Group include Councillors Blissett, Deacon and Councillor Mrs Moorhouse.

44. AVIATION MEMORIAL – SUBMITTING A PLANNING APPLICATION

Submitted – a report seeking approval to submit planning applications to enable reciting of the Aviation Memorial from HMYOI Deerbolt to Galgate Green Memorial Garden.

Resolved – (a) That the Clerk be given delegated authority to prepare and submit planning applications for the relocation of the Aviation Memorial to the Galgate Greens, in consultation with Councillors Blissett and Yarker.
(b) That Councillor Peat is consulted as Chair of Services Committee.
(c) That the relocation of the memorial is publicised, particularly to those neighbouring the Galgate Greens.