

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL
SERVICES COMMITTEE****9 SEPTEMBER 2013**

PRESENT:- Councillor Peat (in the Chair); Councillors Deacon, Mrs Grady, Harrison, Hinchcliffe (Minutes 16 to 26 inclusive) and Yarker.

Also in attendance:- Councillors Cooke and Robinson.

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

16. ACCEPTANCE, OR OTHERWISE, OF APOLOGIES:- None.

17. 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.

18. FLORAL AND OPEN SPACES WORKING GROUP MEETING – 27 MARCH 2013 – NOTES

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

19. DOG FOULING WORKING GROUP MEETING – 29 APRIL 2013 – NOTES

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

20. ALLOTMENTS AND PLAY AREAS WORKING GROUP MEETING – 29 APRIL 2013 – NOTES

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

21. SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING – 10 JUNE 2013 – MINUTES

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

22. ALLOTMENTS**(i) Improvements Action Plan**

It was reported that investigations had been made into further path improvements at Raby Avenue and that the works were scheduled to commence at the end of September. It was also reported that estimates were being sought for budgeting purposes, for two further areas of pathway within the site which would require attention in the near future.

In respect of the path improvements for the Demesnes between plots 24 and 25, it was reported that this project was to be put on hold until additional funds had accumulated in the Allotment Improvements Holding Account. It was confirmed that the current state of the path presented a low health and safety risk.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

(ii) Harmire Road – Plot 1 Flooding/Drainage

It was reported that Durham County Council's Flooding & Drainage department had recommended certain works that could be a way forward with the problem by installing an additional soak-away and that this was being progressed.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

(iii) Crook Lane – Plot 6 Drainage Issue

It was reported that the Teesdale YMCA were continuing to work on this project which would culminate with the plot being available for re-tenanting by the end of September.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

23. DOG FOULING

It was confirmed that, pursuant to Minute 10/Jun/13, poop bags had been ordered, received and had been supplied to the distribution points and that two Teesdale local councils had also taken advantage of bulk ordering bags through this Council. The 'Eyes' signs had also been ordered and received and these will be installed shortly.

Consideration was also given to the installation of an additional dog waste bin.

Resolved – That a new dog waste bin be purchased and installed at a suitable spot between Marwood Cottages and Orchard Brae.

24. PLAY AREAS

(i) Annual Play Area Inspections

It was confirmed that the annual play area inspections had recently taken place and that all necessary repairs were currently being carried out.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

(ii) Gate License Fee

It was confirmed that the annual gate licenses had been issued to relevant residents and that the fee for each licensee was currently being collected.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

25. MINI GOLF

(i) Grand Launch Event – 20 July 2013

Details of the grand launch event that took place on 20 July were summarised, including that the facts that course designers (Urban Crazy Ltd) attended, the Inter Mayoral Mini Golf challenge involving mayors and consorts from around the region was well received, four members of the Great Britain Mini Golf Team were present for the whole afternoon and that a total of £210.77 was raised for the Town Mayor's chosen charity for 2013 (Teesdale YMCA) at the event.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

(ii) 'A Journey Through Teesdale' Replacement Mini Golf Project

It was reported that 'A Journey Through Teesdale' Replacement Mini Golf Project was now complete with the course opening to the public on 1 June 2013, following practical completion at the end of May.

It was also reported that an application to Teesdale Action Partnership's Tourism Small Grants Scheme for funding of £250 towards signage for the exterior of the kiosk and an interpretation board had been successful and that the signs had been subsequently fitted and the interpretation board was to be installed shortly.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

(iii) Update of 2013 Season to date

Details of the 2013 season to date were summarised and it was considered that the course had been very well received. It was also reported that one private hire and one school use of the course had taken place.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

26. FLORAL AND OPEN SPACES

(i) Floral Displays

It was confirmed that, pursuant to Minute 13(ii)/Jun/13, the new floral display arrangements were working well and that the winter planting would be carried out towards the end of October. It was considered, that in respect of the winter planting, the flower bed adjacent to the Market Place public toilets should be included.

Resolved – (a) That expenditure be sanctioned for the flower bed adjacent to the Market Place public toilets to be included within the overall winter floral displays.

(b) That the information be noted.

(ii) Garden of Remembrance

It was confirmed that the Garden of Remembrance Improvement Project was now complete and that a small ceremony to unveil the new memorial plaque and to celebrate the project completion took place on 1 August 2013.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

(iii) Upper Demesnes Haymeadow

It was reported that a meeting of the Friends of the Upper Demesnes had taken place on 22 June 2013. The results from the walk about and the work to further improve the hay meadow flowers were summarised.

It was also reported that the Friends considered that the use of an information board would be beneficial to visitors to the Hay Meadow and had asked this council as to whether enquires could be made with the Heart of Teesdale Landscape Partnership to establish whether any of the available grant money could be used to pay for such a board.

Resolved – That further investigations be made into the production of a Haymeadow Information board and associated leaflet.

(iv) Castle Walls Bulb Planting Scheme

It was confirmed that, following the successful funding application through the Heart of Teesdale's Community Initiative Fund, the bulbs were now on order and would be planted in November. A campaign to enlist volunteers to help with this, in conjunction with the Heart of Teesdale Landscape Partnership's Volunteering Officer, would be done shortly.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

27. CASTLE FLOODLIGHTS

There was no update to report at this time in relation to this service.

28. WAR MEMORIALS

(i) Annual Inspections

It was reported that, pursuant to Minute 15/Jun/13, the annual inspections of the three War Memorials had been carried out. A few minor issues were identified that had subsequently been rectified and quotations were currently being sought for some mortar repair works needed to the main Town Memorial.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

29. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC (IN RESPECT OF MINUTES 30 and 31 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 Minutes 30 and 31 below, due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

30. 2013/14 – WAR MEMORIAL CLEANING – TENDERING PROCESS

Submitted – In accordance with the arrangements outlined at Council Minute 125/Jan/13, when it was agreed for a 3-year plan to be put in place for the cleaning of the three War Memorials which are this Council's responsibility, a report outlining details of the subsequent quotations received.

Resolved – That a contract for £2,630 for the cleaning of the three War Memorials be awarded to P & S Coverdale Ltd, Barnard Castle.

31. ALLOTMENTS

Submitted – A report outlining details of two issues that had recently occurred at the Town Head allotment site.

Resolved – That the information be noted.