

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL
SERVICES COMMITTEE**

2 JUNE 2014

PRESENT: Councillor Peat (in the Chair); Councillors Mrs Grady, Hinchcliffe and Marshall.

Also in attendance: One member of the press.

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

1. ACCEPTANCE, OR OTHERWISE, OF APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Harrison and Yarker.

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

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

Resolved – That the item be deferred until the next meeting on 28 July 2014 due to the absence of two members at this meeting.

3. 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.

4. SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING – 24 FEBRUARY 2014

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

5. SPECIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING – 7 APRIL 2014

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

6. DATES AND TIMES OF SERVICES 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. ALLOTMENTS

(i) Annual Tenancy Agreement/Rental Payment

It was confirmed that the Annual Tenancy Agreements/Rental Payment requests had been issued at the beginning of April and that any outstanding agreements/rental payments not received by 2 June 2014 would be terminated in line with item 2a of the Agreement.

It was reported that there had been an unexpected high turnover in plots this year. However, this had had a positive effect on reducing the waiting list and most of the vacant plots had been re-tenanted. It was anticipated that the remaining vacant plots would be re-tenanted before the end of June.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

8. PLAY AREAS

(i) Dawson Road Wheelchair Swing

It was confirmed that the funding application, submitted to the Fields in Trust Inclusion Fund to make up the shortfall so that a piece of play equipment suitable for children in wheelchairs could be purchased, had been unsuccessful and that alternative funding sources were now being sought.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

(ii) Ten Fields Lease Renewal

It was noted that difficulties had arisen in respect of the proposed new lease between this Council, Barnard Castle Football Club and Fields in Trust for the rental of Ten Fields, mainly due to the introduction of the Charities Act 2011 and specific provisions therein. It was reported that a resolution to the matter was being sought with the help of the Charity Commission and that the football club were aware of the situation.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

9. FLORAL AND OPEN SPACES

(i) Galgate Greens Improvement Project

It was confirmed that the improvement works to the green north of the Garden of Remembrance had been carried out. In addition, the two 'odd' bollards on the green to the south of the Garden of Remembrance had been removed and the grass re-instated.

A summary of the Galgate Greens Improvement Project Earmarked Reserve Fund was provided and Members were asked to consider if further improvement works should be carried out now or whether to wait until the ownership issue was resolved so that other grant funding could be sourced to complete the project as initially envisaged.

In respect of the ownership issue, it was confirmed that Raby Estates had recently acknowledged that the greens did not belong to the estate; therefore, endeavours would continue to be made for Durham County Council to register the land by way of adverse possession.

Resolved – That the Galgate Greens Improvement Project be put on hold until the ownership issue is resolved.

(ii) 2014/15 Floral Displays

It was confirmed that the 2014/15 floral displays would be planted up by mid-June. The associated watering service will commence accordingly.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

(iii) Upper Demesnes Hay Meadow

It was reported that The Friends of the Upper Demesnes Hay Meadow would be meeting on 14 June 2014 for a project assessment walk-about and that all members/general public were invited to attend to learn more about the project.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

10. MINI GOLF

A summary of the 2014 Mini Golf season was provided, including the fact that the course was proving to be very popular. It was noted that, as well as the course being advertised on town council's website, it was now featured on the Visit Durham Website. A literature rack to signpost course visitors to other attractions in the local area had now been installed within the Kiosk and would be stocked by the distribution company on a regular basis at no cost to this council.

Free use of the course continued to be available to local schools during term time for practical lessons and it was reported that Montalbo School had had a successful visit on 23 May and that Green Lane School were planning to take up the opportunity in the near future. The course could also be hired by groups and organisations outside normal operating hours.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

11. DOG FOULING

(i) General Update

Following the decision to request Durham County Council to install a dog waste bin along the footpath from Vere Road to Fife Road (Committee Minute 61 (a)/Feb/14 refers), it was confirmed that, whilst the bin was supplied by DCC, it was installed by this council.

Members' views were sought as to how the 2014/15 Dog Fouling budgetary allocation should be spent.

Resolved – (a) That a new dog waste bin be purchased and installed at the north end of Dawson road play area.

(b) That this council works with Durham County Council's Civic Pride Team to develop a door-to-door leaflet drop campaign.

(ii) Green Lane Church of England Primary School

It was reported that a number of children at Green Lane CofE Primary School had recently taken part in the 'Making a Difference Challenge' and that their chosen campaign was the problem of dog fouling in the area. Consequently, the children had written to the Town Mayor with their concerns about the issue and an appropriate reply letter was sent. In addition, Durham County Council's Civic Pride Team had been made aware of the project and an education session was to be arranged with the school in the near future.

Resolved – That the information be noted.