

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL  
SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**28 JULY 2014**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Peat (in the Chair); Councillors Harrison, Hinchcliffe, Marshall and Yarker.

**Also in attendance:** Councillors Deacon and Robinson; One member of the press.

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

**12. ACCEPTANCE, OR OTHERWISE, OF APOLOGIES:** None.

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

Councillor Harrison was nominated and seconded. There were no other nominations.

**Resolved** – That Councillor Harrison be appointed Vice-Chairman of this Committee for the Municipal Year 2014/15.

**14. 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.

**15. SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING – 2 JUNE 2014 – MINUTES**

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

**16. ALLOTMENTS**

**(i) General**

It was confirmed that all outstanding agreements/rental payments had been subsequently received by the deadline and that all vacant plots were now tenanted. It was noted that the waiting list was at its lowest for a number of years and that there had only been four requests for allotments since January 2014.

**Resolved** – That the information be noted.

**(ii) Allotments Improvement Action Plan**

Submitted – An updated Allotments Improvement Action Plan, outlining potential projects and consideration was given as to which projects could potentially be carried out in the short-term and which long-term projects should be deferred until further funding was available.

**Resolved** – That, the Allotment Improvement Action Plan, as now amended, be progressed.

## **17. PLAY AREAS**

### **(i) Smoke Free Play Areas – Consultation**

Submitted – A report summarising Durham County Council's imminent consultation in respect of the implementation of a voluntary code to make play areas in County Durham smoke free. It was noted that, whilst the initiative would not be enforceable, polite notices would be installed to ask people to respect it in an attempt to protect children from them becoming future lifelong smokers.

It was also noted that, if the consultation concluded in support of the initiative, DCC's play areas would be declared smokefree. Play areas owned by town/parish councils and community associations would then be encouraged to also sign up to the voluntary code. The deadline for comments was likely to be January 2015.

**Resolved** – That, it be recommended to the Council meeting on 22 September 2014 that this council signs up to the voluntary code to make play areas/parks in County Durham smokefree.

### **(ii) Future Play Area Provision**

#### **(a) Green Lane, Ten Fields and Kalafat Community Walk**

It was confirmed that, following the decision to create a community walk from Green Lane play area, through Ten Fields down to Kalafat (Council Minute 75(4(a)(ii))/Dec/13 refers), Barnard Castle Football Club had been made aware of the development project and that the walk would be created by the end of the year.

**Resolved** – That the information be noted.

#### **(b) Green Lane, Ten Fields and Kalafat Play Area Consultation**

It was confirmed that, pursuant to Council Minute 75(4(a)(ii))/Dec/13, a consultation event would take place on 28 August between 10.30am and 3.30pm at both Green Lane and Kalafat play areas to ascertain if Kalafat, Ten Fields and Green Lane play areas required further development and to identify preferred options.

**Resolved** – That the information be noted.

## **18. FLORAL AND OPEN SPACES**

### **(i) Upper Demesnes Hay Meadow**

It was reported that, at the recent hay meadow walk about, over 40 plants and grasses had been identified. Pursuant to Committee Minute 26(iii)/Sep/13, i.e. to make investigations into the production of a hay meadow information board or leaflet, a brief survey was taken to gauge public opinion as to which option should be chosen and the majority of those present were in favour of an all year round information board being installed. A draft version of the proposed information board was circulated at the meeting for members' views. It was noted that the draft board had also been assessed by the Heart of Teesdale Landscape Partnership.

**Resolved** – That the draft information board be approved, subject to it also being assessed by the Friends of the Upper Demesnes Hay Meadow.

## **19. MINI GOLF**

It was reported that the extended summer opening times had commenced and that visitor numbers continued to be steady and the fact that school visits had been made.

It was also reported that the 10<sup>th</sup> Darlington Brownies had had a group visit to the course (during normal opening hours) and that a thank you letter had been received, giving special thanks to the mini golf attendant who had looked after them during their visit.

**Resolved** – That the information be noted.

## **20. WAR MEMORIALS**

Pursuant to Committee Minute 28/Sep/14, it was confirmed that the annual inspections of the three War Memorials under this council's responsibility had been carried out with only one minor issue identified that had subsequently been rectified.

**Resolved** – That the information be noted.

## **21. DOG FOULING**

Pursuant to Minute 11 (i(a))/Jun/14, it was confirmed that Durham County Council had kindly supplied a new dog waste bin, which had subsequently been installed by this council at the north end of Dawson Road play area.

It was also confirmed that a 'Shop-a-Plopper' anti dog fouling campaign had been developed which commenced with 2,500 flyers being initially distributed to local businesses and that a door-to-door leaflet drop would commence shortly. Flyers were also circulated at the meeting for members' information.

**Resolved** – That the information be noted.

## **22. BIG SPRING CLEAN**

It was reported that a letter had been received on behalf of LitterFree Durham, to thank all those organisations who took part in the 2014 campaign, which included this council as it organised a team of volunteers to carry out a litter pick on 5 April 2014, and asked whether the same organisations were willing to be involved in the Big Spring Clean 2015 campaign.

Discussion ensued and it was suggested that a team of volunteers should be organised to carry out a weeding session in the town, starting at Scar Top, prior to the start of the main 2015-tourist season.

**Resolved** – (a) That, it be recommended to the Council meeting on 22 September 2014, that this Council organises a team of volunteers to carry out a litter pick as part of the Big Spring Clean 2015.

(b) That, it also be recommended to the Council meeting on 22 September 2014, that this Council organises a team of volunteers to carry out a town weeding project in June 2015.