

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL  
SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**15 DECEMBER 2014**

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

**Also in attendance:** Councillor Robinson (from minute 41); one member of the press.

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

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

**37. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

In accordance with this Council's adopted Code of Conduct (Minute 72(a)/Sep/12), Members were asked whether they had any personal or prejudicial interests in any matter on the agenda. Councillor Harrison declared an interest in respect of Minute 39.

**38. SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING – 20 OCTOBER – MINUTES**

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

**39. ALLOTMENTS**

**(i) General**

It was confirmed that one allotment garden had been relinquished since October 2014. That plot on Raby Avenue and a vacant plot on The Demesnes had been re-tenanted. The waiting list was reported to stand at 24. A routine site inspection had been carried out on all five sites at the beginning of November and there were no major issues to report.

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

**(ii) Allotments Improvement Action Plan**

There were no updates on the Improvement Action Plan.

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

**(iii) Demesnes Bi-annual skip**

It was reported that, pursuant to Committee Minute 26(iii)/Oct/14 and subsequent Council Minute 85(1)(a)/Nov/14 the Demesnes allotment site should only be provided with a skip in exceptional circumstances and that the allotment rules were to be updated to reflect this change for 2015/16.

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

**40. PLAY AREAS**

**(i) Future Play Area Provision**

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

It was noted that, at the Council meeting on 17 November 2014 it had been agreed that the decision to create a community walk between Green Lane, Ten Fields and Kalafat be rescinded (Council Minute 85 (1)(b)/Nov/14 refers).

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

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

It was reported that, pursuant to Council Minute 75(4(a)(ii))/Dec/13 and Committee Minutes 17(ii(b))/Jul/14 and 27(i)/Oct/14, a public consultation exercise had been carried out in period ended 30 November 2014. A detailed breakdown of the information,

together with proposals and costings to be put forward for 2015/16, would be reported to Services Committee meeting on 23 February 2015.

**Resolved** – (a) That the information be noted; and  
(b) That a report be presented to Services Committee on 23 February 2015.

**(c) Dawson Road – Disabled Swing**

It was reported that, pursuant to Committee Minute 27 (i)/Oct/14 the funding application submitted to the County Durham Community Foundation was unsuccessful.

**Resolved** – (a) That the information be noted; and  
(b) That further funding be sourced.

**(ii) Repairs to Green Lane and Dawson Road**

Submitted - a report of the Durham County Council Playground Inspector dated 25 November outlining various repairs that needed to be made. Where the inspection had highlighted hazards to specific items of equipment that required eliminating, all necessary repairs were being carried out.

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

**(iii) Marwood Drive – Flooding Update**

Further to approval at the Resources Committee meeting on 3 November 2014 (Minute 30/Nov/14 refers) that £600 from the Contingencies budget be used for Marwood Drive play area Phase 1 drainage works, it was confirmed that, as agreed, Fairbairns Ltd had completed these works on 5 December 2014. It was reported that the effectiveness of these works would be monitored over the winter.

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

**41. FLORAL AND OPEN SPACES**

**(i) Public Seats**

Submitted - a report on the town council's public seats project noting that 36 benches had been renovated/replaced through public donations in addition to 12 new benches installed through the Scar Top Improvement Project.

It was reported that the town council had been approached by The Heart of Teesdale Landscape Partnership for a joint project to provide weed barriers around six public seats (five located in Flatts Woods and one at Raby Avenue). The total cost of the project was reported to be £650. HoT had requested a 50% contribution to this project of £325.

Members were informed that the Teesdale YMCA was interested in carrying out maintenance to public seats in-situ, where these could not be removed for maintenance.

**Resolved** – (a) That the town council contributes £325 towards the weed control project around six public seats, to be carried out by The Heart of Teesdale Landscape Partnership.  
(b) That the YMCA be approached to maintain some public seats.

**(ii) Floral Displays**

It was confirmed that the town's autumn/winter planting had been carried out including the Market Place Toilet Bed.

The committee considered making an application to redevelop the island beds on Galgate under the county council's 'It's Your Neighbourhood' campaign.

**Resolved** – That an application be made to the 'It's Your Neighbourhood' campaign to redevelop the island beds.

**(iii) Upper Demesnes Hay Meadow**

It was reported that the Heart of Teesdale Landscape Partnership funding allocation was on hold pending a review of the budget. It was noted that this could result in the reduction of allocated funding.

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

**(iv) Galgate Greens Improvement Project**

It was reported that investigations were being made into the cost of removing the tree stump in the upper Galgate Green (by stump grinding).

**Resolved** – (a) That the information be noted; and  
(b) That quotations are submitted to next meeting.

**42. MINI GOLF**

Members received a report reviewing the 2014 mini golf season. The Mini Golf is a self-funding service. It was noted that the course would need an extensive pre-season clean before the start of the 2015 season. It was also confirmed that the carpet was expected to last 5 to 15 years, dependent on use.

**Resolved** – (a) That the information be noted; and  
(b) That the Committee is updated on cleaning of the mini golf course at the next meeting on 23 February 2015.

**43. WAR MEMORIALS**

**(i) Aviation Day Memorial**

It was reported that, subsequent to Council Minute 85(1)(c)/Nov/14, appropriate permissions, etc. were being sought and detailed arrangements being made for the physical relocation of the Aviation Memorial from Startforth to the Galgate Green Memorial Garden, with the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) funding the move. It was noted that the Town Council would be required to fund planning application.

**Resolved** – (a) That the information be noted; and  
(b) That approval for the submission of the planning application be sought of the Resources Committee on 12 January 2015.

**44. DOG FOULING**

It was confirmed that further to the 'Shop-a-Plopper' anti dog fouling campaign initial distribution to local businesses, the door-to-door leaflet drop was now in hand.

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

**45. MARKET PLACE TOILETS**

Submitted - a report outlining that following a challenge to the original demand, including a 3% increase, of £6,432, Durham County Council had now confirmed that the cost to provide this service had now been reduced. The total annual cost for maintenance of the Market Place toilets would therefore be £9,847.12. Consequently Barnard Castle Town Council's contribution of 50% of these costs would be £4,923.56, which is a reduction of £847.44 compared to the current year's budget.

**Resolved** – That the revised figure of £4,923.56 be submitted to Council at meeting on 19 January for inclusion in the 2015/16 budget.

#### **46. NEW TEESDALE WAY SIGNS – CONSULTATION**

Submitted - a map showing the locations of a number of lamp posts in the town centre, to which it was proposed by the Heart of Teesdale to attach new 'Teesdale Way' signs. The signs would be similar in look and size to the green/white signs on Orchard Brae and would guide walkers through the town centre. It was hoped that these people would also take advantage of all the facilities on offer along the Horsemarket too.

The Heart of Teesdale requested comments from the town council.

**Resolved** – (a) That the Town Council favours the proposal; and  
(b) – That it be requested of the Heart of Teesdale that the Business Guild be contacted for comments.

#### **47. MARKET CROSS LIGHTING**

Submitted - a report on the feasibility study undertaken by the county council into the introduction of an external lighting scheme for the Market Cross, including Conservation, traffic and highways consultations; structural testing; along with a design and cost exercise to fully establish project costs for the lighting scheme. Design costs for the procurement, installation and testing of a suitable scheme totalled £11,613.72 (including VAT, where applicable). Phase 1 would use four clusters of floodlights mounted on street lighting columns to illuminate the exterior of the building all year round, with changeable colours to mark seasons or events, as with the castle floodlights.

**Resolved** – (a) That the town council leads on the procurement of phase 1 of lighting the exterior of the Market Cross on the basis of securing third-party funding for the scheme to the technical specification provided by Durham County Council.

(b) Funding to be sought by appealing to the four county councillors to consider funding from neighbourhood budgets; from TAP funding; from the Business Guild and through public support.

#### **48. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC (In Respect of Item 49 Below)**

**Resolved** – That, the matter referred to at item 49 below, be discussed in the open meeting, due to the need for further investigation before considering quotes.

#### **49. FLORAL DISPLAYS – REPLACEMENT WOODEN TUBS**

Submitted – a report on arrangements for replacement wooden tubs for the town's floral displays (Minute 28 (iv)(a)/Oct/14 refers), using the Floral and Open Spaces underspend.

**Resolved** – (a) to allocate a budget of £800 from the 2014/15 underspend for replacement wooden tubs.

(b) To increase the number of wooden tubs.

(c) To increase size of tubs to maximise planting space.

(d) To ask for revised quotes and view potential tubs from companies.