

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL  
SERVICES COMMITTEE****16 DECEMBER 2013**

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

**Officer:** Mrs Plant (Assistant Clerk).

**45. ACCEPTANCE, OR OTHERWISE, OF APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors Harrison (Town Mayor) and Yarker.

**Resolved** – That Councillors Harrison (Town Mayor) and Yarker's apologies be accepted.

**46. 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 can be given later in the meeting if a need arose during discussion. There were no declarations of interest at this juncture.

**47. SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING – 4 NOVEMBER 2013 – MINUTES**

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

**48. ALLOTMENTS****(i) Crook Lane Plot 6 Drainage Issue**

It was confirmed that, in respect of the drainage issue at the southern boundary of the site, further investigations for suitable solutions were still ongoing.

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

**49. PLAY AREAS**

It was confirmed that there were no updates to report at this time in relation to this service.

**50. MINI GOLF**

It was confirmed that local schools had been approached through community engagement work on behalf of the town council by Groundwork North East and that two schools had taken up the offer and two were still to take place.

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

**51. FLORAL AND OPEN SPACES****(i) Castle Walls Bulb Planting Scheme**

It was confirmed that the majority of the 10,000 daffodil bulbs had been planted in conjunction with the Heart of Teesdale Landscape Partnership's Volunteering Officer who had sourced bulb planting volunteers and that Rotters had planted out some of the steeper slopes. The spare bulbs would be planted in 2014 to fill any obvious gaps.

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

**(ii) Lower Galgate Flower Beds**

It was confirmed that, following the decision to make investigations into the creation of permanent flower beds to be installed in the lower Galgate area (Minute 41 (f)/Nov/13 refers), a site meeting with Durham County Council's Highways department, in order to

examine the feasibility of the scheme, had recently take place and that associated plans of a suggested scheme were now awaited.

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

### **(iii) Galgate Greens Improvement Project**

Submitted – Pursuant to the Committee decision that the Galgate Greens Improvement Project should be directly funded by the town council and progressed in yearly phases to spread the cost of the works (Committee Minute 41 (c)/Nov/13 refers), a report seeking members' views as to how the phases should be prioritised. Details of the project phases were reiterated along with a summary of the projected funds available in the Galgate Greens Improvement Project Earmarked reserve fund and the previously submitted and agreed quotations for the phased works to be carried out. Whilst it was acknowledged that Durham County Council currently maintained the greens, the fact that the greens were not actually land registered and had no official owner was noted.

**Resolved** – That costs be established to carry out part of Phase 1, as now agreed, of the Galgate Greens Improvement Project.

### **52. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC (IN RESPECT OF MINUTE 53 BELOW)**

A member challenged the recommendation that, in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 §1(2) protocol and at the request of Durham County Council, discussion of the matter referred to at Minute 53 below should take place whilst the press and public were excluded from the meeting. Discussion ensued and following a vote by a show of hands, a resolution not to exclude was made and the press and public were permitted to remain for the duration of the meeting.

**Resolved** – That, notwithstanding the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 §1(2), the press and public be permitted to remain in the meeting during consideration of the matter referred to at Minute 53 below.

### **53. DOG FOULING – PROVISION OF A NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDEN**

Submitted – A report to consider the cost of the provision of a dedicated neighbourhood warden for the town as part of the Dog Fouling 2014/15 budgetary bid for inclusion in the overall Town Council's budget for 2014/15, including Durham County Council's generic costs in respect of the provision of a neighbourhood warden working a standard 37 hour week. Whilst it was acknowledged that the costs could be reduced by linking with neighbouring local councils to employ and share our own warden, it was considered that the impact the costs would have on this council's precept, and ultimately the town's residents, was unjustifiable. Discussion ensued, including other cost effective ways to tackle the issue of dog fouling in Barnard Castle and the possibility of a public consultation event being held to establish whether residents would be prepared to pay the cost of a neighbourhood warden in the future.

**Resolved** – That a Dog Fouling 2014/15 budgetary bid of £500 be recommended to the Resources Committee meeting on 13 January 2013.