

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL
SERVICES COMMITTEE**

1 JUNE 2015

PRESENT: Councillor Peat (in the Chair); Councillors Harrison, Hinchcliffe, Mrs Grady, Marshall, Robinson (from item 8) and Yarker.

Also in attendance: One member of the press.

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

3. ACCEPTANCE, OR OTHERWISE, OF APOLOGIES:

There were no apologies.

4. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR FOR MUNICIPAL YEAR 2015/16

Councillor Harrison was proposed and seconded.

Resolved – That Councillor Harrison be appointed Vice Chair of this Committee for the Municipal Year 2015/16.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with this Council's adopted Code of Conduct (Minute 72(a)/Sep/12 refers), Members will be asked whether they have 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 are reminded that a declaration can be given later in the meeting if a need arises during discussion. Councillor Harrison declared an interest in respect of Item 8.

6. SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING – 13 APRIL 2015 – MINUTES

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

7. SPECIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING – 11 MAY 2015 – MINUTES

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

8. ALLOTMENTS

(i) General

Submitted: Information regarding the allotments stating that, to date, four of the five vacant gardens had been re-tenanted. Additional applications for the waiting list were reported, taking the total to 22.

Following the issue of reminder letters at the beginning of May to those tenants who had not renewed their Allotment Tenancy; all but one tenant had responded.

Resolved - That the information be noted.

(ii) The National Allotment Society – North East Region Allotment Officers' Forum

It was confirmed that the forum took place on 21 May 2015 hosted by Spennymoor Town Council and was attended by Services Administrator, Mrs Farren. It provided a good opportunity to network with other local authorities and exchange best practices.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

(iii) The Demesnes – Skip

Submitted: A request, in light of 'exceptional circumstance', that approval be granted for a skip to clear the glass debris from those tenants affected by wind damage.

Resolved - That permission be granted for the provision of a skip to clear an exceptional amount of glass debris from The Demesnes site.

(iv) Upper Demesnes Bollard

It was confirmed that Durham County Council (DCC) had replaced the bollard on the entrance to The Demesnes, off Parsons Lonnen, due to a faulty mechanism. New keys were in the process of being distributed.

A number of complaints had been received by residents regarding the large amount of water collected around the bollard and gate area. This issue was reported to DCC Highways, which had subsequently laid hardstanding in this location.

Resolved - That the information be noted.

(v) Review of Allotment Rules Contravention Procedure

Submitted: The 2015/16 version of the Allotment Tenancy Agreement/Allotment Rules Contravention Procedure for approval.

Resolved – That the reviewed 2015/16 Allotment Tenancy Agreement/Allotment Rules Contravention Procedure be approved.

(vi) Harmire Road - Water issue

A verbal update was given at the meeting. It was reported that the water supply had been turned off at Harmire Road for a short time.

Members were reminded that the Town Council did not have to provide a water supply to allotment tenants and that tenants were encouraged to use water butts etc. In the absence of a tenants association, the Town Council was deemed to have acted in the best interests of the tenants. Councillor Harrison proposed that cages be fitted round both standpipes with coded locks similar to those at Town Head. This proposal was seconded and moved.

Resolution – (a) That cages be fitted round both water standpipes at Harmire Road, with coded locks and;

(b) That tenants be reminded of Councillor contacts/emergency contact details in case of issues.

9. PLAY AREAS

(i) Future Play Area Provision

Submitted: A report setting out an initial draft 'vision for play' for members' consideration, as a foundation for continued development of a play strategy for Green Lane – Tens Field – Kalafat Playing Fields to assist in continued discussions with the local football and tennis clubs and with other interested parties. Councillor Robinson raised awareness of specific lottery funding for underdeveloped play areas that could be applied for and encouraged Town Council members to be aspirational about future play provision/facilities.

Resolved - That the following changes be made to the goals submitted as part of the 'Vision for Play':

- Provision of a comprehensive cycle route linking Bowes Museum – Green Lane – Bartlemere – Ten Fields – Kalafat - town centre.
- Fun Perimeter, practice cycle/scooter circuit within Green Lane, for those learning to ride bikes, with incorporated road markings.
- Enhanced opportunities to participate in sport with provision of new sports facilities/pavilion – linked to lease of Tens Fields and more accessible tennis provision around the town.

(ii) Repairs & Maintenance – inspections

It was confirmed that, as a result of annual inspections at all five play areas in May, there were no major issues to report. Low or very low risk issues were to be programmed into ongoing schedule of repairs and maintenance across the year. Councillor Robinson queried money in earmarked reserves for Bouch Way play area and whether these could be used to replace/maintain other play areas. Members were reminded that this was a Section 106 Agreement; George Wimpey North East Limited provided a children's play area and associated equipment (opened December 2005) and paid £26,500 for future maintenance and match funding when this equipment needed to be replaced, based on a period of 15 years.

Resolved - That the information be noted.

(iii) Flooding of Garden on Marwood Drive

Submitted: A report making the committee aware of the continuation of flooding to a rear garden adjacent to the Marwood Drive play area and seeking a decision regarding additional site works. Councillor Robinson informed the Committee that he had visited the property and proposed that as this was a one off cost and exceptional circumstances, works should be funded out of general reserves.

Resolved - That Resources Committee on 15 June consider approval of funding phase 2 drainage works to the Marwood Drive Play Area out of 2015/16 general reserves.

10. FLORAL AND OPEN SPACES

(i) Public Seats

a. Request to Locate Wooden Planter in Upper Galgate

It was confirmed that a resident had requested the Town Council's permission to site a wooden floral planter (14 inch x 14 inch) on the hardstanding next to the public seat she donated (outside 110 Galgate).

Resolved – That subject to Durham County Council consent, the request be approved.

(ii) Floral Displays

Submitted: An update on summer planting, which was to take place week commencing 8 June and include colourful and tasteful French themed summer displays. The contractor had been asked to plant out the letters 'Y S L' in the toilet bed (opposite King's Head). The Gateway bed (outside Spitfire Cycles) had been designed as a Mondrian dress and was to be planted in vivid blocks of floral planting. It was noted that this was a community effort, involving local businesses. Durham County Council prepared the bed and planted shrubs and architectural spirals in both Gateway beds.

It was further confirmed that, pursuant to Minute 70 (iii)/April/15, twelve natural oak barrels and two half size barrels had been delivered to replace the old ones around the town. Local businesses and individuals had been encouraged to sponsor a hanging basket on the freestanding floral planter for £25 with name recognition.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

(iii) Upper Demesnes Hay Meadow

a. Leaflet dispenser

It was reported that, pursuant to Minute 70 (iv)(a)/April/15, a wooden leaflet dispenser had been purchased and delivered, ready for installation.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

b. Scything Training 3 July

It was reported that two people had booked onto the course and that there were still four places available.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

(iv) Red Well

It was reported that, pursuant to Minute 70 (vi)/April/15, work to restore the flow of the Red Well spring had now been completed.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

11. DOG FOULING

It was reported that, pursuant to Minute 58/Feb/15, 12,000 poop scoop bags had been purchased and delivered to the Town Council offices. Councillor Marshall also informed the Committee that he now had permission from Durham County Council to site anti dog fouling posters around the town.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

12. TOWN WEEDING PROJECT

Submitted: A request by the Influence Church to work with the town council on a project as part of their 'No Strings' volunteer clean up in the town on Saturday 13 June. Councillor Peat reported that he had a meeting with Maddy Foster from the Influence Church on 2 June to advance various ideas.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

13. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC (IN RESPECT OF CONTINUATION ITEM 8(vi))

Item 8(vi) was resolved in open session.

Resolved – That the information be noted.