

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL
SERVICES COMMITTEE**

20 JULY 2015

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

Also in attendance: Councillor Deacon; Two members of the press; three members of the public.

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

14. ACCEPTANCE, OR OTHERWISE, OF APOLOGIES:

Apologies were received from Councillor Yarker.

Resolved – That Councillor Yarker's apologies be accepted.

15. 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 17.

16. SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING – 1 JUNE 2015 – MINUTES

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

17. ALLOTMENTS

(i) General

Submitted: Information regarding the allotments stating that the vacant garden on the Crook Lane site had been re-tenanted. There was currently a vacancy on The Demesnes site following the issue of a Notice to Quit; the garden was in the process of being re-tenanted.

All except one rental payment had been received for the 2015/16 season. Arrangements were in place for the remaining rental to be paid on an instalment basis.

No new applications had been received for the waiting list and the total remained at 22.

Resolved - That the information be noted.

(ii) Harmire Road – Allotment Gardens 1 & 2

It was resolved by Services Committee in July 2014 (Minute 16(ii)/Jul/14 refers), as part of the Allotments Improvement Action Plan, 'that an alternative use for the top area of Garden 1 be investigated i.e. wetland/wildlife area. However, due to lack of capital, investigations had been put on hold.

Sadly, the tenant of Garden 2 recently passed away. It was agreed with the deceased's family that the council would re-tenant the garden at the beginning of August. The tenant of Garden 1 had approached the office and requested that he would like to take over Garden 2 in addition to Garden 1. Whilst the allocation of Allotment Gardens was restricted to one Garden per household, following discussion with the Services Committee Chairman and Allotment Champion, it was agreed that, in this instance, the plots could

be temporarily amalgamated and that the number of rental plots would reduce from 16 to 15.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

(iii) Harmire Road – Water issue (CONFIDENTIAL ITEM)

Pursuant to Council Minute 37(3)a)/Jun/15, members were asked to re-examine the issues leading to the switch off of water from the standpipe on Harmire Road Allotments and the reaction of tenants. A verbal update was given that the majority of tenants did not have a problem with temporarily switching off water, as long as it was promptly switched on again.

Resolved – (a) That the information be noted; and
(b) That the water supply be turned off if deemed necessary, without the need to fit cages and coded locks round standpipes.

18. PLAY AREAS

(i) Gate Licences

It was reported that the annual gate licences for 2015/16 had now been issued from 1 August 2015 to 31 July 2016. The licences would facilitate direct access onto the playing fields managed by the town council.

Resolved - That the information be noted.

19. MINI GOLF

It was reported that for the 2015 season so far, visitor numbers had generally been good but were variable dependant on the weather. Over 2,800 rounds of golf had been played; an average of 53 visitors to the course each day.

Free use of the course continued to be available to local schools in the Teesdale area during term time for practical lessons and since the start of the season, both Evenwood Primary School and Montalbo Primary School had taken up this opportunity. This was the third visit by Montalbo Primary School and a thank you letter from the school, together with individual letters from the children were received expressing how much they enjoyed their visit.

Members were reminded that the course was also available for private hire by groups and organisations outside the normal operating hours and information about hire of the course, Booking Forms and Terms of Hire were available on the town council's website.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

20. WAR MEMORIALS

Pursuant to Committee Minute 28/Sep/14, annual inspections of the War Memorials were carried out by Councillor Blissett and Services Officer, Mrs Jane Smith on 9 July 2015. For the first time the Aviation Memorial, now located in the Remembrance Garden, was included.

Two minor issues were identified (weeds in the gravel around the DLI Memorial and Main Town memorial) and two issues on the Main Town Memorial which required assessment/repair (crack to plinth and repairs to black lead lettering). It was confirmed that these issues were being dealt with.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

21. FLORAL AND OPEN SPACES

(i) Floral Displays

It was reported that summer planting had been carried out by Elm Ridge Gardens Ltd, including colourful and tasteful French themed summer displays and the white floral letters 'YSL' in the toilet bed (opposite King's Head). The YMCA built the angled frame for the 'YSL' letters.

The Gateway bed (outside Spitfire Cycles) had been planted out as a Mondrian dress in vivid blocks of floral planting. This was a community effort, involving local businesses: Niche Living, Star Flowers, Rotters, Thom Robinson, Cyril Pattison and YMCA.

The new oak barrel planters were now in-situ, with two still in storage, due to the temporary closure of King Street.

One individual and one business (Radio Teesdale) had sponsored a hanging basket on the freestanding floral planter, outside the post office. An acknowledgement plaque was in progress.

There were now over 50 hanging baskets around the town, contributing to colourful floral displays.

Resolved – (a) That the information be noted and;
(b) That thanks be given to local businesses.

(ii) Upper Demesnes Hay Meadow – Scything Training 3 July

It was confirmed that six people attended the course, which was a success. Sixteen people attended the walk on the afternoon. Approximately seventy leaflets had been taken from the dispenser.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

22. DOG FOULING

Councillor Marshall reported that the Rugby Club had requested anti-dog fouling posters and it was suggested that one be placed on railings by mini-golf course.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

23. TOWN WEEDING PROJECT

It was reported that the Influence Church carried out their 'No Strings' volunteer project in the town on Saturday 13 June. Eighteen volunteers weeded flower beds, removed Ragwort, cut back shrubs, planted flowers and litter-picked around Scar Top and the Sculpture Garden. They also weeded and cut back shrubs and generally tidied the area around County Bridge and the welcome sign towards the Bank. Councillor Peat added that Durham County Council had two gardeners in the town every week and he had requested that the Sculpture Garden be weeded.

Resolved – (a) That the information be noted and
(b) That the town council support the 'No Strings' volunteer project in June 2016.

24. WALKERS ARE WELCOME ACCREDITATION

Members were informed that The Heart of Teesdale (HoT) Landscape Partnership was applying for 'Walkers are Welcome' accreditation to bring tourism and economic benefits

to the town, as well as improving the environment and health generally. HoT was looking for formal support from the town council.

Resolved – That the town council supports the application.

25. TEESDALE VIEWMARKERS PROJECT

It was reported that ARTworks in Teesdale, an arts charity delivering arts activities and events to the local community, was working with the Heart of Teesdale Landscape Partnership, to 'mark, enhance, inform and interpret 12 iconic views in Teesdale. One of the possible views was from the centre of the town (Market Cross). An exhibition was held at The Witham 27 June to 2 July. More information on the project was online at: <http://www.artworksinteesdale.org/teesdale-viewmarkers/>

Resolved – That the information be noted.

26. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC (IN RESPECT OF CONTINUATION ITEM 17(iii))

Item 17(iii) was resolved in open session.