

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL
SERVICES COMMITTEE**

15 APRIL 2019

PRESENT: Councillors Child (in the Chair), Chatterjee, Mrs Thompson and Mrs Moorhouse.

Also in attendance: One member of the press.

Officers: Mr King (Town Clerk) and Miss Atkinson (Services Officer).

77. ACCEPTANCE, OR OTHERWISE, OF APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Miss Blissett and Cllr Peat.

Resolved – That the apologies be accepted.

78. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with this Council's adopted Code of Conduct (Minute 10/May/18 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.

79. SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING – 18 FEBRUARY 2019 – MINUTES

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

80. ALLOTMENTS

(1) General Update

It was noted that there were seven vacant allotment gardens, in the process of being re-tenanted. There had been six new applications since the last meeting, three parishioners and three non-parishioners. The waiting list stood at fourteen. 2019/20 Tenancy Agreements and requests for payment were in the process of being sent out to tenants.

(2) Allotments Improvement Action Plan

Quotations were being sought to address pathway issues at the Harmire Road site.

(3) Crime Prevention

There had been a number of incidents involving mainly the theft of livestock from two allotment sites. Durham Constabulary had agreed to hold two crime prevention drop-in sessions at the affected sites.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

81. PLAY AREAS

Park Lane Playgrounds carried out a quarterly inspection of all six play areas on 4 April 2019. No major issues were identified. Minor repairs would be carried out.

Resolved – (a) That the information be noted;

(b) That the required improvements be carried out by Park Lane Playgrounds at a net cost of £1,450.

82. DELIVERING DIFFERENTLY

As agreed at Council on 18 March, final leases for the Demesnes and Woodleigh Grounds had been prepared for signature by the Town Council and official sealing by the County Council.

Grounds maintenance of these areas would be carried out under the agreed schedule of rates in the town council's existing grounds maintenance contract.

It had been confirmed that the PCVC has approved terms for the transfer of Bede Kirk and draft terms have been produced. It was noted that Council would need to engage a solicitor to act for it in respect of any transfer.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

83. MINI GOLF

The 2019 season commenced on Saturday 6 April 2019 with the operating arrangements as approved at Services Committee on 18 February. The Town Mayor had opened the course on Saturday 6 April with a small competition followed by refreshments.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

84. WEDNESDAY MARKET

In the nine weeks from 6 February to 10 April, inclusive, total rental receipts were £950, an average of £106 per week. There were no new traders. One charity benefitted from the free charity pitch. The waiting list stood at fifteen.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

85. FLORAL AND OPEN SPACES

There is nothing to report. It was noted that to reflect the Italian theme of events over the Summer, the contractor should be encourage to emphasise planting in the colours of the Italian flag.

Resolved – (a) That the information be noted; and
(b) That the Clerk request that the contractor emphasises planting in the colours of the Italian flag

86. BIG SPRING CLEAN 2019

The Big Spring Clean was carried out on Saturday 30 March with a number of volunteers, guided by councillors, using the equipment provided by Litterfree Durham's campaign to clear an area of town centred on Scar Top. A significant quantity of litter was collected and the bags were returned to Durham County Council.

Resolved – That the information be noted; and
(b) That the Town Council's thanks be extended to all those who contributed to the Big Spring Clean 2019.

87. PUBLIC SEATS

There was nothing to report.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

88. WAR MEMORIALS

There was nothing to report.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

89. DOG FOULING

Prompted by coverage of previous discussion of dog fouling by this committee, the committee had been contacted by the Clerk to Ingleton Parish Council regarding a recently promoted campaign in that village.

Resolved – That information on the performance of the campaign in Ingleton be requested.

90. DURHAM WILDLIFE TRUST

Received: proposals for landscape improvements to the Lower Demesnes. The proposals encompassed planting hawthorn and rowan to supplement the existing blackthorn shrubs on the margin of the Demesnes adjoining the river bank, similar scrub planting in a triangle adjoining the boundary with the field above the Mill Cottages, extending this in patches across the sweep of the bank connecting the upper and lower Demesnes, leaving clear gaps for recreation, including planting of suitable Ash and Elder varieties.

It was noted that crown lifting activities were not carried out to avoid disturbance to observed wildlife.

Resolved – (a) That the information be noted; and
(b) That DWT be advised of the current Woodland Trust scheme offering free trees of the varieties to be planted.