

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL
SERVICES COMMITTEE**

21 OCTOBER 2019

PRESENT: Councillor Child (in the Chair); Councillors Miss Blissett, Drew and Kirkbride

Also in attendance: Councillors Blissett and one member of the press.

Officers: Mr King (Town Clerk).

24 ACCEPTANCE, OR OTHERWISE, OF APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Chatterjee and Mrs Thompson.

Resolved – That the apologies be accepted.

25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with this Council's adopted Code of Conduct (Minute 10/May/19 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. There were no declarations of interest at this juncture.

26 SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING – 15 JULY 2019 – MINUTES

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

27 ALLOTMENTS

(1) General update

An update was provided on allotments activity since the July meeting. Three gardens had been re-tenanted and there remained one vacant allotment on the Town Head site. The waiting list stood at eleven, comprising of 9 parishioners and 2 non-parishioners.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

(2) Allotments Improvement Action Plan

A quotation for path work improvements at the Harmire Road allotment site was received.

Resolved – That the Harmire Road allotment pathway improvement work be awarded to 4 Nature, at a total net cost of £1,950, including the removal of the 10 tonnes of hardcore from Marden Farm, funded from the Allotment Improvement Earmarked Reserve.

28 PLAY AREAS

(1) Marwood Drive

A request had been received from resident asking that Marwood Drive play area be made a completely dog free area. Members noted that the area was covered by the Public Space Protection Order, issued by Durham County Council, including irresponsible dog ownership, animals out of control or failure to clean up after a dog.

(2) Demesnes

Durham County Council had carried out consultation regarding the proposed re-provision of the Demesnes Play area. The completion date was programmed for Easter 2020 subject to weather conditions.

It was noted that, following the replacement of the play area, there would be a need for renewed seating in the area.

Resolved – (a) That the actions be noted;

(b) That residents with concerns about irresponsible dog ownership be encouraged to contact Durham County Council's Neighbourhood Wardens; and

(c) That the council's approval as tenant be given to the proposed works by DCC to the Demesnes Play Area, as landlord.

29 MINI GOLF – 2019 SEASON

(1) General update

It was noted that the 2019 season would cease at the end of October. Figures were presented for activity as of 13 October.

(2) Course refurbishment

Further to the decision to refurbish wooden elements of the course and to introduce revised obstacles to three holes, the council's contractor, Urban Crazy, was due on site in the week commencing 21 October to complete the works.

To complete the refurbishment, an estimate was obtained to replace the grassed areas of the course with slate laid over a weed suppressing layer.

Resolved – (a) That the information be noted; and

(b) That a contract for slate laid over a weed suppressing layer be awarded to Teesdale Building and Construction, at a total net cost of £2,600, funded from the Mini Golf Earmarked Reserve.

30 WEDNESDAY MARKET

In the fifteen weeks from 10 July to 16 October inclusive, total rental receipts were £2,083, an average of £139 per week. Damage to one of the market retractable bollards was noted following a collision.

Resolved – (a) That the information be noted; and

(b) That clarification be sought from Durham County Council Highways to establish its risk assessment for operating the road closure without the bollard in place.

31 FLORAL AND OPEN SPACES

The bedding plant display had continued to receive favourable comments. Cllr Child had undertaken a survey of the town flower beds and tabled a proposal for the future management of the Gateway Beds on Lower Galgate.

Resolved – a) That the information be noted;

(b) That the Clerk seek quotations for ground works to prepare the Gateway Beds in line with the proposal; and

(c) That opportunities to seek sponsorship for floral displays be explored and reported to a future meeting.

32 DOG FOULING

Members considered the implications of the request brought under item 28(1), above. It was recognised that enforcement action was central to encouraging responsible dog ownership.

Resolved – (a) That the information be noted; and
(b) That the Clerk request up to date information from the Durham County Council Neighbourhood Wardens on enforcement action taking in Barnard Castle under the terms of the PSPO.

33 PUBLIC SEATS

It was noted that the bench taken to HMYOI Deerbolt for repair remained there subject to completion of the work.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

34 WAR MEMORIALS

It was noted that the Town Memorial would receive a 'spruce up' prior to Remembrance Sunday.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

DRAFT

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