

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL
SERVICES COMMITTEE**

17 FEBRUARY 2020

PRESENT: Councillor Child (in the Chair); Councillors Chatterjee, Drew, Hallimond (from Item 53), Kirkbride and Thompson (from Item 62).

Also in attendance: Councillor Blissett (Town Mayor) and one member of the press.

Officers: Mr King (Town Clerk) and Mrs Farren (Services Officer).

49 ACCEPTANCE, OR OTHERWISE, OF APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Miss Blissett.

Resolved – That the apologies be accepted.

50 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.

51 SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING – 16 DECEMBER 2019 – MINUTES

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

52 ALLOTMENTS

(1) 2020 Allotment Tenancy Agreement and Rules

Members were advised that a comprehensive review of the tenancy agreement and allotment rules had taken place prior to the 2019/20 season and that there were no suggested revisions for the 2020/21 season.

Resolved – That the Allotment Tenancy Agreement and Rules be adopted without revision for 2020/21.

(2) General Update

It was reported that no gardens had been re-tenanted and that there remained two vacant allotments on the Town Head and Crook Lane sites. Two new applications had been received and the waiting list currently stood at eleven, comprising of nine parishioners and two non-parishioners.

Allotment inspections had been carried out on three of the five sites. The Markets and Maintenance Supervisor had been able to complete identified repairs and identified cultivation issues would be addressed by Services Officer. The remaining two sites would be completed before the next meeting. It was confirmed that the water supply would remain off due to the inclement weather.

It was also confirmed that the pathway improvements on the Harmire Road site had now been completed.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

53 PLAY AREAS

Quarterly inspections had been carried out in January 2019. The minor items identified would be monitored and adjustments made by the Markets and Maintenance Supervisor. The two specialised repairs identified at the Green Lane site would be undertaken by Park Lane Playgrounds providing their quotation came within the budget.

It was noted that the refurbished goal posts from Marwood Drive had been replaced, and that a collapsed tree in the Dawson Road play area had been removed and the wall repaired by Durham County Council.

Resolved – (a) That the information be noted.

(b) That quotations for the repair work identified at Green Lane be sought from Park Lane Playgrounds and undertaken if within budget.

54 MINI GOLF – REVIEW OF 2019 SEASON

Urban Crazy would be visiting the course during week commencing 17 February 2020 to replace the timer and vandalised sheep. It was expected that the work would take two days to complete and that there would be no cost to the Council.

During the early part of March, the grass on the course would be replaced with slate.

Interviews for the position of Mini Golf Attendant would take place during week commencing 17 February 2020.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

55 WEDNESDAY MARKET

In the eight weeks from 18 December 2019 to 5 February 2020 inclusive (two falling on Bank Holidays) total rental receipts had been £775, an average of £125 per week, a decrease on the previous period. The decrease was attributed to a quiet January and a period January -March where traders received a free week. Ten free pitches had been earned on that basis. There had not been any new traders, seven charity pitches had been used and the waiting list stood at five.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

56 FLORAL AND OPEN SPACES

(1) 2020 Floral Displays Scheme

An update on HMYOI Deerbolt's proposed extended floral scheme was given. Details were confirmed of the proposed planting scheme for both Summer & Winter bedding. The winter scheme included plants complimentary to that of the Summer planting and the price would be consistent with the previous year.

HMYOI Deerbolt had also included a quotation to plant up the area near the Welcome to Barnard Sign near County Bridge with flowering plants and shrubs for £522.76.

It was reported that a volunteer group organised by Mr Peat in consultation with Mrs M Watson of the Richard III Group had cleared the Amen Corner flower bed and re-planted it with appropriate regulation Richard III white roses.

It was further noted that the community Group, 'Veg Out In Barney', had become less active and had stepped-down from upkeeping the Niche Living 'Gateway Bed'. The

Chair noted discussions which had taken place with a possible sponsor for additional works at this location.

Resolved – (a) That the information be noted;
(b) that approval be given to the Summer and Winter Bedding schemes proposed by HMP&YOI Deerbolt, trading as One3one Solutions, but that no additional works to the gateway beds or Welcome to Barnard Castle bed be commissioned.

(2) Demesnes Bollards

Problems had been identified with both retractable bollards at the lower and upper Demesnes. The lower Demesnes bollard had failed, and the locking mechanism was inoperable. Both bollards had been serviced and had been identified as unfit for purpose. Quotations had been obtained for the replacement of the bollards and were considered at item 62. Below.

(3) General Update

The Ground Maintenance quotations were considered at item 63.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

57 BIG SPRING CLEAN 2020

In support of LitterFree Durham's campaign Big spring Clean 2020, it was agreed that the council would support a Big Spring Clean for Barnard Castle and it would take place on Saturday 4 April 2020 from 10:00 am to noon.

Resolved – That the date for the Big Spring Clean in Barnard Castle be set for Saturday 4 April, from 10am to noon, supported by the town council.

58 PUBLIC SEATS

A review of benches in use and their condition had been undertaken and a full report would be taken to the next meeting.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

59 WAR MEMORIALS

Cllr Blissett (Town Mayor) and the Market and Maintenance Supervisor carried out inspections of the War Memorials on Tuesday 11 February 2020, there were no significant issues identified.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

60 DOG FOULING

A consultation on the continuation of the Public Space Protection Order would be carried out by Durham County Council. A reduction in the number of reports regarding dog fouling had been seen and they were continuing to encourage communities to use the Do It Online portal to report dog fouling and irresponsible dog ownership. To enable a Neighbourhood Warden to take enforcement action, incidents would need to be reported stating the location and timing of repeat instances.

Resolved (a) That local people should be encouraged to report incidents through the County Council's 'Do It Online' portal, stating location and timings to assist with enforcement by Neighbourhood wardens; and

(b) That the council will take the opportunity to respond to the consultation on renewal of the PSPO.

61 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC (IN RESPECT OF ITEM 62 AND 63)

Resolved – That, under the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 §1(2), the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the matters referred to at item 62 and 63, below, due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

62 DEMESNES BOLLARDS QUOTATIONS (CONFIDENTIAL)

Submitted – a quotation considering the replacement of retractable bollards on both lower and upper Demesnes, with improved profiling better drainage or alternative barriers.

Resolved –(a) That a retractable bollard be ordered for the upper Demesnes; and
(b) That further investigation be carried out in respect of an alternative solution for the lower Demesnes.

63 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE QUOTATIONS (CONFIDENTIAL)

Submitted – a report considering quotations for the grounds maintenance contract 2020/21 seeking to determine which contractor should be appointed to undertake the work

Resolved – (a) That the 2020/21 grounds maintenance contract be awarded to Castle Gardens Ltd at the indicative baseline sum of £11,881;
(b) That additional works, as 'dayworks' be commissioned to professionally prepare and plant the Galgate 'Gateway Beds', supported by sponsorship from S&A; and
(c) That the Clerk be thanked for all his work to support the Committee at this, his last, meeting.

