

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL  
SERVICES COMMITTEE (VIRTUAL)**

**16 SEPTEMBER 2020**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Child (Chair), Kirkbride, Chatterjee, and Drew

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

**Officers:** Mr Clark (Town Clerk).

**1. ACCEPTANCE, OR OTHERWISE, OF APOLOGIES**

Apologies were submitted by Cllr's Miss Blissett & Thompson.

**Resolved** – That the apologies be accepted.

**2. 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. There were no declarations of interest at this juncture.

**3. SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – 17 FEBRUARY 2020 – MINUTES**

**Resolved** - That the Minutes be accepted as a correct record.

**4. ALLOTMENTS**

It was reported that the 2020/21 Allotment Tenancy Agreement and Rules had been sent out in early May and that all rentals had been paid and all tenancies returned.

The two vacant gardens on the Town Head and Crook Lane sites had been re-tenanted and there were currently no vacant gardens.

It was confirmed that since the last Services meeting in February, twenty new applications had been received and that the waiting list currently stood at twenty-nine: comprising of twenty parishioners and nine non-parishioners.

Due to the Covid situation, no allotment inspections had taken place since the last meeting. It was hoped that these would resume in the near future.

**Resolved** – That the information be noted.

**5. PLAY AREAS**

Members were asked to note that the quarterly inspections had been carried out and that details of repairs or items of concern had been noted.

**Resolved** – That the information be noted.

**5.1) Demesnes**

It was reported that a toddler swing on the new Lower Demesnes play area had been damaged due to an individual getting stuck and the fire brigade being required to cut them free.

**Resolved** - That the information be noted.

### **5.2) Bouch Way**

Members were advised that the rope bridge was in need of repair. The parts had been ordered and hazard tape and signage put in place until the repairs have been carried out.

**Resolved** – That the information be noted.

### **5.3) Green Lane**

Minor issues had been identified on the wet pour surface which will be monitored.

**Resolved** - That the information be noted.

### **5.4) Tenfields**

It was confirmed that the annual rental had been received.

Members were advised that Bowes Football Club had approached the council with proposals to extend the changing facilities to include three showers and a toilet in each changing room and, also to improve parking facilities and access.

**Resolved** – It was agreed in principle, and subject to clearance from the Fields in Trust to approve the proposal to allow the club to submit a planning application to Durham County Council.

### **5.5) Swing for Wheelchair Users**

A request had been received to consider allowing a swing for wheelchair users to be installed in one of the council's play areas.

**Resolved** – The council look at the options regarding the location and funding opportunities to install a swing for wheelchair users.

## **6. MINI GOLF**

It was confirmed that the mini golf course had been opened for a total of ten days on a play and donate system. The total amount of donations received was £382.65.

**Resolved** – The information be noted.

## **7. WEDNESDAY MARKET**

It was reported that the Wednesday market had re-opened on the 10 June 2020. The market re-opened under strict social distancing guidance and with the complete co-operation of the stall holders. On 10 June, no stallholders were charged.

Between 17<sup>th</sup> June and 09 September 2020 inclusive total rental receipts have been £1,875.00. In this period there was one charity stall from the Friends of the Richardson Hospital.

**Resolved** – That the information be noted.

## **8. FLORAL AND OPEN SPACES**

### **8.1) Floral Displays**

A verbal report was given on the success of the summer planting schemes. Members particularly noted the positive responses to the new bed at the County Bridge.

**Resolved** – That the information be noted.

### **8.2) Survey Barnard Castle Town Flower Beds**

Received – A survey of Barnard Castle Town Flower Beds and a verbal report following a walk around the town with the Clerk to look at all the flower beds.

**Resolved** – That the information be noted.

### **8.3) Lower Demesnes Barriers**

Members were reminded that on the 16 March 2020 item 91 Clerks report it was recommended and agreed that the council replaces the bollard at the entrance to the Lower Demesnes with a gate. The action to take this forward has been delayed with the consultation with the residents of the Mill Cottages about to begin on the design.

**Resolved** – That the information be noted.

### **8.4) Upper Demesnes Bollard**

A quotation had been received for the proposed replacement of the Upper Demesnes bollard, to be considered at Item 13.

## **9. BIG SPRING CLEAN 2020**

Members were updated on the Great British September Clean and the current guidelines due to Covid 19

**Resolved** – This information be noted.

## **10. PUBLIC AND MEMORIAL SEATS**

It was confirmed that a request had been received for a memorial bench under the Memorial Bench Scheme.

**Resolved** – Agreement was given in principle to the request.

## **11. WAR MEMORIALS**

It was reported that the Galgate Green memorial area had been cut regularly and had recently been weeded and tidied. The old bark covering will be replaced with gravel.

**Resolved** – That the information be noted.

## **12. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC (IN RESPECT OF ITEM 13)**

**Resolved** – That 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 13 below, due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

## **13. UPPER DEMESNES BOLLARD (CONFIDENTIAL)**

Received - a quotation detailing the replacement of the retractable bollard at the Upper Demesnes.

**Resolved** – That the council purchase the replacement manual retractable bollard from TI Security at £2,215.95 plus VAT including installation and removal of faulty bollard.

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