

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING****12TH MARCH, 2009**

PRESENT:- Councillor Yarker (Town Mayor) (in the Chair); Councillors Mrs Bailes, Mrs Hamilton, Harrison, Peat, Watson and Wheeler.

Also in attendance:- Mr K. Jones (Teesdale Community Resources) (for Minute 210 only)

208. APOLOGIES:- Councillors Blissett, Cooke, Mrs Dixon, Hinchcliffe and Wood.

209. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with standard local government procedures, 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.

Councillor Watson declared an interest in respect of the matter to be considered at Minute 210 below because of his membership of Teesdale District Council's Development Control Committee - this enabled him to comment on the matter at this meeting but not to vote.

210. PLANNING APPLICATION – SHAW BANK (LAND OFF A688)

Submitted – In accordance with the procedure recommended at Planning Committee Minute 65(iii)/Mar/09 and subsequently approved at Council Minute 180/Mar/09, a planning application, in respect of land off A688 at Shaw Bank, from Teesdale Community Resources. The application consisted of the provision of a community building (to provide education, leisure and training facilities) and external works to provide the following:-

- (i) access to a proposed cycle route;
- (ii) a mountain bike course;
- (iii) canoeing lakes;
- (iv) an outdoor activity area; and
- (v) an ancillary car park and landscaping.

Documentation issued to Members in advance of the meeting included a Design and Access Statement, a Supporting Planning Statement and Heads of Terms for the proposed Section 106 Agreement. A number of other documents were retained in the office but were available to Members on request.

Mr K. Jones of Teesdale Community Resources attended the meeting and gave a powerpoint presentation on the proposals. He explained and highlighted the history of the scheme, the basic concepts involved, the link with the Barnard Castle Vision team, the associated funding, the provision of a new access road, the transfer of land from Durham County Council, the accesses to Teesdale School and the South West Durham Heritage Corridor, the facilities within the main building and the fact that there was no duplication compared with other sites in Barnard Castle. Mr Jones also outlined the timescale for the project, with a significant start required by 28th April, 2009.

Issues raised at the meeting included the possibility of toxic problems, the effect on the Travellers, the by-pass issue, water-levels and the general involvement of young people in the proposals.

Resolved – That conditional approval is recommended, subject to the Local Planning Authority bearing in mind that:-

- (a) the site is outside the permitted development limit;
- (b) future school development boundaries should not be compromised by the proposals;
- (c) the proposed play facilities should be harmonised with the existing play provisions in Barnard Castle;
- (d) the South West Durham Heritage Corridor extends into Barnard Castle and does not end at Shaw Bank; and
- (e) full checks need to be made on the sufficiency of the water-flow from Black Beck.

211. FINANCIAL DONATION APPLICATION – THE MEET COMMITTEE

It was confirmed that, at Council Minute 179(2)(D)/Mar/09, it had been agreed that the Finance Committee, at its meeting scheduled for 23rd March, 2009, should be given delegated powers to determine donations for three specific organisations. It was reported that an application for a financial donation had just been received from The Meet Committee and a similar donation delegation arrangement was required to enable a donation to be made from the 2008/09 donations budget.

Resolved – That delegated powers be given to the Finance Committee to consider the financial donation application from The Meet Committee.