

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING**

15TH JUNE, 2009

PRESENT:- Councillor Yarker (Town Mayor)(in the Chair); Councillors Mrs Bailes, Blissett, Cooke, Mrs Hamilton, Harrison, Hinchcliffe, Peat, Watson, Wheeler and Wood (Minutes 31 to 34 inclusive).

28. APOLOGIES:- Councillor Mrs Dixon.

29. 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. There were no declarations of interest at this juncture.

30. AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS 2008/09

Submitted – Pursuant to Minute 25/Jun/09, a report seeking approval to Section 1 (Statement of accounts) and Section 2 (Annual governance statement) of the 2008/09 Annual Return. The accounts for that year had been approved by this Council's Internal Auditor and the report outlined the remaining stages of the process, leading to the final submission of the Annual Return to the main Auditor by 26th June, 2009. The accounts had to be approved by the main Auditor by 21st August, 2009. It was reported that a substantial amount of additional information was to be submitted to the main Auditor because of the expenditure total exceeding £200,000.

Resolved – That Sections 1 and 2 of the 2008/09 Annual Return be approved.

31. WAR MEMORIALS PROJECT – UPDATE

Submitted – Pursuant to Minute 185/Mar/09, a report incorporating an update on the impending restoration work to the three War Memorials in Barnard Castle. Specific reference was made to the Durham Light Infantry Memorial surrounds and a summary of the overall funding was provided.

Resolved – (a) That no works to the Durham Light Infantry Memorial surrounds be undertaken.

(b) That the various funding streams be amalgamated.

32. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC (in respect of Minutes 33 and 34 below)

Resolved – That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the matters referred to at Minutes 33 and 34 below on the grounds that they may involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Parts 1 and 7 of Schedule 12A of the said Act.

33. WAR MEMORIALS - TENDERING PROCESS

Submitted – Pursuant to Minutes 185/Mar/09 and 31 above, a report on the receipt of quotations for the repair, restoration and cleaning of the three War Memorials in Barnard Castle. Members were provided with a summary sheet of the tasks to be undertaken along with detailed quotations. It was also reported that all five of the contractors invited to tender had submitted quotations. However, there were significant differences between the various quotations.

Resolved – (a) That the quotation from P & S Coverdale Masonry Contractors Limited, Bowes, in the sum of £5,036.00 (plus VAT of £755.40), be accepted for the repair, restoration and cleaning of the Boer, World War II and Durham Light Infantry War Memorials in Barnard Castle.

(b) That the work recommendations of P & S Coverdale Masonry Contractors Limited be accepted and carried out.

34. REGISTERING OF ALLOTMENT LAND

Submitted – A report which highlighted the need for this Council to register its allotment land with HM Land Registry, as it had come to light during investigations into longstanding issues that the allotment land did not appear to be officially registered. A legal adviser, who had been recommended by another local council, would assist with the project.

It was acknowledged that this Council could liaise direct with HM Land Registry to register the allotment land without a legal adviser being involved but it was considered that to resolve the longstanding issues the need of professional aid was necessary.

Resolved – That this Council employs a legal advisor to register all allotment land, with the associated costs to be met from the Allotments budget.