

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL  
COUNCIL MEETING****7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2010**

(NOTE – Prior to the meeting and in accordance with the decision at Minute 186(2)/Mar/09, a 15-minute slot was allocated for public participation. No questions had been raised in advance and no members of the public were present.)

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

**Officers:-** Mr Bosworth (Town Clerk) and Mrs Plant (Assistant Town Clerk).

**13. APOLOGIES:-** Councillors Mrs Dixon, Harrison, Hinchcliffe and Wood.

**14. 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 Minute 15 below and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

**15. THE WITHAM HALL REDEVELOPMENT PLANNING APPLICATION**

Submitted - Pursuant to Minute 179/Apr/10, a planning application in respect of the redevelopment of The Witham Hall from The Trustees of The Witham Hall who had been supported throughout by the Barnard Castle Vision team. The application consisted of the redevelopment of the existing Hall, including the erection of a new events space, a food hall and associated office and meeting spaces for community, cultural and commercial use. An application for Listed Building Consent was also considered.

Officers from the Planning Department at Durham County Council were in attendance to answer Members' technical questions. A briefing session immediately prior to the Council meeting (by representatives of the applicants) had enabled Members to ask questions of relevance in advance of the formal consideration.

**Resolved** – That conditional approval and Listed Building Consent are recommended.

**16. COUNCIL MEETING – 19<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2010 – MINUTES**

**Resolved** – That the Minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record.

**17. ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – 10<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2010 – MINUTES**

**Resolved** – That the Minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record.

**18. ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING – 10<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2010 – MINUTES**

**Resolved** – That the Minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record.

## **19. SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING – 10<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2010 – MINUTES**

**Resolved** – That the Minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record.

## **20. 'EN BLOC' ITEMS**

Submitted – In accordance with Minute 72/Aug/04, a further set of items with the accompanying recommendations to be moved 'en bloc'. The thirteen items considered at the meeting were as follows:-

### **(1) Planning Committee Meeting – 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2010 – Minutes**

**Resolved** – That the Minutes be received.

### **(2) Finance Committee Meeting – 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2010 – Minutes**

**Resolved** – That the Minutes be received.

### **(3) Christmas Festival Committee Meeting – 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2010 – Minutes**

**Resolved** – That the Minutes be received.

### **(4) Special Modernisation Committee Meeting – 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2010 – Minutes**

**Resolved** – That the Minutes be received.

### **(5) Administrative Support Committee Meeting – 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2010 – Minutes**

**Resolved** – That the Minutes be received.

### **(6) Christmas Festival Committee Meeting – 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2010 – Minutes**

**Resolved** – That the Minutes be received.

### **(7) Finance Committee Meeting – 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2010 – Minutes**

**Resolved** – That the Minutes be received.

### **(8) Modernisation Committee Meeting – 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2010 – Minutes**

**Resolved** – That the Minutes be received.

### **(9) Planning Committee Meeting – 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2010 – Minutes**

**Resolved** – That the Minutes be received.

### **(10) Planning Committee Meeting – 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2010 – Minutes**

**Resolved** – That the Minutes be received.

### **(11) Modernisation Committee Meeting – 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2010 – Minutes**

**Resolved** – That the Minutes be received.

## **(12) Planning Committee Meeting – 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2010 – Minutes**

**Resolved** – That the Minutes be received.

## **(13) Town Mayor's Activities**

It was reported that since the Annual Council meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2010, the Town Mayor had attended the following, accompanied by the Town Mayoress (Miss R. Abrahams):-

<b>11<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Opening by H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester of major refurbishments at The Bowes Museum.
<b>29<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Crowning of The Meet's Carnival Queen.
<b>29<sup>th</sup> May</b>	'The Meet Through Time' Exhibition.
<b>30<sup>th</sup> May</b>	The Meet's Pet Show.
<b>30<sup>th</sup> May</b>	The Meet's Crazy Bowles.
<b>31<sup>st</sup> May</b>	The Meet's Grand Parade and other activities.
<b>31<sup>st</sup> May</b>	The Meet's Musical Extravaganza.

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

## **21. REFERRAL FROM FINANCE COMMITTEE – CORPORATE PLAN**

Reference was made to the recommendation of the Finance Committee, at Minute 57 of the set of Minutes at sub-section (2) of Minute 20 above, regarding the proposed deferment of the introduction of a Corporate Plan as part of the 2011/12 budgetary process. Consideration was given to the mechanics and detailed processes involved in producing a Corporate Plan, the timescale difficulties and the fact that further detailed research was required as to the basic concepts of a Corporate Plan. In addition, reference was made to the ongoing review of the role of the Town Council by the Modernisation Committee and that it was considered prudent to wait for the outcome of that review so that the Council had a firm and updated base on which to build a Plan.

**Resolved** - That the introduction of a Corporate Plan be deferred until 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2012.

## **22. REPRESENTATION ON OTHER BODIES**

### **(1) Barney Guild – Meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2010**

It was reported that Councillor Peat, this Council's representative on the Barney Guild, had been unable to attend the meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2010 and no Minutes had been made available. However, it had been confirmed that the meeting had been attended solely by retailers to agree a way forward in respect of the leadership, focus and direction of the Guild and the group were to canvass other businesses who did not usually attend meetings.

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

### **(2) Teesdale Residents and Travellers Forum - Meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2010**

It was reported that at the Forum's meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2010, issues in respect of Barnard Castle centred on the target-hardening and repair work to the drop bollard on the lower Demesnes and the temporary traffic restrictions along Bridgegate that would be in place for the 2010 migration period only. All Bridgegate residents were to be kept informed of relevant activities and the alternative location where those residents affected could park during that period.

**Resolved** – (a) That the information be noted.

(b) That a letter of thanks be sent to the Teesdale Residents and Travellers Forum in respect of the well-co-ordinated procedures during the 2010 travellers' migration period.

### **(3) Teesdale Local Councils' Forum – Meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2010**

It was reported that at the Forum's Annual meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2010, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman were re-appointed, as were the Forum's representatives on a number of outside bodies. However, the Forum considered that clarification was required in respect of the Chairman's role in representing the Forum at the Teesdale Action Partnership and his subsequent involvement in that body's Task Groups.

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

### **23. AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS 2009/10**

Consideration of this item was deferred to the Council meeting scheduled for 19<sup>th</sup> July, 2010.

(NOTE – In view of Audit timescales, this deferment was later brought forward to a Special Council meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2010.)

### **24. BARNARD CASTLE VISION**

Submitted - In accordance with the standard arrangements, a briefing note (jointly written by Mrs A. Ward of the Barnard Castle Vision and the Clerk) providing an update on the Vision's ongoing projects.

Discussion ensued in respect of the continuation of meetings between the Vision's Chairman and the Town Mayor on a formal basis and separate meetings to commence between the Vision's Chairman and the Clerk. It was acknowledged that the meetings should be approved by full Council and subsequent information gathered from those meetings should be reported to Council meetings.

**Resolved** – (a) That the information be noted.

(b) That meetings between the Barnard Castle Vision's Chairman and the Town Mayor and the Clerk be approved.

### **25. TOWN'S COAT OF ARMS**

Submitted – A report summarising the progress made to date in the registration process for the Town's Coat of Arms' ownership being transferred into this Council's name, including a summary of the history of the Coat of Arms which confirmed that the current owner was Durham County Council.

**Resolved** – That it be agreed that this Council formally requests and seeks approval from Durham County Council to the ownership of Barnard Castle Town's Coat of Arms being transferred to Barnard Castle Town Council.

### **26. TIDY BUSINESS STANDARD**

Submitted – A report emanating from a request from County Councillor Bell to introduce Members to the Tidy Business Standard initiative. The scheme's leaflet was attached to the submitted report. It was reported that Durham County Council would like to pilot the scheme in the Teesdale Action Partnership area.

**Resolved** – That a letter be sent to Durham County Council in support of the Tidy Business Standard initiative.

### **27. CEMETERY PROVISION IN BARNARD CASTLE**

Submitted – A report by Councillor Watson regarding cemetery provision in Barnard Castle, including reference to the creation of a new cemetery that had been identified by the former Teesdale District Council, a subject addressed in that Council's Local Plan.

Members agreed that consideration should be given to the provision of a new cemetery in Barnard Castle.

**Resolved** – That Durham County Council asked to supply information in respect of the current situation regarding cemetery provision in Barnard Castle.

### **28. THE BOWES MUSEUM PARK MASTER PLAN PROJECT**

Submitted – A report by Councillor Watson regarding The Bowes Museum Park Master Plan project, including a summary of the park's history and concerns expressed in respect of redevelopment proposals being inconsistent with the terms in Josephine Bowes' bequest. It was considered that, whilst John and Josephine Bowes had given the Town a significant legacy, further information should be initially sought on the proposals for the redevelopment of The Bowes Museum's park and gardens.

**Resolved** – That The Bowes Museum be asked to supply information in respect of the situation regarding redevelopment proposals for The Bowes Museum's park and gardens.

### **29. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC (in respect of Minutes 30 and 31 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 30 and 31 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.

### **30. ASSET TRANSFERS**

Submitted – A report providing an update on this council's office relocation arrangements. It was highlighted that whilst Durham County Council had been contacted on possible future accommodation provision, that council was unable to assist this Council at the present time.

**Resolved** – That accommodation options for the relocation of this Council's office be urgently investigated.

### **31. EVENT MANAGEMENT**

Submitted – A report outlining the current situation in respect of arrangements for a forthcoming event.

**Resolved** – That this Council's course of action in this matter, as now determined, be approved.