

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL  
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING**

**2<sup>ND</sup> AUGUST, 2010**

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

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

**62. APOLOGIES:-** Councillors Blissett and Wood.

**63. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

In accordance with this Council's adopted Code of Conduct (Minute 20/Jun/07 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. Councillor Peat declared an interest in respect of Minute 65 below and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon and Councillor Harrison declared an interest in respect of Minute 66 below and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

**64. HONORARY FREEMEN OF BARNARD CASTLE**

Submitted – Pursuant to Minute 51/Jul/10, a report outlining the necessary formalities involved in conferring the title of Honorary Freeman by this Council to two specific nominees, including a specific motion having to be passed by no fewer than two-thirds of the Members of the Council. Local councils could spend reasonable sums as they thought fit for the purposes of presenting addresses to the relevant persons. It was suggested that the longer-term criteria for the scheme should be discussed at the Special Modernisation Committee meeting scheduled for 9<sup>th</sup> August, 2010.

**Resolved** - (a) That the title of Honorary Freeman be conferred on Michael Geoffrey Charles Wyatt Wheeler and Alan Wilkinson for the eminent services they have rendered to the Town of Barnard Castle.

(b) That the associated presentations take place, as soon as practical, immediately prior to a scheduled Council meeting.

(c) That expenditure up to a maximum of £500 be allocated from Contingencies for the addresses to be presented to the two nominees.

(d) That the Modernisation Committee be authorised to determine the criteria for future nominations at its Special meeting scheduled for 9<sup>th</sup> August, 2010, with recommendations from that Committee to be submitted to the Council meeting scheduled for 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2010.

**65. COUNTY DURHAM PLAN/HOUSING STRATEGY**

Submitted – A report outlining two consultation documents issued by Durham County Council, namely 'The County Durham Plan – Planning for the Future of County Durham – Core Strategy Issues and Options Paper' and 'Building Altogether Better Lives : A Housing Strategy for County Durham 2010-2015 – Issues and Options Paper'. Both documents had response deadlines of 6<sup>th</sup> August, 2010. The report combined the two documents as they were intrinsically interlinked.

The County Durham Plan would be the new development plan for County Durham and would effectively be the Local Development Framework. The Core Strategy would be the principal document within the Plan and would guide future development and growth in the County up to 2030 and would also reflect key decisions about new developments in County Durham, what was needed for residents, businesses and visitors and where it should be located. It was also considered necessary to decide how the overall development plans would be shared out across County Durham, with two options having been identified.

Discussion ensued on matters in relation to Barnard Castle, including the need for affordable housing, employment and renewable energy sources.

**Resolved** – That this Council's response, as discussed, in respect of the County Durham Plan and Housing Strategy be submitted to Durham County Council.

**66. DAWSON ROAD PLAYINGFIELD – REQUEST FOR USE FOR EVENT**

Submitted - Pursuant to Minute 31/Jun/10, a report on a request from Groundwork North East, in conjunction with Dawson Play Community Group, for permission to use Dawson Road playingfield for a 'fun day' event. A financial contribution from this Council towards the overall costs of the event was also requested.

**Resolved** - (a) That Groundwork North East, in conjunction with Dawson Play, be granted permission to use Dawson Road playingfield for a 'fun day' event.  
(b) That a contribution of £300 be given to Groundwork North East towards the costs of the event, to be allocated from this Council's 2010/11 Events budget.

**67. DRAFT NEWSLETTER ARTICLE – ECONOMIC/BUDGETARY SITUATION**

Submitted – Pursuant to Minute 47(6)/Jul/10, a report incorporating a draft Newsletter article in respect of the current economic climate and the budgetary cuts which would ensue at other levels of local government. It was further reported that recent information had been received advising that a consultation exercise on the issue of holding local referenda if councils (including local councils) introduced large increases in Council Tax Precept was being undertaken. It was suggested that this information should also be included in the article.

**Resolved** - That the article be approved as submitted, subject to the insertion of information in respect of local referenda for the fourteenth edition of the Newsletter.