

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL  
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING**

**31<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY, 2011**

**PRESENT:-** Councillor Cooke (Town Mayor)(in the Chair for Minutes 166 to part of 169 inclusive); Councillor Harrison (Deputy Town Mayor)(in the Chair for part of Minute 169); Councillors Mrs Bailes, Blissett, Mrs Hamilton, Peat and Watson.

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

**166. APOLOGIES:-** Councillors Mrs Dixon, Wood and Yarker.

**167. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

In accordance with this Council's adopted Code of Conduct (Minute 20/Jan/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 the need arose during discussion.

**168. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC (in respect of Minute 169 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 matter referred to at Minute 169 below on the grounds that it may involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the said Act.

**169. OFFICE ACCOMMODATION**

Submitted – A report outlining a number of potential new office accommodation rental options, including details of the likely overall annual costs, and the associated budgetary impact, in respect of an immediate short-term option and a medium to long-term option. Current accommodation problems were highlighted and previous investigations were re-iterated.

**Resolved** – (a) That it be acknowledged that there is an urgent need for this Council's office to relocate into larger premises due to the reasons set out in the submitted report.

(b) That, in respect of Woodleigh, a meeting be convened as soon as possible with relevant officers from Durham County Council's Estates Department to re-iterate this Council's historic connection with Woodleigh and to impress on that Council that the Town Council wishes to pursue Woodleigh as its preferred long-term office accommodation solution.

(c) That, whilst an expression of interest be conveyed in respect of the submitted alternative long-term office accommodation option, it be stipulated that more detailed information needs to be provided before a definitive decision on that option can be made.

(d) That approval be given to the short-term office accommodation option, subject to further constructive negotiations in respect of the tenancy agreement and the associated costs.

(NOTE – Councillors Blissett and Peat declared interests in respect of paragraphs 11 to 18 inclusive of the submitted report and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon. Councillor Cooke (Town Mayor) declared an interest in respect of paragraphs 19 to 30 inclusive of the submitted report, left the Chair and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon. Councillor Harrison (Deputy Town Mayor) chaired the meeting during discussion of those paragraphs.)