

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL  
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING**

**4<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2011**

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

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

**50. APOLOGIES:-** Councillors Hinchcliffe and Robinson.

**51. 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 the 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 at this juncture.

**52. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC (in respect of Minute 53 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 Minute 53 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.

**53. OFFICE ACCOMMODATION**

Submitted – Pursuant to Minute 28/Jun/11, a report summarising the updated situation in respect of the proposed office accommodation at 42 Galgate, including the fact that further legal advice had been sought in respect of the shop-front situation. It was confirmed that a meeting with the landlord to renegotiate the Tenancy Agreement and the shop-front windows situation had taken place but no progress had been made. The current accommodation problems were re-iterated and future options were briefly explored.

**Resolved** – (a) That this Council's taking of the tenancy of 42 Galgate, for office accommodation purposes, be not proceeded with.

(b) That the Clerk inform the landlord of 42 Galgate, in writing, of the following:-

- (i) the decision at (a) above;
- (ii) this Council considers that the associated Tenancy Agreement is null and void;
- (iii) partly as the result of (ii) above, this Council considers that it has no outstanding obligations in respect of 42 Galgate; and
- (iv) this Council considers that no rental payments for 42 Galgate should be made in respect of the June 2011 period.

(c) That the Clerk and Councillor Wood be authorised to work in partnership with County Councillor R. Bell to pursue alternative office accommodation options with Durham County Council.