

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING**

1ST AUGUST, 2011

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

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

77. APOLOGIES:- None.

78. 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 as circulated 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 Cooke (Town Mayor) declared an interest in respect of Minute 79 and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon. He had already vacated the Chair before the start of the meeting but remained in the Council Chamber.

79. MEDIA COVERAGE OF COUNCIL MATTERS

The Clerk made reference to the discussion at the Council meeting on 18th July, 2011 (Minute 62/Jul/11 refers) in respect of him issuing statements on behalf of the Council. As a result of that discussion, he had received the Town Mayor's agreement to call this Special Council meeting because a communication had been received from a local news television station regarding the production of an item in respect of the local Pubwatch's recent decision to ban Councillor Cooke (Town Mayor) from all of its licensed premises in the Teesdale area. The Clerk sought authority for the Council to be represented in the item in question which had been temporarily delayed because of the imminent further meeting of Pubwatch.

Resolved – (a) That this Council should take part in the news item but only after the local Pubwatch's further decision has been made.

(b) That the Deputy Town Mayor be the Council's official spokesperson in this matter.

(NOTE - At this point, it was agreed that Councillor Wood be allowed to raise an issue that was not on the agenda.)

80. LOCAL HYPERACUTE STROKE SERVICES

Councillor Wood reported that NHS County Durham and Darlington were reviewing the hyperacute stroke service in the area with, the proposed option being to consolidate the service at the University Hospital of North Durham. Concerns were expressed in respect of the unacceptable travelling distance to that Hospital for patients from the Barnard Castle area and the urgent nature of most cases. However, it was considered that more information was required in respect of the matter before a view could be formed.

Resolved – That further information in respect of the proposed changes to the hyperacute stroke service in County Durham and Darlington be sought.