

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING****23RD JANUARY, 2012**

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

Officer:- Mr Bosworth (Town Clerk).

189A. APOLOGIES:- Councillors Harrison, Hinchcliffe and Yarker.

189B. RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR MRS DIXON

It was reported that, following four years' service with the Council, Councillor Mrs Dixon had resigned as a Member of the Council with effect from 19th January, 2012. A number of Members commented on the contribution made by Councillor Mrs Dixon to the Council's activities. Authorisation was sought for the commencement of the Election process for the resultant North Ward vacancy.

Resolved – (a) That a letter be sent to Councillor Mrs Dixon thanking her for her services to both this Council and the residents of Barnard Castle.

(b) That the Clerk be authorised to commence the election process for the North Ward vacancy.

190. 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 Robinson declared an interest in respect of budgetary item 46 – Barnard Castle Meet and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

191. PRECEPT AND BUDGET 2012/13

Submitted – A report summarising the deliberations of the Finance Committee on a prospective budget for 2012/13, incorporating the Committee's recommendations in respect of the rental and charging arrangements and summarising the Cumulative Fund situation, including earmarked reserves. It was highlighted that budgetary bids and recommendations had been sought from a number of other Committees and Working Groups and the resultant information had been an integral part of the Finance Committee's deliberations. The report concluded with recommendations in respect of the Precept and the overall 2012/13 budget.

Background details for each budgetary item were provided and the budgetary figures for 2011/12 were included for comparative purposes, including projected 'end-of-year' figures for that year. Specific reference was made to the fact that the full Council had, at Minute 154A/Dec/11, agreed that five out of eight prospective new budgetary items should be included in the 2012/13 budget. Of the remaining three, one would be progressed within the office (as there was no budgetary requirement), one would not be taken any further and more information was required on the third item.

It was confirmed that the recommended Precept of £148,642, an increase of £12,617 compared with the Precept for 2011/12, would result in an increase of £5.50 per year (or approximately 10.6p per week) for a Band D property in Barnard Castle. The annual contribution would be £76.21 compared with the 2011/12 contribution of £70.71.

Resolved – That the following budgetary recommendations of the Finance Committee be approved:-

- (a) that the following rentals and charges be agreed:-
 - (i) Ten Fields (Barnard Castle Football Club Rental)
- £60 in 2012/13 (previously determined) (no change);
 - (ii) Allotments (per plot)
 - £40 in 2012/13 (previously determined) (no change); and
 - £40 in 2013/14 (no change); and
 - (iii) Mini Golf
 - Charge per round - £1.00 for all users (no change);
 - Lost ball – 50p (no change); and
 - Damaged club - £5.00 (no change).
- (b) that the Double Taxation payment for 2012/13 be allocated to the replacement Mini Golf project, with a 'top-up' allocation from this Council of £689;
- (c) that four specific 2011/12 budgetary underspends, namely Newsletter (£3,150), Floral Displays (£1,960 + £224 of income), Office Move (£2,263) and Christmas Festival (£500) be transferred into 2012/13 earmarked reserves;
- (d) that £500 of the Earmarked Christmas Emergency Fund be allocated to the 2012 Christmas Festival Event;
- (e) that a 2012/13 Precept of £148,642 be served on Durham County Council; and
- (f) that the revenue budget for 2012/13 be as detailed in the **Appendix** attached to this set of Minutes.