

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL  
COUNCIL MEETING**

**11<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2012**

(NOTE – Prior to the meeting and in accordance with the decision at Minute 186(2)/Mar/09, a 15-minute slot was allocated for public participation. No questions had been raised in advance and no members of the public were present.)

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

**Also in attendance:-** Sergeant C. Knox (Durham Constabulary)(Minutes 17 to 19 inclusive) and two members of the public (Minutes 19 to 27 inclusive).

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

**17. APOLOGIES:-** Councillor Hinchcliffe.

**18. 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. There were no declarations of interest at this juncture.

**19. ATTENDANCE OF POLICE REPRESENTATIVE**

In accordance with the arrangements agreed at Minute 203(b)/Mar/12, Sergeant C. Knox of Durham Constabulary attended the meeting. Members were informed of current priorities, including the travellers' migration period, Farm Watch, the Olympic Torch Relay and the effects that the Government's financial cutbacks were having on Durham Constabulary. A 'question and answer' session ensued.

**Resolved** – That Sergeant Knox be thanked for his attendance.

**20. COUNCIL MEETING – 23<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY, 2012 – MINUTES**

**Resolved** – That the Minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record.

**21. COUNCIL MEETING – 16<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2012 – MINUTES**

**Resolved** – That the Minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record.

**22. ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – 14<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2012 – MINUTES**

**Resolved** – That the Minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record.

**23. ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING – 14<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2012 – MINUTES**

**Resolved** – That the Minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record.

**24. EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING – 16<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2012 – MINUTES**

Reference was made to Minute 16 of the submitted set of Minutes and two corrections were put forward for consideration.

**Resolved** – That, subject to the following corrections, the Minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record.

in respect of Minute 16 (Town Council – Internal Matters and Issues):-

in the fourth paragraph, commencing with ‘At this point’, delete ‘and consequently would not be answering any of the points raised’ and insert the following:-

‘Therefore, following advice and instructions from his legal team, he ‘refused to dignify’ Cllr Wood’s accusations and stated that he would not be answering any questions, making any statements or commenting on this matter.’; and

in the fifth paragraph, commencing with ‘Discussion ensued’, the following be added to the sentence ending with ‘purported actions and statements’:-

‘and a subsequent vote confirmed that those Councillors should be asked to apologise.’

## **25. TOWN COUNCIL INTERNAL MATTERS (Councillors Wood and Robinson)**

Submitted – Pursuant to Minute 16/May/12, a report by Councillors Robinson and Wood regarding the same internal matters and issues that centred on certain actions and statements that were purported to have emanated from Councillors Cooke and Watson.

Prior to the overall discussion, the Clerk explained why the matter had been included on the agenda again and was being considered in open session when the matter had been discussed at the Extraordinary Council meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2012 whilst the press and public were excluded.

Discussion ensued and Councillor Wood proposed the vote of no confidence contained in the submitted report against Councillors Cooke and Watson. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Robinson. However, Councillor Blissett recommended an amendment to that proposal suggesting that, whilst the offer of mediation remained on the table but because this Council could not afford to waste any more time on what were almost unsolvable differences and difficulties between Councillors Cooke, Watson and Wood, this Council should no longer formally consider any matters arising from those differences and difficulties. However, the amendment was not seconded. A vote by a show of hands resulted in Councillors Wood’s proposal being carried.

**Resolved** – That, as a direct consequence of Councillor Cooke’s and Councillor Watson’s behaviour, a vote of no confidence is made against Councillors Cooke and Watson.

## **26. ‘EN BLOC’ ITEMS**

Submitted – In accordance with Minute 72/Aug/04, a further set of items with the accompanying recommendations to be moved ‘en bloc’. The eighteen items considered at the meeting were as follows:-

### **(1) Modernisation Committee Meeting – 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2012 – Minutes**

**Resolved** – That the Minutes be received.

### **(2) Planning Committee Meeting – 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2012 – Minutes**

**Resolved** – That the Minutes be received.

### **(3) Planning Committee Meeting – 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2012 – Minutes**

**Resolved** – That the Minutes be received.

**(4) Finance Committee Meeting – 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2012 – Minutes**

**Resolved** – That the Minutes be received.

**(5) Administrative Support Committee Meeting – 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2012 – Minutes**

**Resolved** – That the Minutes be received.

**(6) Christmas Festival Committee Meeting – 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2012 – Minutes**

**Resolved** – That the Minutes be received.

**(7) Finance Committee Meeting – 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2012 – Minutes**

**Resolved** – That the Minutes be received.

**(8) Modernisation Committee Meeting – 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2012 – Minutes**

**Resolved** – That the Minutes be received.

**(9) Planning Committee Meeting – 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2012 – Minutes**

**Resolved** – That the Minutes be received.

**(10) Allotments and Play Areas Working Group Meeting – 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2012 – Notes**

**Resolved** – That the Notes be received.

**(11) Editorial Board Meeting – 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2012 – Notes**

**Resolved** – That the Notes be received.

**(12) Floral Competition Working Group Meeting – 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2012 – Notes**

**Resolved** – That the Notes be received.

**(13) Floral and Open Spaces Working Group Meeting – 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2012 – Notes**

**Resolved** – That the Notes be received.

**(14) Planning Committee Meeting – 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2012 – Minutes**

**Resolved** – That the Minutes be received.

**(15) Administrative Support Committee Meeting – 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2012 – Minutes**

**Resolved** – That the Minutes be received.

**(16) Modernisation Committee Meeting – 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2012 – Minutes**

**Resolved** – That the Minutes be received.

**(17) Administrative Support Committee Meeting – 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2012 – Minutes**

**Resolved** – That the Minutes be received.

**(18) Town Mayor’s Activities**

It was reported that, since the Annual Council meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2012, the Town Mayor had attended the following:-

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| 15 <sup>th</sup> May  | <b>(accompanied by the Town Mayoress (Mrs P Harrison))</b><br>Barnard Castle Scout Group’s Annual Parents’ Night and Annual General Meeting (Scout Headquarters, Wilson Street). |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> May  | <b>(accompanied by the Town Mayoress)</b><br>Richmond Town Council’s Mayor Making Ceremony (Town Hall, Richmond).  |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> May  | <b>(accompanied by the Town Mayoress)</b><br>Trades Incorporation of Britain and Ireland’s Inaugural Presentation and Reception (NeST, Newgate).                                 |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> May  | <b>(accompanied by the Town Mayoress)</b><br>The Meet’s Under 13s Cricket Knock Out (Barnard Castle Cricket Club, Vere Road).  |
| 31 <sup>st</sup> May  | <b>(accompanied by the Town Mayoress)</b><br>The Meet’s Car Treasure Hunt (Beaconsfield Hotel, Galgate).   |
| 31 <sup>st</sup> May  | <b>(accompanied by the Town Mayoress)</b><br>The Meet’s Quiz Night (Barnard Castle Cricket Club, Vere Road).   |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> June  | The Meet’s Veterans Football Match (Ten Fields).   |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> June  | <b>(accompanied by the Town Mayoress)</b><br>Barnard Castle Lawn Tennis Club Open Day (The Bowes Museum grounds).  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> June  | <b>(accompanied by the Town Mayoress)</b><br>‘The Meet Through Time’ (Woodleigh).  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> June  | <b>(accompanied by the Town Mayoress)</b><br>The Meet’s Town Walks.  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> June  | Accompanied The Meet’s Carnival Queen on her visit to Charles Dickens Lodge.   |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> June  | Live Radio Teesdale interview (Enterprise House).  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> June  | <b>(accompanied by the Town Mayoress)</b><br>The Meet’s Duck Race (The Green Bridge).  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> June  | <b>(accompanied by the Town Mayoress)</b><br>The Meet’s Pet Show (Castle grounds).   |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> June  | <b>(accompanied by the Town Mayoress)</b><br>The Meet’s ‘Sounds in the Grounds’ (Castle grounds).  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> June  | <b>(accompanied by the Town Mayoress)</b><br>Crowning of the Meet’s Carnival Queen.  |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> June  | <b>(accompanied by the Town Mayoress)</b><br>The Meet’s Car Boot Sale (Auction Mart, Vere Road).   |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> June  | <b>(accompanied by the Town Mayoress)</b><br>The Meet’s Grand Parade.  |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> June  | <b>(accompanied by the Town Mayoress)</b><br>The Meet’s Showground (Castle grounds).   |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> June  | <b>(accompanied by the Town Mayoress)</b><br>Visit to Craigmere House to meet the ‘Special Olympians’.   |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> June  | <b>(accompanied by the Town Mayoress)</b><br>The Meet’s Diamond Jubilee Street Party (Barnard Castle Cricket Club, Vere Road).   |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> June | St John Ambulance’s Annual Service of Commemoration and Rededication (Cathedral Church of Christ, Blessed Mary The Virgin and St Cuthbert, Durham).                              |

At the meeting, the Town Mayor congratulated The Meet Committee on a successful series of events.

**Resolved** – That the information be noted.

## **27. REFERRALS FROM COMMITTEES**

### **(1)(A) Finance Committee – Circulation of Council Paperwork**

Reference was made to the recommendation of the Finance Committee, at Minute 72(a) of the set of Minutes at sub-section (4) of Minute 26 above, in respect of the concerns expressed regarding the cost of postage. It was acknowledged that the recent stamp price increase would have an effect on this Council's postage budget and, under the circumstances, Members agreed that it should be recommended that the circulation of agendas and associated documents by email should be reconsidered, albeit that Members would still like to receive hard copies of the documents at the meetings themselves. It was noted that the matter was last considered at Minute 84(c)/Sep/08. It was acknowledged that the circulation of documents by email would not be acceptable to all Members.

**Resolved** – That, for a trial period commencing with immediate effect until the end of 2012, agendas and associated documents be delivered by email to those Councillors who have indicated they require the service and hard copies of the documents be distributed to those Councillors at the meetings themselves.

### **(B) Modernisation Committee – Review of the Role of Town Council**

Reference was made to the recommendation of the Modernisation Committee, at Minute 11 of the set of Minutes at sub-section (16) of Minute 26 above, in respect of the review of the role of the Town Council. In the light of the Council decision (at Minute 213(A)/Apr/12) and the Clerk's subsequent return to work, the Modernisation Committee considered that, at the very least, part of the review needed to be introduced from the beginning of September 2012, albeit that it would be impossible to introduce all the interlinking matters within that timescale. The main resultant recommendation was that the revised decision-making structure, as previously discussed by the Modernisation Committee, should be introduced from 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2012. Detailed discussion timescales and a trial period for the new structure were debated.

**Resolved** – That the following recommendations of the Modernisation Committee be approved:-

- (a) that a revised decision-making structure should be introduced from 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2012, if considered acceptable; and
- (b) that, following more detailed discussion by the Modernisation Committee, a report be submitted to the Council meeting scheduled for 16<sup>th</sup> July, 2012.

### **(2) Administrative Support Committee – Appointment of Replacement Town Clerk – Proposed Detailed Arrangements**

Reference was made to the recommendations of the Administrative Support Committee, at Minute 14 of the set of Minutes at sub-section (17) of Minute 26 above, in respect of the proposed detailed arrangements for the appointment of the replacement Town Clerk. The Administrative Support Committee had considered the updated job description and the person specification, the various deadlines included in the appointment process, the advertising options, the shortlisting and formal interview processes, the venue for 'interview day' and the format of that day.

Discussion ensued and specific reference was made to the perceived need for at least one female Councillor to be involved in both the shortlisting process and the main interviews.

**Resolved** – That the following recommendations of the Administrative Support Committee, as now amended, be approved:-

- (a) the deadlines involved in the appointment process be as outlined in paragraph 6 of the submitted report;
- (b) the Town Mayor, the Administrative Support Committee Members and Councillor Mrs Hamilton carry out both the shortlisting process and the main interviews and make the final decision;
- (c) the main advertisement be placed in the Northern Echo but with use also being made of other options available (both local and national) at minimum or nil cost;
- (d) partly because of cost and because a large amount of relevant information is available on this Council's website, the minimum of information (in addition to the job description and the person specification) be sent to applicants;
- (e) the Town Mayor and the Chairman of the Administrative Support Committee carry out, with the Clerk, an initial 'weeding out' shortlisting process;
- (f) all unsuccessful candidates be informed of the decisions made;
- (g) the all-day interview process take place at the Jersey Farm Hotel on Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2012, with the format to be as in paragraph 16 of the submitted report;
- (h) all members of staff are to be given the opportunity to be 'involved', at least for part of the 'interview day';
- (i) travelling and accommodation expenses are not to be paid to any interviewees; and
- (j) the office staff, with the assistance of the Town Mayor and the Chairman of the Administrative Support Committee where necessary, are authorised to sort out any other points of detail.

## **28. MEMBERSHIP OF FLORAL COMPETITION WORKING GROUP**

It was reported that Councillors Mrs Grady and Yarker had resigned from the Floral Competition Working Group. Decisions were sought as to whether the number of seats should be reduced from five to four again and on the filling of the vacancies/vacancy.

**Resolved** – (a) That the number of seats on the Floral Competition Working Group be reduced to four.

(b) That Councillor Watson be appointed to fill the fourth place on the Floral Competition Working Group.

## **29. REPRESENTATION ON OTHER BODIES**

Submitted – A report providing updates on some of this Council's representation on other bodies. The three items included in the report were as follows:-

### **(1) Barney Guild – Meetings on 30<sup>th</sup> April and 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2012**

Submitted - The Minutes of the Barney Guild's meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2012 and the Guild's latest Newsletter update. Councillor Peat provided a verbal report in respect of the Guild's meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2012.

**Resolved** – That the information be noted.

### **(2) Teesdale Local Councils' Forum – Meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2012**

It was reported that, at the Forum's meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2012, matters discussed included updates on Police issues, Teesdale Action Partnership, Neighbourhood Planning, the North Pennines Areas of Natural Beauty and the Small and Medium Local Councils' Forum. Venues and dates for future meetings were also sought. The Deputy Chief Constable of Durham Constabulary was also in attendance.

**Resolved** – That the information be noted.

### **(3) Teesdale Residents and Travellers Forum – Meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2012**

It was reported that, at the Forum's meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2012, issues discussed in respect of Barnard Castle centred on the entrances to The Demesnes. It was also confirmed that the temporary traffic restrictions along Bridgegate would be in place from 28<sup>th</sup> May until 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2012 and a number of associated matters were referred to.

**Resolved** – That the information be noted.

### **30. SERVICE AND PROJECT UPDATES**

Submitted – A report providing updates of some of this Council's services and current projects. The seven items included in the report were as follows:-

#### **(1) Floral and Open Spaces Issues**

It was reported that a meeting of the Floral and Open Spaces Working Group had taken place on 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2012 and the following issues had been discussed:-

##### **(i) Garden of Remembrance Project**

Further investigations had been made into the revised details of the Garden of Remembrance project based on the existing layout of the Garden and within the funding available, including the facts that Durham County Council had agreed to supply four new litter bins free of charge and had replanted a tree from where the dead sycamore tree had been removed. Options to revamp the seats, paving, fencing and rose bed border were also provided, including the potential use of HMYOI Deerbolt's Community Work initiative.

It was noted that the changes to the previously agreed design would have to be approved by both the full Council and the Heart of Teesdale Landscape Partnership.

**Resolved** – That the following recommendations of the Floral and Open Spaces Working Group be agreed:-

(a) That the Garden of Remembrance be revamped using the existing layout of the Garden and to include the following works:-

- (i) the existing paving to be relaid and cleaned;
- (ii) the seats to be revamped (replace wood, sandblast metal work and repaint);
- (iii) the fence posts to be reset and repaired where necessary, with all to be repainted;
- (iv) the chain link to be replaced and repaired where necessary, with existing to be repainted;
- (v) the entrance gate to be repainted;
- (vi) the rose bed border to be revamped to provide an all year round display; and
- (vii) the replacement of the litter bins with those offered by Durham County Council.

(b) That the Garden of Remembrance previous proposals, as agreed at Minute 179(g)/Mar/11, be rescinded.

##### **(ii) Floral Display Ownership Signs**

Members considered the investigations that had been made into the costs of ownership signs being installed on this Council's floral display tubs, including the fact that three companies had been requested to provide quotations for a sign, with the design based on this Council's existing ownership signs. It was acknowledged that there were insufficient funds remaining in the 2012/13 displays budget to purchase ownership signs for all of the tubs.

**Resolved** – That, as recommended by the Floral and Open Spaces Working Group, 21 ownership signs be purchased from William Smith, Barnard Castle and be installed on this Council's floral display tubs.

### **(iii) Floral Displays – Watering Service**

The Working Group considered a recommendation from the Finance Committee (at Minute 72(b)/Apr/12) that further investigations should be made into other options in respect of the floral displays' watering service. The watering service options previously explored and the reasons for not pursuing those options were outlined. It was acknowledged that any alternative watering service option would not take effect until 2013/14.

**Resolved** – That, as recommended by the Floral and Open Spaces Working Group, an advertisement be placed in the Teesdale Mercury to invite prospective companies to submit tenders in respect of this Council's floral displays' watering service.

### **(2) Floral Competition**

It was reported that a meeting of the Floral Competition Working Group had taken place on 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2012 to discuss and develop outline proposals relating to key components of the 2012 Competition, including the promotion and format of the event, the Competition categories, the theme and the venue. The office was given permission to proceed with the final arrangements. It was also agreed that an offer of assistance from the Dickens in Teesdale Group should be accepted.

**Resolved** – That the updated situation be noted.

### **(3) 2012 Olympic Torch Relay**

Pursuant to Minute 201(6)/Mar/12, it was confirmed that £305 of the 2012/13 Events budget had been used to purchase 300 Union Flag hand-waving flags and 400 official London 2012 Olympic hand-waving flags to be distributed to spectators on the day the 2012 Olympic Torch Relay is scheduled to pass through Barnard Castle, i.e. 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2012. It was also reported that the Assistant Clerk had assisted Durham County Council with the detailed arrangements, particularly in respect of schools.

Durham County Council's associated press release, as published in the Teesdale Mercury on 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2012, was also circulated.

**Resolved** – That the information be noted.

### **(4) Dawson Road Playingfield - Multi Use Games Area Celebratory Event**

Pursuant to Minute 201(2(i))/Mar/12, it was confirmed that the outstanding works, i.e. reshaping of the earth mounds and grass seeding, were complete. It was reported that a date had been provisionally agreed for an associated celebratory opening event, i.e. 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2012, being put together by Dawson Play (the local community group), a representative from Groundwork North East and this Council's office.

**Resolved** – That the information be noted.

### **(5) Newsletter**

It was reported that a meeting of the Editorial Board had taken place on 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2012 when Members had agreed the detailed arrangements for the publication of four Newsletters during 2012/13.

At the same meeting, the Board discussed the prospective contents of Newsletter No. 16. In addition to the Annual Report summary and the usual articles, it was agreed that a statement emanating from the Extraordinary Council meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2012 should be placed prominently on the front page.

**Resolved** – That the updated situation be noted.

### **(6) Mini Golf Project**

It was reported that, with the help of a Groundwork North East representative, a detailed funding application had been submitted to North Pennines Dales Leader on 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2012. If that particular funding was received, it would mean that the funding package was complete and the 'go ahead' for the project could be given.

**Resolved** – That the updated situation be noted.

### **(7) Christmas Festival Event 2012**

It was reported that a funding application had been submitted to North Pennines Dales Leader for funding towards the 2012 Christmas Festival event to be organised by this Council. It was noted that the application had been submitted under the Dickens in Teesdale banner.

It was also reported that, as far as the actual event was concerned, there had been problems regarding the area to be used for the event outside the Castle walls, not least because of the Heart of Teesdale Landscape Partnership's redevelopment of Scar Top. Whilst a particular adopted approach had put the event in some jeopardy, it was understood that a number of recent initiatives had taken place to ease the potential problems.

**Resolved** – That the updated situation be noted.

### **31. BARNARD CASTLE VISION**

Submitted - A briefing note (written by Mrs A. Ward of the Barnard Castle Vision) providing an update on the Vision's ongoing projects, including The Witham Hall situation, NeST, the Shop Front scheme, the Market Cross situation, the Barney Guild, Digital Dale and links with the Heart of Teesdale Landscape Partnership.

**Resolved** – That the information be noted.

### **32. AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS 2011/12**

Submitted – A report confirming that this Council's accounts for the financial year 2011/12 had been examined and approved by this Council's Internal Auditor and consequently approval was sought to Section 1 (Accounting statement) and Section 2 (Annual governance statement) of the 2011/12 Annual Return. The report also outlined the remaining stages of the process, leading to the final submission of the Annual Return to the External Auditor by 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2012. The accounts had to be approved by the External Auditor by 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2012. A copy of the Internal Auditor's report was also circulated for Members' information.

**Resolved** – (a) That the content of the Internal Auditor's report be noted.  
(b) That Sections 1 and 2 of the 2011/12 Annual Return, as now submitted, be approved.

### **33. EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERNAL CONTROLS**

Submitted - Pursuant to Minute 35/Jun/11 and in accordance with Regulation 4(2) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011, a report outlining an assessment of the effectiveness of this Council's internal controls with regard to the financial year 2011/12, including risk assessment, control systems, internal audit, independence and competence.

**Resolved** – (a) That it be agreed that the Council's system of internal audit is effective.  
(b) That it be agreed that this review will form part of the Council's Annual governance statement.

**34. TEESDALE HOUSE – NON-AVAILABILITY FOR MEETINGS**

It was determined that, due to time constraints, consideration of this item be deferred to the Council meeting scheduled for 16<sup>th</sup> July, 2012.

**35. BARNARD CASTLE REGENERATION FRAMEWORK PRESENTATION**

Submitted - For the benefit of those Members who were unable to attend the presentation on 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2012 in respect of Durham County Council's Regeneration Framework for Barnard Castle, the presentation slides. Specific reference was made to the slides entitled 'Teesdale House' and 'Woodleigh' and it was noted that the Options Appraisal works referred to would take approximately six months to complete. Those works would determine the future of both buildings and whether Durham County Council retained them.

**Resolved** – That the information be noted.

**36. PROPOSED WARD BOUNDARY EXTENSION**

It was determined that, due to time constraints, consideration of this item be deferred to the Council meeting scheduled for 16<sup>th</sup> July, 2012.

**37. DOG FOULING (Councillor Mrs Grady, Mrs Hamilton and Robinson)**

Submitted – A report by Councillors Mrs Grady and Robinson regarding dog fouling issues in view of the number of complaints received in respect of the amount of dog fouling being left by irresponsible dog owners around the Town. Specific problem areas were identified and recommendations were put forward. It was noted that Councillor Mrs Hamilton had also asked for this matter to be discussed at this meeting.

Whilst it was acknowledged that Durham County Council was continually striving to tackle the issue in various ways, it was considered that this Council should investigate options to also tackle the issue.

**Resolved** - That a specific Working Group, consisting of Councillors Mrs Grady, Robinson, Wood and Yarker, be set up as a necessary first stage of this Council's investigations in respect of tackling dog fouling issues.