

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
(Convened in accordance with Council Minute 22(c)/May/13)**

17 JUNE 2013

PRESENT:- Councillor Harrison (Town Mayor)(in the Chair); Councillors Blissett, Cooke, Deacon, Mrs Grady, Hinchcliffe, Kinch, Mrs Moorhouse (Minutes 27 to 29 inclusive), Peat, Robinson, Watson and Yarker.

Also in attendance:- Mr Hallimond (Minutes 24 to 26 inclusive) and Mrs Moorhouse (Minutes 24 to 26 inclusive).

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

24. ACCEPTANCE, OR OTHERWISE OF APOLOGIES: None.

25. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with this Council's adopted Code of Conduct (Minute 72(a)/Sep/12 refers), Members were asked whether they had any personal, pecuniary 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 Kinch declared a non-pecuniary, but potentially prejudicial interest in item 26, by virtue of 'membership or management of other bodies', having submitted a formal request for dispensation to vote upon the matter, under S.33 of the Localism Act (2011).

Resolved – That Cllr Kinch be granted dispensation to participate in the debate and vote on item 26, for the duration of the meeting.

26. EAST WARD VACANCY

Submitted – A report outlining a process by which members might consider the expressions of interest received in response to the advertisement of a vacancy on the Town Council for co-option and vote to fill the vacancy. Letters from the candidates were attached to the report.

Mr Hallimond and Mrs Moorhouse were present at the meeting and were invited to speak on their suitability. Members were offered the opportunity to question both candidates. It was then **resolved** to proceed directly to a secret ballot.

Each Member present was then handed a slip of paper to record his/her vote for the East Ward vacancy. The Town Mayor and the Clerk acted as adjudicators on the counting of the votes, the following result then being announced by the Town Mayor:-

Candidate	Votes
Mr George Hallimond	4
Mrs Sandra Moorhouse	7

Resolved – (a) That Mrs Moorhouse be co-opted to fill the current East Ward vacancy on the Council.

(b) That Mr Hallimond be thanked for his interest in the vacancy.

Councillor Mrs Moorhouse then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

27. AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS 2012/13

Submitted – A report confirming that this Council's accounts for the financial year 2012/13 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 2012/13 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 June 2013. The accounts had to be approved by the External Auditor by 30 September 2013. 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 2012/13 Annual Return, as now submitted, be approved

28. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC (IN RESPECT OF MINUTE 29 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 29 below on the grounds that they might involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Parts 1, 3 and 4 of Schedule 12A of the said Act.

29. OFFICE ACCOMMODATION

Members considered this item in exempt session – a separate minute has been taken.