

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING****8 JULY 2013**

PRESENT:- Councillor Blissett (in the Chair); Councillors Cooke, Deacon, Mrs Grady, Hinchcliffe, Kinch, Mrs Moorhouse, Peat, Robinson (Minutes 43 and 32 to 45 inclusive), Watson and Yarker.

Also in attendance:- Ms Ashton-Wickett (Heart of Teesdale Landscape Partnership officer) and Mr Ogden (Durham County Council's Access and Rights of Way Team Leader) (Minutes 30 to 32 and 43 inclusive); Sgt Rogers and PCSO Richardson (Minutes 30, 31 and 43 only); 2 members of the public.

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

30. ACCEPTANCE, OR OTHERWISE OF APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Harrison (Town Mayor).

Resolved – That Councillor Harrison's apologies be accepted.

31. 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. There were no declarations of interest at this juncture.

NOTE – In view of the urgent request from the Police to attend this meeting and the association to the agenda item, it was agreed at this point of the meeting to bring agenda item 43 forward.

43. POLICE ATTENDANCE AT COUNCIL MEETINGS

It was reported that, based on previous arrangements, the Police had usually attended the June and December Council meetings. However, due to an oversight following the recent changes to the Town Council's constitution, the meetings which the Police representative attends during the 2013/14 municipal year had not yet been considered.

Members were also reminded that in addition to the Police attending Council meetings, all members of the public were invited to attend the regular PACT (Police and Communities Together) meetings should they wish to raise specific issues. Sgt Rogers and PCSO Richardson attended this meeting to reiterate that invitation, especially in the light of the recent reports of **potential** anti social behaviour that **had taken** **might take** place on the newly revamped Scar Top performance area, play area and the Mini Golf course and encouraged all Members to attend the next PACT meeting to raise their concerns **about this issue**. In addition, a partnership working arrangement was suggested to explore ways to combat the issue.

A member raised the issue of the fact that the skate park at Teesdale Leisure Centre was currently closed and that endeavours should be made to get the skate park reopened as this may alleviate the issue. Sgt Rogers advised that he would make investigations into this matter.

- Resolved** – (a) That this Council agrees to participate with the Police to explore ways to combat the issue of anti social behaviour on Scar Top.
(b) That a representative from the Police be invited to attend the Council meetings scheduled for 7 October 2013 and 24 March 2014.
(c) That Sgt Rogers and PCSO Richardson be thanked for their attendance.

32. ATTENDANCE OF HEART OF TEESDALE LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP REPRESENTATIVE

The Heart of Teesdale Landscape Partnership's new 'Paths for All People' officer and Durham County Council's Access and Rights of Way Team Leader attended the meeting to provide Members with an insight of the project objectives, including the proposed works to be carried out in respect of the associated Flatts Wood and Tees Banks Restoration project. A question and answer session ensued.

- Resolved** – (a) That a letter of support be sent to the Heart of Teesdale Landscape Partnership in respect of the 'Paths for All People' project.
(b) That the information be noted.
(c) That Ms Aston-Wickett and Mr Ogden be thanked for their attendance.

33. ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – 13 MAY 2013 – MINUTES

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

34. ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING – 13 MAY 2013 – MINUTES

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

35. SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING – 17 JUNE 2013 – MINUTES

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

36. '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 seven items considered at the meeting were as follows:-

(1) Planning Committee Meeting – 20 May 2013 – Minutes

Resolved – That the Minutes be received.

(2) Partnership Committee Meeting – 20 May 2013 – Minutes

Resolved – That the Minutes be received.

(3) Planning Committee Meeting – 10 June 2013 – Minutes

Resolved – That the Minutes be received.

(4) Services Committee Meeting – 10 June 2013 – Minutes

Resolved – That the Minutes be received.

(5) Planning Committee Meeting – 24 June 2013 – Minutes

Resolved – That the Minutes be received.

(6) Resources Committee Meeting – 24 June 2013 – Minutes

Resolved – That the Minutes be received.

(7) Town Mayor's Activities

It was reported that, since the Annual Council meeting on 13 May 2013, the Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor had attended the following:-

- 16 May **(accompanied by the Town Mayoress (Mrs P. Harrison))**
Quiz Night (The Meet, Barnard Castle Cricket Club, Vere Road).
- 20 May **(accompanied by the Town Mayoress)**
Mayor Making Ceremony (Richmond Town Council, Town Hall, Richmond).
- 21 May **(accompanied by the Town Mayoress)**
Annual Parents Night & Annual General Meeting (Barnard Castle Scout Group, Scout Headquarters, Wilson Street).
- 23 May Mini Golf Ribbon Cutting (Town Council, Scar Top).
- 23 May **(accompanied by the Town Mayoress)**
Under 13's Cricket Knock Out (The Meet, Barnard Castle Cricket Club, Vere Road).
- 23 May **(accompanied by the Town Mayoress)**
Car Treasure Hunt (The Meet, Barnard Castle Cricket Club, Vere Road).
- 24 May **(Deputy Town Mayor)**
Veteran's Football Match (The Meet Ten Fields, Kalafat).
- 24 May **(accompanied by the Town Mayoress)**
Exhibition launch event 'Tim Walker Dreamscapes' (The Bowes Museum, Newgate).
- 25 May **(accompanied by the Town Mayoress)**
Car Boot Sale (The Meet, Lower Demesnes).
- 25 May **(accompanied by the Town Mayoress)**
The Meet Through Time (The Meet, 24 Horsemarket)
- 25 May Live radio interview (Radio Teesdale, Enterprise House, Harmire Enterprise Park).
- 25 May **(accompanied by the Town Mayoress)**
Town Walks (The Meet, Scar Top).
- 25 May **(accompanied by the Town Mayoress)**
Duck Race (The Meet, The Green Bridge).
- 26 May **(accompanied by the Town Mayoress)**
Pet Show (The Meet, Castle grounds).
- 26 May **(accompanied by the Town Mayoress)**
Sounds in the Grounds (The Meet, Castle grounds).
- 26 May **(accompanied by the Town Mayoress)**
Crowning of the Carnival Queen (The Meet, Castle grounds).
- 27 May **(accompanied by the Town Mayoress)**
Grand Parade (The Meet, Town).
- 27 May **(accompanied by the Town Mayoress)**
Rubber Chicken Chucking Competition (The Meet, Castle grounds).
- 23 June **(accompanied by the Town Mayoress)**
Church Service for Armed Forces (Darlington Borough Council, St Cuthbert Church, Market Street, Darlington).
- 27 June **(accompanied by the Town Mayoress)**
Mind Retail Northern Region Opening of new shop (Market Place)
- 29 June **(accompanied by the Town Mayoress)**
Mayor's 'At Home' (Spennymoor Town Council, Town Hall)

- 30 June Fishing Competition (Northumbrian Water, Grassholme Reservoir, Nr Mickleton)
- 2 July **(accompanied by the Town Mayoress)**
Hand Over Dinner (Rotary Club of Barnard Castle, The Morritt, Greta Bridge)
- 3 July **(accompanied by the Town Mayoress)**
Aviation Day (HMYOI Deerbolt).
- 5 July Informal meeting with Deborah Jenkins of Barnard Castle Vision.
- 6 July **(accompanied by the Town Mayoress)**
Speech Day & Prize-giving presentation followed by a Valediction and lunch in the Chapel (Barnard Castle School, Newgate).
- 6 July **(accompanied by the Town Mayoress)**
The Mayor's Proms in the Park (Darlington Borough Council, The Bandstand, South Park, Darlington)

Resolved – That the information be noted.

37. UPDATES AND REFERRALS FROM COMMITTEES

(1) Partnership and Services Committee

It was confirmed that, subsequent to the decision to privately hire out the Mini Golf course (Partnership Committee Minute 10(b) and Services Committee Minute 12 of the set of Minutes at Minutes 36(2) and (4)), a local business had recently hired the course and that it was enjoyed by all who participated.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

(2) Planning Committee

Reference was made to the decision of the Planning Committee at Minute 17 of the set of Minutes at Minute 36(5) (proposed sale of Durham County Council owned land at Montalbo Road). It was reported that confirmation had been received from DCC's Asset Management team that all existing rights of way would be retained.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

(3) Resources Committee

Reference was made to the Resources Committee recommendation at Minute 14 of the set of Minutes at Minute 36(6), in respect of its consideration of the Localism Act (2011) Community Right to Bid. The Resources Committee had recommended that the issue of community asset transfer should be referred for debate at this Town Council meeting and that any further approach to the county council should focus on Woodleigh as a community asset. To aid Members deliberations, the associated report submitted to the Resources Committee was circulated.

Resolved – That the Town Council endorses the recommendation of the Resources Committee and that a formal approach be made to Durham County Council to progress Woodleigh as a community asset.

(4) Services Committee

Referred to at Minute 37(1) above.

38. CLERK'S UPDATE

Submitted – A report outlining recent activities undertaken by the Clerk and staff, including details of decisions taken under delegated powers, sought specific approval for expenditure which could not otherwise be considered expediently and summarised the

Clerk's forthcoming leave. A member raised concerns in respect of health and safety and risk assessment issues should the purchase a blower/vacuum for the mini golf course be approved. However, the Clerk advised that upon the point of purchase obligatory training had to be provided by the supplier, that appropriate personal protective equipment (complying with the manufacturer's recommendations) would be purchased from existing equipment budgets and also that the Mini Golf Attendants were prepared to undergo any necessary training etc. for the use of the machine.

Resolved – a) That the information be noted; and
b) That approval be granted to spend £185 to purchase a blower/vacuum for the mini golf course.

39. REVIEW OF COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Submitted – A report summarising the options available to complete the process of appointing members to committees following the co-option of a member to the East Ward vacancy arising at the May elections and outlined a potential disparity in the complements of the four committees of a single vacancy on Resources and the lack of a second committee seat for the newly co-opted member, in line with the previous resolution of Council that each member serves on two committees.

Resolved – a) That Cllr Mrs Moorhouse be appointed to the Resources Committee and the Partnership Committee; and
b) That size of each committee henceforth be: Resources, 7; Partnership, 7; Services, 6; and Planning, 4.

40. REPRESENTATION ON OTHER BODIES

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

(1) Barnard Castle Business Guild Meetings – 8 May and 18 June 2013

It was reported that, at the Guild meeting on 8 May, issues discussed included the forthcoming banner festival, street trading, the possibility of setting up a buying group for bulk purchases, future events, the bedroom browser and the town shopping map and trail.

At the Guild meeting on 18 June, Cllr Peat verbally reported that the Police had attended to discuss local crime issues and an update was provided on the Barney Bag.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

(2) Teesdale Local Council's Forum Meeting – 14 May 2013

Submitted – A report by Cllr Watson summarising the matters discussed at the above Forum meeting, including Teesdale Action Partnership, Teesdale Ambulance Service and the Traveller Migration period. Presentations were also received from the Assistant Director, Highways Design and Projects for Darlington Borough Council in respect of the A67 Carlbury landslip and from the Heart of Teesdale Landscape Partnership Project Manager.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

(3) Smaller Local Councils Forum Meeting – 28 June 2013

Submitted – A report by Cllr Kinch summarising the matters discussed at the above Forum meeting, including the Local Councils Working Group and concerns in respect of smaller parish councils not employing clerks on sufficient enough hours to carry out the associated tasks.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

(4) Teesdale Residents' and Travellers' Forum Meeting – 2 July 2013

It was reported that, at the above Forum meeting, issues discussed in respect of Barnard Castle included the considered need for officers from Durham County Council's Gypsy Roma Traveller Service to be on call for incidents occurring over the weekends of the migration period and the fact that the Traffic Order had been put in place on Bridgegate and that the Police Command vehicle had again been parked in lay-by area for the duration of the Traffic Order. However, following the introduction of Civil Parking Enforcement, confusion had arisen as to who would issue warning tickets. It was confirmed that this would be made more clear prior to the 2014 migration period.

The Forum also agreed to write to the management company of Harmire Enterprise Park to raise the issue of the unauthorised encampment that had sprung up again at that site in an attempt to find a compromise for the issue.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

(5) Teesdale Residents' and Travellers' forum Meeting – Vacancy arising

It was reported that Cllr Blissett had indicated that, due to competing demands, he wished to stand down as one of the Town Council's two representatives on the Teesdale Residents' and Travellers' Forum (Minute 14/May/2013 refers). Cllr Cooke was nominated and seconded. There were no other nominations.

Resolved – That Cllr Cooke be appointed as a replacement representative to the Teesdale Residents' and Travellers' Forum.

(6) Proposal Relating to Representation on South West Durham Heritage Corridor and the Teesdale Local Councils' Forum

It was reported that, pursuant to Council Minute 14/May/13 when it was determined that Cllrs Kinch and Watson should hold this Council's two places on the Teesdale Local Councils' Forum and that Cllr Cooke should hold this Council's one place on the South West Durham Heritage Corridor Project, Cllrs Cooke and Watson had proposed a motion that they exchange roles, with Cllr Cook taking a seat on the Teesdale Local Councils' Forum and Cllr Watson taking the seat on the South West Durham Heritage Corridor Project.

However, a member proposed an amendment to that motion which was seconded and subsequently accepted by vote.

Resolved - That Cllrs Cooke and Watson be asked to resign from their respective representative places and, when this is done, then the Council asks for nominations from within the Council to fill those two vacant appointments.

Accordingly, Cllrs Cooke and Watson agreed to resign from their respective places.

Subsequently, in respect of the place on the South West Durham Heritage Corridor Project, Cllr Watson was nominated and seconded. Cllr Deacon was also nominated and seconded. A show of hands (compliant with Standing Order 12a) created the following result:-

Cllr Watson – 5

Cllr Deacon – 5

Cllr Blissett (Deputy Town Mayor) used his casting vote in favour of Cllr Watson.

Resolved – That Cllr Watson be nominated to represent this Council on the South West Durham Heritage Corridor Project.

In respect of the place on the Teesdale Local Councils' Forum, Cllr Cooke was nominated and seconded. Cllr Mrs Moorhouse was also nominated and seconded. A show of hands (compliant with Standing Order 12a) created the following result:-

Cllr Cooke – 4

Cllr Mrs Moorhouse – 5

Resolved – That Cllr Mrs Moorhouse be nominated to represent this Council on the Teesdale Local Councils' Forum.

41. PROPOSAL TO EXTEND THE WARD BOUNDARY OF BARNARD CASTLE PARISH

Submitted – Pursuant to Council Minute 97/Oct/12, a report providing an update on progress to initiate a community governance review of the town's electoral boundary and proposed the next steps which the Town Council might take to respond to the conclusions of Durham County Council's Constitution Working Group which were as follows:-

'that it was not appropriate at this time, to proceed' and 'that a Community Governance Review to extend the boundary of Barnard Castle Town Council be not undertaken, until such time as:

a) such a request can be supported with a petition and that petition holds the signatures of at least 5% of the electorate from the affected areas outside of (sic) the current boundary of Barnard Castle Town Council; or

b) such a request be supported by Barnard Castle Town Council and the Neighbouring Parish Councils.'

It was confirmed that to satisfy the '5%' criterion identified by the Constitution Working Group, a petition would require the signature of nine residents, who were electors in the affected area.

However, a member proposed an amendment to the recommendation in that this council should approach all of the Parish Councils affected by the proposed boundary change before any submission was made to Durham County Council but this was not seconded.

Resolved – That a petition of residents in the area affected by the proposed boundary review be canvassed with a target of gathering nine names to support resubmission of the Town Council's original proposal to the County Council's Constitution Working Group for a Community Governance Review.

42. 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, NeST, the Barnard Castle Business Guild, town centre vacancy rates and the Heart of Teesdale Landscape Partnership.

Resolved – That the information be noted

43. POLICE ATTENDANCE AT COUNCIL MEETINGS

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

44. MARIE CURIE CANCER CARE ETAPE PENNINES EVENT

Submitted – A report by Councillor Watson summarising the outcome of a recent public meeting arranged by the event organisers in conjunction with Durham County Council in respect of the Marie Curie Cancer Care ETAPE Pennines event that would take place in October and made certain recommendations. The meeting was considered necessary partly to appease public concern following the problems encountered during the 2012 event.

Resolved – a) That the Town Council conveys its recognition of the importance and appreciation of the face to face consultation.

b) That Members monitor the conduct of the event and report any issues arising to the office for onward transmission to the organisers.

45. COUNTY DURHAM ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS – NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

It was reported that a request had been received from the County Durham Association of Local Councils (CDALC) for nominations of candidates for positions on CDALC's Executive Committee. The present incumbents were willing to be renominated.

Resolved – That no nominations be made for positions on CDALC's Executive Committee.