

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
(Convened following consultation with the Town Mayor)**

9 SEPTEMBER 2013

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

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

46. ACCEPTANCE, OR OTHERWISE OF APOLOGIES: None

47. 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.

48. ATTENDANCE OF DURHAM POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

It was reported that, due to ill health, Durham's Police and Crime Commissioner, Ron Hogg, was not able to attend this meeting but would attend the Council meeting scheduled on 2 December 2013.

49. TENDERING OF A CONCESSIONARY LICENCE AGREEMENT FOR BARNARD CASTLE'S WEDNESDAY MARKET BY DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

Submitted – A report summarising the terms under which Durham County Council was tendering a concession to operate Barnard Castle's Wednesday market, including the options available to the Town Council to respond to this tender and recommended a suitable response. Responses to the tender had to be submitted no later than noon on 20 September 2013.

Cllr Watson provided a concise history in respect of Barnard Castle's Wednesday market. Discussion ensued. It was considered that the proposals set out in the County Council's tender documents were impracticable, unworkable and did not take localism into consideration.

Resolved – (a) That the Clerk be authorised to enter into detailed discussions with Durham County Council to seek a local solution to operating the Barnard Castle Wednesday market outside the terms of the current tendering exercise.

(b) That any financial contribution from the town council should not exceed a £1 'peppercorn' licence fee.

(c) That every endeavour be made into locating a copy of the Royal Charter of 1603 conferring the right to the Barnard Castle's Wednesday market.

(d) That Durham County Council's Head of Planning and representatives from English Heritage and Raby Estates be invited to the Council meeting scheduled on 7 October 2013 to explain the delay in respect of the Castle wall repairs.

(e) That Cllr Watson be thanked for providing pertinent information in respect of the history and past operation of the market.