

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING**

(Convened following consultation with the Town Mayor)

7 MAY 2014

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

Also in attendance: One member of the public and one member of the press.

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

115. ACCEPTANCE, OR OTHERWISE OF APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Councillors Cooke and Hinchcliffe.

Resolved – That Councillors Cooke and Hinchcliffe's apologies be accepted.

116. 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.

117. SCAR TOP PLAY AREA/MINI GOLF FREEHOLD ASSET TRANSFER

Submitted – A report providing details of a revised offer received from Durham County Council for the transfer of the play area and the mini golf course on Scar Top, i.e. the offer of the land being transferred freehold retracted with the revised offer being a leasehold of 30 years with a peppercorn rent and the town council paying DCC's surveyors and legal fees and that the town council would be responsible for the full repair and insurance of the land and equipment during the term of the lease. It was reported that the revised offer was a result of 'claw back' provisions of funders from the original revamp scheme that had only recently been identified.

Discussion ensued and the revised offer was considered unsatisfactory not least because the provisions of the 'claw back' had not been outlined.

Resolved - That, unless Durham County Council is prepared to transfer the freehold of the play area and of the area occupied by the mini golf course on Scar Top to Barnard Castle Town Council, the town council does not wish to discuss the matter any further.

118. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC (IN RESPECT OF MINUTE 119 BELOW)

Resolved – That, under the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 §1(2), the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the matter referred to at Minute 119 below, due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

119. ALLOTMENTS

Submitted – Pursuant to Council Minute 114/Mar/14, a confidential report providing an update in respect on the proposal to sell land adjacent to an allotment.

Resolved - (a) That the council accepts the revised offer for the purchase of the land to the rear of Bede Road plus 50% of fees and disbursements, subject to contract.

(b) That the Clerk be given delegated authority to instruct a solicitor to act on behalf of the Town Council with respect to this transaction.