

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING**

30 JUNE 2014

PRESENT: Councillor Blissett (Town Mayor)(in the Chair); Councillors Cooke, Deacon, Mrs Grady, Harrison, Hinchcliffe (Minutes 35 to 44), Kinch, Marshall, Mrs Moorhouse, Peat, Robinson (Minutes 36 to 49) and Yarker.

Also in attendance: Mrs J. Cooke (Environment Agency)(Minutes 35 to 36); Mr S. Timmiss (Durham County Council)(Minutes 35 to 37), four members of the public (one of whom filmed the meeting by prior agreement) and one member of the press.

Officer: Mr King (Town Clerk).

35. ACCEPTANCE, OR OTHERWISE OF APOLOGIES:- None.

36. ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

In accordance with Minute 108(a)/Mar/14, Jenny Cooke from the Environment Agency, attended the meeting in respect of the recent weir works. She outlined the reasons for the works, the engineering challenges which had been overcome and the benefits for Barnard Castle and the wider environment of Teesdale from the completed weir. Mrs Cooke took questions from the floor. The Town Mayor thanked Mrs Cooke on behalf of the Council for her presentation and for the manner in which the work had been carried out by the Environment Agency and its contractors.

Resolved – That the town council's thanks, on behalf of the people of Barnard Castle, be extended to Jenny Cooke for her presentation and for the work to the weir which she has managed for the Environment Agency.

37. CASTLE WALLS UPDATE

Stuart Timmiss, Durham County Council's Head of Planning and Assets, attended the meeting to provide an update in respect of the recently completed survey of the outer ward of the castle walls abutting Bridgegate and the response to the public exhibition of those findings mounted in Barnard Castle. Mr Timmiss highlighted the identified costs of £350,000 to repair and consolidate the walls and cliff face which had been identified in the consultant engineers' report. It was acknowledged that a figure in excess of £100,000 was associated with works required in 'the next two years'. No agreement to ownership and responsibility had been made. The next stages were to seek resolution to this question amongst the three principal partners in commissioning the survey: Durham County Council, Raby Estates and English Heritage and to secure funds to support the identified works. Mr Timmiss stated that Durham County Council had discharged its public safety obligations and did not intend to take responsibility for the unfunded works. He undertook to maintain dialogue with the town council.

Mr Timmiss took other questions related to his asset and planning responsibilities. In response to a question as to whether Durham County Council had considered relocating the town's register office from Galgate to Woodleigh, Mr Timmiss reported that a survey of assets had been carried out and he would report back to the clerk with the relevant sections of that. Mr Timmiss noted the concerns of members that the proposed development of land in Startforth belonging to the Homes and Communities Agency would compromise the ability of Rotters to provide community recycling facilities which were of benefit to the people of Barnard Castle.

Resolved - That the town council's thanks be extended to Stuart Timmiss for his presentation

38. 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.

39. ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – 12 MAY 2014

(1) Minutes

Resolved – That the draft Minutes be noted.

(2) Confirmation of Courses of Action

Members were reminded that, as the Annual Town Meeting was an electors' meeting and therefore not a decision-making meeting of the Council, any courses of action agreed at the Annual Town Meeting on 12 May 2014 had to be formally confirmed at this Council meeting.

The courses of action, which required formal confirmation, were as follows:-

(A) The Bowes Museum – Proposed changes to the Museum's charitable scheme and the perceived need for the park and gardens to be protected as they were originally designated by John and Josephine Bowes.

Resolved – That a representative from The Bowes Museum be invited to discuss the issue with the town council.

(B) Changes to Ambulance Crew Arrangements - In respect of speculative changes to ambulance crew arrangements and the negative effects that such changes would have to the residents of Barnard Castle and the surrounding Teesdale area.

Resolved – (a) That, at the opportune moment, the town council convenes a public meeting with relevant officers of North East Ambulance Service (NEAS) and the NHS Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield Clinical Commissioning Group (DDESCCG) to be present to allow the public to fully express their views and concerns on any published information.

(b) That the town council writes to NEAS and the DDESCCG to insist that two (number), two-paramedic ambulances, each providing 24 hour cover within Teesdale should remain ring-fenced to the dale and that operational cover should not be compromised by clinical escalation on calls out of Teesdale.

40. ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING – 12 MAY 2014 – MINUTES

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

41. SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING – 19 MAY 2014 – MINUTES

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

42. SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING – 16 JUNE 2014 – MINUTES

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

43. 'EN BLOC' ITEMS

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

(1) 2014 Spring/Summer Events Task & Finish Group – 15 May 2014 – Notes

Resolved - That the Notes be received.

(2) 2014 Autumn/Winter Events Task & Finish Group – 15 May 2014 – Notes

Resolved - That the Notes be received.

(3) Planning Committee Meeting – 19 May 2014 – Minutes

Resolved - That the Minutes be received.

(4) Partnership Committee Meeting – 19 May 2014 – Minutes

Resolved - That the Minutes be received.

(5) Special Resources Committee Meeting – 2 June 2014 – Minutes

Resolved - That the Minutes be received.

(6) Services Committee Meeting – 2 June 2014 – Minutes

Resolved - That the Minutes be received.

(7) Governance Document Review Task & Finish Group Meeting – 11 June 2014 – Notes

Resolved - That the Notes be received.

(8) 2014 Spring/Summer Events Task & Finish Group – 13 June 2014 – Notes

Resolved - That the Notes be received.

(9) Planning Committee Meeting – 16 June 2014

Resolved - That the Minutes be received.

(10) Resources Committee Meeting – 16 June 2014 – Minutes

Resolved - That the Minutes be received.

(11) Town Mayor's Activities

It was reported that, since the Annual Council meeting on 12 May 2014, the Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor had attended the following:-

16 May **(Deputy Town Mayor (accompanied by Deputy Town Mayor Consort
(Mr. I Moorhouse))**
 Shafts of Light Exhibition private preview (The Bowes Museum, Newgate).

- 19 May **(accompanied by the Town Mayoress (Mrs K. Blissett))**
Mayor Making Ceremony (Richmond Town Council, Town Hall, Richmond).
- 20 May **(accompanied by the Town Mayoress)**
Annual Parents Night & Annual General Meeting (Barnard Castle Scout Group, Scout Headquarters, Wilson Street).
- 23 May Veteran's Football Match (The Meet, Shaw Bank).
- 24 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).
- 24 May **(accompanied by the Town Mayoress)**
Duck Race (The Meet, The Green Bridge).
- 24 May **(accompanied by the Town Mayoress)**
Family Fun (The Meet, Scar Top).
- 25 May **(accompanied by the Town Mayoress)**
Pet Show (The Meet, Castle grounds).
- 25 May **(accompanied by the Town Mayoress)**
Sounds in the Grounds (The Meet, Castle grounds).
- 25 May **(accompanied by the Town Mayoress)**
Crowning of the Carnival Queen (The Meet, Castle grounds).
- 26 May **(accompanied by the Town Mayoress)**
Grand Parade (The Meet, Town).
- 6 June **(accompanied by the Town Mayoress)**
Hockney Printmaker Exhibition (private preview)(The Bowes Museum, Newgate).
- 17 June Mayor's Charity Photo Shoot with Teesdale YMCA & Teesdale Community Resources (The Hub, Shaw Bank).
- 20 June **Deputy Town Mayor (accompanied by Deputy Town Mayor Consort)**
Mayoress 'At Home' (Sunderland City Council, Civic Centre, Sunderland).
- 27 June **Deputy Town Mayor (accompanied by Deputy Town Mayor Consort)**
Mayoress 'At Home' (Darlington Borough Council, Dolphin Centre, Darlington).
- 27 June **(accompanied by the Town Mayoress)**
Mayor's Charity Night (Chilton Town Council, Chilton Workingmen's Club).
- 28 June **(accompanied by the Town Mayoress)**
Music Hall Show (The Witham).
- 28 June **Deputy Town Mayor (accompanied by Deputy Town Mayor Consort)**
Mayoress at Home (Spennymoor).

Resolved – That the information be noted.

44. UPDATES AND REFERRALS FROM COMMITTEES

Submitted – A report outlining a series of updates to work undertaken by the Services Committee.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

45. CLERK'S UPDATE

Submitted – A report outlining recent activities undertaken by the Clerk and staff, summarised the Clerk's forthcoming leave and provided updates in respect of correspondence with Durham County Council over a range of issues, including Scar Top Play Area/Mini Golf Freehold, Demesnes asset transfer, Boundary Extension Proposal, Woodleigh being registered as an 'asset of community value', under the provisions of the Localism Act 2011, Wednesday Market, Neighbourhood Plan and that the sale of land to the rear of Bede Road was progressing accordingly.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

46. REPRESENTATION ON OTHER BODIES

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

(1) Barnard Castle Business Guild Meetings – 13 May & 18 June 2014

Resolved – That the information be noted.

(2) Teesdale Local Councils' Forum Meeting – 20 May 2014

Resolved – That the information be noted.

(3) Teesdale Residents' and Travellers' Forum Meeting – 14 May 2014

Resolved – That the information be noted.

(4) Trustees of Dawson's Cottages

Resolved – That the information be noted.

(5) NHS Durham Dales, Easington & Sedgefield CCG Ambulance Patient Reference Group

Resolved – That the NHS Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield Clinical Commissioning Group – Ambulance Patient Reference Group be deleted from this council's list of 'representatives on other bodies'.

47. BARNARD CASTLE PLAYING FIELDS – CHARITY

Submitted – A report summarising details of the charity, Barnard Castle Playing Fields, of which town councillors were trustees and, as the charity served no operational purpose, sought approval for the charity to be wound-up.

Resolved - That the charity, Barnard Castle Playing Fields, be closed.

48. BARNARD CASTLE VISION

As no report had been submitted on behalf of Barnard Castle Vision, it was accepted that an update would be provided to a future meeting.

Resolved – That the situation be noted.

**49. DAWSON ROAD TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT – FIRE SERVICE EMERGENCY ACCESS
(CLLR MARSHALL)**

Submitted – A report by Cllr Marshall in respect of the difficulties that the Fire Service encountered when answering emergency call outs and having to use Dawson Road as the quickest route to the call out destination and sought the town council's support to a request that partner organisations endeavour to address the issue.

Resolved - (a) That Cllr Marshall be commended on his efforts;
(b) That the issues identified be considered in the formulation of a Neighbourhood Plan for Barnard Castle; and
(c) That the information be noted.