

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL  
COUNCIL MEETING  
17 NOVEMBER 2014**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Blissett (Town Mayor)(in the Chair); Councillors, Deacon, Mrs Grady, Harrison, Hinchcliffe (Items 78-82), Marshall, Mrs Moorhouse, Peat (Items 78-89), Robinson (Items 81-91) & Yarker.

**Also in attendance:** Mr R Welsby & Mr J Old (The Bowes), Sgt Rogers (Durham Constabulary), DCFO Errington (CDDF&RS), nineteen members of the public (one of whom filmed the meeting) and two member of the press.

**Officers:** Mr King (Town Clerk), Mrs Farren (Services Officer)(Items 78-82).

**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Having been duly notified prior to the meeting, a member of the public asked a question of the Town Mayor regarding the Town Council's stance on the proposals to co-locate the fire service, ambulance service, police and mountain rescue service in a single location in Barnard Castle.

The Town Mayor, determined that consideration of the question should be deferred to item 82 on the agenda

**78. ACCEPTANCE, OR OTHERWISE OF APOLOGIES**

Apologies had been received from Councillors Cooke and Kinch.

**RESOLVED** – That Councillor Cooke's and Councillor Kinch's apologies be accepted.

**79. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

In accordance with this Council's adopted Code of Conduct (Minute 72(a)/Sep/12 refers), Members will be asked whether they have 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 are reminded that a declaration can be given later in the meeting if a need arises during discussion.

None declared

**80. THE BOWES MUSEUM**

Richard Welsby and Jon Old attended the meeting to present information on the museum's plans for its park area, at the invitation of the town council following discussion at the Annual Town Meeting, 12 May 2014. A design has been chosen from three which were invited. Public consultation to review the proposals prior to and during the planning application.

**RESOLVED** – (a) That the Town Council thanks the representatives of The Bowes Museum for their presentation; and  
(b) That a site meeting be arranged for members of the council as part of the consultation process.

**81. ATTENDANCE OF POLICE REPRESENTATIVE**

Pursuant to Minute 43(b)/Jul/13, Sergeant Simon Rogers of Durham Constabulary attended the meeting to discuss relevant topics and current issues.

He indicated that in the previous seven months overall crime stood at 284 compared to 297 in the equivalent period of 2013. Consequently, crimes per thousand in the population stand at 15.3, compared to 42.1 in Bishop Auckland.

Sgt Rogers also discussed efforts to reinvigorate neighbourhood watch schemes throughout Teesdale, including Barnard Castle.

**RESOLVED** – That the Town Council thanks the Sgt Rogers for his presentation.

## **82. ATTENDANCE OF FIRE SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE**

Stuart Errington, Deputy Chief Fire Officer for County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service made a presentation covering the service's consultation on its three-year strategic plan.

County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service has begun a public consultation linked to a three-year strategic plan. Between 2015 and 2018 the fire service must find a further £3.6 million in savings to meet reductions in government funding. Five proposals have been put forward and these have been posed as questions in a survey that will run as part of the consultation.

The first of these, the co-location of emergency services on shared sites was discussed in detail and with reference to the question submitted by a member of the public (above).

**RESOLVED** – (a) That the Town Council thanks Deputy Chief Fire Officer Errington for his presentation; and

(b) That the Town Council wholeheartedly supports the County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service's proposals for a Quad Hub in Barnard Castle but not in its current location due to the inadequacy of the local road network, the danger to pedestrians and other road users;

(c) That the CDDFRS should consider sites on the fringes of town which exist or are proposed within the draft County Plan ie Harmire Enterprise Park or land to the north of the A688 adjacent to the access road to the TCR Hub.

## **83. COUNCIL MEETING – 22 SEPTEMBER 2014 - MINUTES**

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

## **84. '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 items considered at the meeting were as follows:-

### **(1) Governance Document Review Task & Finish Group Meeting – 30 September 2014**

**Resolved** – That the Notes be received.

### **(2) Planning Committee Meeting – 6 October 2014**

**Resolved** – That the Minutes be received.

### **(3) Partnership Committee Meeting – 6 October 2014**

**Resolved** – That the Minutes be received.

### **(4) Planning Committee Meeting – 20 October 2014**

**Resolved** – That the Minutes be received.

### **(5) Services Committee Meeting – 20 October 2014**

**Resolved** – That the Minutes be received.

**(6) Planning Committee Meeting – 3 November 2014**

**Resolved** – That the Minutes be received.

**(7) Resources Committee Meeting – 3 November 2014**

**Resolved** – That the Minutes be received.

**(8) Town Mayor's Activities.**

It was reported that, since the Council meeting on 22 September 2014, the Town Mayor had attended the following:

- 23 September Annual General Meeting (Teesdale YMCA, Galgate)
- 26 September **(Accompanied by the Town Mayoress – Mrs Karen Blissett)**  
Mayor & Men's Golf Captain Autumn Charity Event (Bishop Auckland Town Council, Bishop Auckland Golf Club)
- 28 September **(Accompanied by Consort – Miss Kelly Blissett)**  
Civic Sunday Service (Spennymoor Town Council, St Charles RC Church, Tudhoe Village)
- 9 October **(Accompanied by the Town Mayoress – Mrs Karen Blissett)**  
Charity Cabaret Night (Great Aycliffe Town Council, Newton Aycliffe)
- 16 October **(Accompanied by the Town Mayoress – Mrs Karen Blissett)**  
Shop Opening (Marsdens Chemist, Galgate)
- 17 October Mayoral Interview (Radiothon, Radio Teesdale, Harmire Enterprise Park)
- 17 October **(Accompanied by the Town Mayoress – Mrs Karen Blissett)**  
Mayor's Ball (Darlington Borough Council, Dolphin Centre)
- 24 October **(Accompanied by the Town Mayoress – Mrs Karen Blissett)**  
Operatic performance 'Sister Act' (Darlington Borough Council, Civic Theatre)
- 25 October **(Accompanied by the Town Mayoress – Mrs Karen Blissett)**  
Mayor's Charity Tea Dance (Colburn Town Council, Village Hall, Colburn)
- 29 October Launch of the Owl Christmas Tree Competition (Friends of The Bowes Museum)
- 31 October StoreHouse Project Presentation Afternoon (Influence Church, Galgate)
- 7 November Ceremony of Remembrance Crosses (Barnard Castle School, Newgate)
- 9 November **(Accompanied by the Town Mayoress – Mrs Karen Blissett)**  
Remembrance Sunday
- 11 November **(Accompanied by the Town Mayoress – Mrs Karen Blissett)**  
Mayor's Music Hall & Remembrance Charity Show (Colburn Town Council, Village Hall, Colburn)

**RESOLVED** – That the information be noted.

## **85. UPDATES AND REFERRALS FROM COMMITTEES**

### **(1) Services Committee**

#### **(a) Allotments – Demesnes Bi-annual Skip**

Reference was made to the fact that the Demesnes allotment site was provided with skips on a bi-annual basis but that this was the only allotment site to receive this facility. Consideration of the matter took into account the fact that this was becoming a costly facility and that, as the facility had been provided since 2011 coupled with the Allotment Rules stating that Tenants should not bring items onto their Allotment Gardens unless they know that they would serve a useful gardening purpose and how to dispose of them, the facility should cease. Notwithstanding, if there was an exceptional circumstance, the Services Committee would give consideration to such a request.

A recorded vote was called for by Cllr Robinson:

For: Mrs Grady, Harrison, Hinchcliffe, Marshall, Mrs Moorhouse & Peat (6)

Against: Deacon & Robinson (2)

**RESOLVED** – That the Demesnes allotment site should only be provided with a skip in exceptional circumstances.

#### **(b) Play Areas - Community Walk**

Pursuant to the decision to create a community walk from Green Lane play area, through Ten Fields down to Kalafat (Council Minute 75(4(a(ii)))/Dec/13), it was confirmed that, since the walk had been publicised, a number of concerns had been received, including one from Barnard Castle Football Club, in that the walk may become a significant dog fouling hot spot.

A recorded vote was called for by Cllr Robinson:

For: Mrs Grady, Harrison, Hinchcliffe, Marshall, Mrs Moorhouse & Peat (6)

Abstained: Deacon (1)

Against: Robinson (1)

**RESOLVED** – That the decision to create a community walk between Green Lane, Ten Fields and Kalafat be rescinded.

#### **(c) Floral and Open Spaces – Aviation Memorial**

Following recent reports that the Aviation Memorial was in need of a new home, currently sited within the grounds of HMYOI Deerbolt but that land has recently transferred into the ownership of the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) and is earmarked for a new housing development, a solution to the dilemma was put forward for members' consideration, i.e. rehoming the Memorial stones in the Garden of Remembrance. With this in mind, members were also asked to consider becoming the Memorial's custodian and that it be encompassed within the town council's existing War Memorial service responsibilities. It was noted that the memorial's relocation costs would be covered via an arrangement with HCA.

It is not anticipated that the re-siting of the Aviation Memorial within the Garden of Remembrance would be an issue because of the fact that, during the initial design stages of the Garden of Remembrance Improvement Project, it was anticipated that a new memorial would be installed but insufficient funding prevented this being brought to fruition at that time.

**RESOLVED** – That the Aviation Memorial be re-sited in the Garden of Remembrance and that the town council consequently becomes the Memorial's custodian and encompassed within the council's existing War Memorial service responsibilities.

## **(2) Resources Committee**

### **(a) Media Policy and Procedure**

Submitted: a recommendation based upon a revised version of the town council's Media Policy and Procedure in response to the provisions of SI2014/2095 and based upon the deliberation of the Governance Document Task and Finish Group.

**RESOLVED** – That the revised Media Policy and Procedure as approved at the meeting be adopted.

## **86. CLERK'S UPDATE**

Submitted: a report outlining recent activity by the Clerk and staff and correspondence received since the last Council Meeting on 22 September 2014. A verbal update was made relating to the terms required by Durham County Council to progress the town council's lease bid for Woodleigh, prepared in partnership with Citizens Advice County Durham and the Association of Teesdale Day Clubs. Consideration of the detailed financial breakdown of the proposed revision to the bid was deferred

**RESOLVED** – (a) That the information be noted;

(b) That the town council submit a revised bid to lease Woodleigh, with a potential increase in expenditure of £2,175, to be incorporated in the preparation for the 2015/16 budget; and

(c) That the Town Clerk be authorised to conclude a settlement with Durham County Council on the basis agreed.

## **87. PROPOSED 2015/16 NEW BUDGETARY PROJECTS/ITEMS**

Submitted: a report outlining new budgetary items for 2015/16, which had been considered and recommended to council by the Resources Committee at its meeting on 3 November 2014.

**RESOLVED** – that the following list of potential new projects be included within the 2015/16 budget: (a) Digital Voice Recorder - £150 (new item)(one off);

(b) Emergency Fund - £1,000 (new item); and

(c) Defibrillator – £1,500 (new item)(one off – with the need to consider upgrade/replacement every five to seven years).

## **88. REPRESENTATION ON OTHER BODIES**

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

### **(1) Barnard Castle Business Guild Meeting – AGM 29 October 2014**

It was reported that at its AGM, the Guild had appointed Tony Woods as its Chairman, Neil Stokell as its Secretary and Sandra Wilkinson as its treasurer. This year's Christmas window dressing competition would be promoted on the theme of 'Stars'.

**RESOLVED** – That the information be noted.

### **(2) Teesdale Residents' and Travellers' Forum Meeting; and**

It was noted that in Cllrs Cook's and Kinch's absence, there was no update available.

Consideration was deferred until the next council meeting on 19 January 2015

**(3) County Durham Association of Local Councils**

It was noted that in Cllr Kinch's absence, there was no update available. Consideration was deferred until the next council meeting on 19 January 2015

**89. CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR – OFFICE ARRANGEMENTS**

It was proposed that the office be closed over the Christmas/New Year holiday and that staff will use their existing leave allowance to cover these days of closure. It is proposed that the office reopens on Friday 2 January 2015.

**RESOLVED** – That the Town Council's office be closed from noon on 24 December 2014 and reopen at 10:00am on Friday 2 January 2015 for the Christmas/New Year holiday period.

**90. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC (IN RESPECT OF ITEM 91 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 operational detail relating to the matter referred to at item 91 below, due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted: in that it relates to the council's risk management and involves risk assessments, which may, if revealed, increase the risk to the council's services and to local tax payers.

**91. RISK ASSESSMENT AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

**REFERRAL FROM RESOURCES COMMITTEE ON 3 NOVEMBER 2014**

**RESOLVED** – That the information be noted.

**86. CLERKS UPDATE (EXEMPT)**

Submitted: additional financial information regarding the County Council's negotiating position with respect to the town council's offer to lease Woodleigh.