

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
20 JULY 2015**

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

Also in attendance: Three members of the public; two members of the press.

Officers: Mr King (Town Clerk), Mrs Woodward (Deputy Clerk)

50. ACCEPTANCE, OR OTHERWISE OF APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Yarker.

Resolved – That Cllr Yarker's apologies be accepted.

51. 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 that point of the meeting. Members were reminded that a declaration could be given later in the meeting if a need had arisen during discussion. Councillors Deacon and Mrs Grady declared an interest in respect of Item 53 and did not take part in discussions or voting.

52. NETHERLANDS NATIONAL CIRCUS ON DEMESNES - CONSULTATION

Submitted – a report setting out the main points of a consultation by Durham County Council on an event application by the Netherlands National Circus to hold its circus on the Lower Demesnes 4 to 6 September 2015. It was noted that the Safety Advisory Group (SAG) had approved the event. Durham County Council was the landowner, subject to the terms of the covenant to the deed of sale from Lord Barnard in 1948. Raby Estates on behalf of Lord Barnard had indicated no objections in principle. It was confirmed that the circus did not include animals and that a circus had previously been held on the Demesnes. Members expressed concern about the effect of vehicles on the Demesnes and potential damage. Councillor Peat reported that the Auction Mart was willing to discuss the possibility of having the circus as an alternative location. This information had been forwarded onto the circus and Durham County Council.

Resolved – (a) That the town council does not object in principle and;

(b) That Durham County Council ensure the security of the Demesnes from unauthorised access throughout the duration of the circus and that restitution be required by the circus operator of any damage caused by vehicles and vehicle movements.

53. UPDATES AND REFERRALS FROM COMMITTEE

(1) Partnership Committee

(a) Application for Financial Donation – Barnard Castle Meet Ltd

Pursuant to Partnership Committee (Minute 23/Jul/15 refers), the application from Barnard Castle Meet Ltd for financial donation towards the costs of purchasing metal barrier fencing was submitted for consideration by full council, following receipt of a more up to date bank statement.

Resolved – That a donation of £800 be approved subject to the following conditions:

- (a) That town council support is acknowledged, with a label on the fencing; “Sponsored by Barnard Castle Town Council.”
- (b) That Barnard Castle Town Council be able to ‘hire’ any (all) sections of the metal barrier fencing at no charge to support events and activities in the town.
- (c) That the receipt be forwarded to the town council once purchased.

54. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC (IN RESPECT OF ITEM 55. 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 item 55, below, due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, in that it would put into the public domain on offer, the sum of which, if disclosed, might prevent the council from achieving ‘best consideration’ on the terms of a proposed transaction.

55. CHRISTMAS LIGHTING QUOTATIONS 2015/16-2017/18

Pursuant to Special Council (Minute 26/Jun/15 refers), a report was submitted outlining quotes received for a 3 year contract to supply Christmas lighting in Barnard Castle town centre, with a break clause after the first season, based on satisfactory performance being achieved.

It was verbally reported that Martin Bacon (North East Stage – Teesdale Conservation Volunteers Ltd) had subsequently withdrawn his quotation. Therefore, there was only one quote from Christmas Plus Ltd for members to consider.

The conclusions of the Christmas Lights Working Group were discussed. Councillor Peat expressed the wishes of the working group and proposed that the group become independent and focus on fundraising for Year 1 to provide lit trees on shops and businesses. The aim would be to have 50 lit trees for Year 1.

It was noted that Partnership Committee resolved that £700 from the 2014/15 underspend of Christmas lights budget be used to contribute towards the purchase of Christmas trees and lights for the town’s shops (Minute 19/Jul/15 refers).

Resolved – (a) That Christmas Plus Ltd be awarded a three-year contract, with break clause after first year, to supply Christmas lighting in Barnard Castle town centre.

(b) That the three- year contract arrangements be delegated to the Clerk, in consultation with Councillor Peat (Chair of Christmas Lights Working Group), with input from the Christmas Lights Working Group in relation to terms of the break clause.

(c) That the working group be given delegated operational control of the contract to decide options presented within the fixed budget of £6,500; and, if in the event that the working group be dissolved, that authority reverts back to Partnership Committee.

(d) That it be proposed to the working group that it focusses on fundraising to enhance the town’s core Christmas lighting displays and works to become a constituted group in its own right.