

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING**

20 MARCH 2017

PRESENT: Councillors Blissett (Town Mayor) (in the Chair), Cooke, Harrison, Hinchcliffe, Kinch, Mrs Moorhouse, Peat, Rowell, Sutherland, Mrs Thompson, Yarker, and Mrs Grady (from item 94).

Also in attendance: Durham County Council officers: Mr Terry Collins (CEX), Mr Stuart Timmiss (Head of Planning and Assets) and Mr Dave Wafer (Strategic Highways Manager); Eighteen members of the public; two members of the press.

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

92. ACCEPTANCE, OR OTHERWISE OF APOLOGIES

None were received.

93. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with this Council's adopted Code of Conduct (Minute 17(b)/May/16 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. Councillor Mrs Moorhouse declared an interest in respect of Mid Teesdale Project Partnership (MTPP) in item 102.

94. QUESTION TIME – TERRY COLLINS, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL (DCC)

The following questions were submitted by members of the public as follows:

1. Kelly Blissett, a resident, asked a question concerning the closure of Startforth primary school last year. She asked what the projected class sizes were for all year groups in all schools in Barnard Castle primary sector. She also asked how the County Council proposed to cater for the added number of places needed in the primary sector locally with the advent of proposed new homes in the area. The unsafe movement of young children from Startforth via the busy A67 route into Barnard Castle was highlighted, as well as the lack of facilities and infrastructure in Startforth impacting on the town.

Mr Collins answered that the decision to close Startforth primary school had been debated and taken and it was a difficult decision to make. Housing allocation projections, including new developments, showed that there was capacity within existing primary schools. This was reviewed annually. An assessment of safety had been carried out and if deemed unsafe for young children, transport would be provided. Mr Collins agreed to send documentation supporting pupil number projections affecting Barnard Castle (and neighbouring) schools; corresponding class size projections; and safety assessments for junior school aged pupils living in Startforth and attending schools in Barnard Castle.

2. Sam Henderson, a resident, queried the annual allowances paid to county councillors in 2015/16 totalling £2 million. He stated that the county council should be cutting its expenses bill at least as much as it was cutting the pay of its lowest paid workers.

Mr Collins responded that DCC was the 7th largest Council in the country and that there had been no increase in expenses for a long time.

An Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) made up of seven people met annually to assess roles and responsibilities of members. It was up to individual councillors if they wanted to cut their own expenses.

Mr Collins agreed to send details of the IRP for Durham County Council. Information was set out on the website: www.durham.gov.uk/constitution and referred to in the Members Allowances starting at page 405.

The last IRP report for 2017/18 allowances could be accessed on the following site: <http://democracy.durham.gov.uk/documents/s69580/IRP.pdf>

The process for asking questions at council meetings was clarified on the following site: <http://www.durham.gov.uk/article/2301/Ask-a-question-at-council-meetings>

Mr Henderson was invited to attend a meeting of Council on 21 June to ask a question.

3. Tom Deacon, a resident, asked for an explanation about why DCC cared so little for Woodleigh that it had allowed its condition to deteriorate from 2009 and had made no effort to acknowledge its significance to Barnard Castle by seeking a listing for it or preserving it as an important community asset.

Mr Collins answered that DCC did value Barnard Castle and Woodleigh and that the town council could request the building to be listed, although there were pros and cons to this. Mr Collins was reminded that the town council leased the building from DCC and that it had originally been listed for disposal.

4. George Hallimond, a resident, asked Mr Collins to lucidly explain the arcane document which was posted outside Woodleigh in Flatts Road and, in particular, who was the current owner.

Mr Collins said that it was a standard legal notice related to the grounds surrounding Woodleigh and that DCC was the owner. He said that he would pass comments back regarding the need for clarity.

5. Mr King (Town Clerk) stated that DCC had prepared the sale of Scar Top play area to the town council but had still not repaired the play equipment satisfactorily, specifically the play fort and safety surfacing, following tree damage in 2015. How would DCC ensure that the play area was returned to a fit condition before the sale was completed?

Mr Collins responded that he had checked with relevant officers and that the parts for the fort had been ordered and were expected to arrive within the next four to six weeks.

6. Catherine Bonnett, a teaching assistant, stated that DCC was proposing to alter the contracts of its teaching assistants, resulting in salary cuts and that children could find themselves taught by lower skilled support staff lacking experience and knowledge. She asked how DCC intended to “ensure that all schools were in a position to deliver high quality education that met the needs of all children and their families” (Item 13, Strategy for School Organisation and the Pattern and Provision of Schools across County Durham).

Mr Collins responded that the proposals had been suspended and that this was a complex issue. He was hopeful that the situation could be resolved and progress made shortly. Meetings were being held weekly with head teachers, unions and teaching assistant representatives.

Catherine Bonnett answered that teaching assistants were feeling anxious and undervalued; they wanted reassurance and the suspension lifted.

Councillor Sutherland said that she had phoned DCC Councillor Simon Henig for an update and that a resolution was close.

Patrick Bonnett added that teaching assistants were being put in a position where they would have to accept whatever terms DCC offered and had no confidence that these were real negotiations.

95. COUNCIL MEETING – 23 JANUARY 2017 - MINUTES

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

96. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Blissett (Town Mayor) gave an update on the general discussion which took place at the Annual Town Meeting on 13 March. In particular, the following issues were highlighted, which affected the town and its residents:

1. County Durham Plan, including Barnard Castle Masterplan

The Barnard Castle Masterplan had a lot of omissions, including the Emergency Quad Hub. Not all the proposed housing schemes were mentioned and schools' capacity was not included. No one in the town had been consulted on the plan, only DCC officers. Councillor Blissett had attended a Teesdale Action Partnership (TAP) meeting on 15 March, which was the start of an eight week consultation process. An amended version of the plan had been taken to the meeting and was given to Craig Morgan, TAP Co-ordinator. Graham Smith, Regeneration Team was leading the plan.

Councillor Sutherland said that this was not a plan, simply a report and suggested involvement of the four DCC Teesdale Councillors.

Councillor Cooke said that there was no provision for older and disabled people.

Councillor Mrs Moorhouse asked whether this was a formal consultation and if so, how could comments be submitted?

Councillor Rowell suggested opening a comments book at Woodleigh.

Councillor Kinch explained that the original Masterplans existed from 2012 and that they had been updated to go alongside the revised County Durham Plan. A Rural Masterplan was also in discussion.

2. Neighbourhood Plan for Barnard Castle

It would take 2 to 3 years to develop a plan for the town. Problems were identified: the plan would need to fit into the County Durham Plan, which was not yet established; the national picture had shifted; there was a lack of community support and the plan should be community led; and much impact on the town came from adjoining parishes, who were not currently on board with producing a combined plan.

3. NHS Sustainability and Transformation Plan

There was a consultation commencing in April. Either Darlington Memorial Hospital or University Hospital of North Tees Hospital would be downgraded. An Integrated Community Hub was proposed and there was a case for either Bishop Auckland Hospital or Richardson Hospital to be considered. Councillors Sutherland and Rowell had

journeyed by public transport from Middleton-in-Teesdale to James Cook University Hospital to highlight the difficulties, length of time and costs involved in getting to appointments and visiting relatives.

4. Support for Teaching Assistants

Pursuant to question time at item 94, a lengthy discussion ensued on whether, or not, to support teaching assistants in the town. The matter was deemed not straightforward and there were arguments for both sides. Councillor Kinch proposed that there was not enough information to make an informed decision.

Councillor Sutherland stated that the situation would soon be resolved and now was not the time to get involved.

Resolved – (a) That the consultation on NHS Sustainability and Transformation Plan be considered at a future meeting of this council; and
(b) That this council recognises the valuable and unique contribution of teaching assistants in the town, sympathises with their current situation and that, dependent on the outcome of negotiations with Durham County Council, a decision to offer town council support to teaching assistants be deferred until the next Council meeting.

97. 'EN BLOC' ITEMS

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

(1) Governance Task & Finish Group – 31 January 2017

Resolved – That the Notes be received.

(2) Planning Committee Meeting – 6 February 2017

Resolved – That the Draft Minutes be received.

(3) Partnership Committee Meeting – 6 February 2017

Resolved – That the Draft Minutes be received.

(4) Governance Task & Finish Group – 14 February 2017

Resolved – That the Notes be received.

(5) Services Committee Meeting – 20 February 2017

Resolved – That the Draft Minutes be received.

(6) Governance Task & Finish Group – 24 February 2017

Resolved – That the Draft Notes be received.

(7) 1940s Task & Finish Group – 28 February 2017

Resolved – That the Draft Notes be received.

(8) Resources Committee Meeting – 6 March 2017

Resolved – That the Draft Minutes be received.

(9) Woodleigh Working Group – 9 March 2017

Resolved – That the Draft Notes be received.

(10) Town Mayor's Activities

It was reported that, since the Council meeting on 23 January 2017, the Town Mayor/ Deputy Town Mayor accompanied by the Mayoress/ Deputy Mayoress and/ or his Consort, had attended the following:

| | |
|-------------|---|
| 08 February | 100 th Birthday Celebration (Manor House, John Street) |
| 22 February | Charity Evening (Town Council, Barnard Castle Cricket Club, Vere Road) |
| 25 February | Charity Civic Dinner (Great Aycliffe Town Council, Hallgarth Golf and Country Club, Darlington) |
| 27 February | Choral Evensong (Barnard Castle School, Durham Cathedral) |
| 11 March | Charity Night Dance (Darlington Borough Council, Darlington Mowden Park Rugby Club, Darlington) |
| 13 March | Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth Ceremony (Town Council, Remembrance Gardens, Galgate) |
| 18 March | Irish Night (Bishop Auckland Town Council, The Park Head Country Hotel, Bishop Auckland) |

Resolved – That the information be noted.

98. UPDATES AND REFERRALS FROM COMMITTEES

(1) PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

At the Partnership Committee Meeting on 6 February, the following items were resolved and agreed for onward notification to this council meeting:

(i) Alive After Five in Barney

That the town council offers its support to 'Alive After 5 in Barney', excluding financial and staff support, but assisting with its promotion.

(ii) 2017/18 Events Programme

- (a) That the 2017 Christmas Lights Switch-On event be held on Friday 1 December 2017;
- (b) That delegated authority to spend the approved budget for the 2017 1940s Event be given to the Clerk, in consultation with the 1940s Event Task & Finish Group; and
- (c) That the 2017/18 Events budget be apportioned as follows:

| Event | Expenditure (£) |
|--|------------------------|
| The Bowes Museum 125 th Anniversary | 2,000 |
| Aviation Day | 300 |
| 1940s Event | 3,000 |
| Remembrance Sunday | 500 |
| Christmas Lights Switch-On | 2,500 |
| Unallocated | 700 |
| | 9,000 |

(iii) Christmas Lighting

(b) That 21 sets of icicle lights be purchased utilising the £1,000 identified, including installation and dismantling costs, to extend icicle lighting up both sides of Galgate to King Street and Marshall Street.

(iv) Town Map

- (a) That members' comments on the town map be received by 10 February; and
- (b) That it be delegated to the Clerk, in conjunction with Chairman of Partnership Committee, to approve the final proof of the town map prior to printing.

(v) WW1 Beacons of Light

That the town council participates in WW1 Beacons of Light on 11 November 2018.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

(2) SERVICES COMMITTEE

At the Services Committee Meeting on 20 February, the following items were resolved and agreed for onward referral and notification to this council meeting:

(i) Allotments - Bee Keeping

That the town council's draft Bee Keeping Agreement for 2017/18 be approved.

(ii) Annual Review of Tenancy Agreement & Allotment Rules

- (a) That Allotment Rule 2 be amended to relax the termination of an Allotment Garden Tenancy if a Tenant moves outside the Administrative boundary of the town council;
- (b) That Allotment Rule 6a be amended with respect to the keeping of bees;
- (c) That Allotment Rule 13 be created with respect to tenants adhering to guidance and precautionary measures issued by Government bodies; and
- (d) That the Contravention Procedure be approved for 2017/18.

(iii) Play Areas – Gate Licences

- (a) That the town council takes no action regarding outstanding gate licences for 2016/17; and
- (b) That for 2017/18, letters be issued to households in July 2017 granting permission for gate access onto town council play areas and playing field (Tens Field) for a time limited period of 12 months.

(iv) Dawson Road – potential MUGA Lighting

- (b) That in principle, the Dawson Road Play Area Earmarked Reserve of £1,122.98 be used to fund a potential lighting scheme at the Dawson Road MUGA.

(v) Mini Golf – 2017 Season Operating Arrangements

- (b) That the opening hours during high season (27 May to 3 September) 10:00am to 6:00pm be approved; and
- (c) That two exterior signs be produced by William Smith at a cost of £70.

(vi) Wednesday Market – Rules & Regulations

That the draft town council's Wednesday Market Rules & Regulations and Charging Schedule 2017, as amended, be recommended to Council on 20 March for approval and adoption on 1 April.

(vii) Floral and Open Spaces – Floral Displays 2017/18

- (a) That the office strives to get three estimates for planting of the town's 2017/18 summer and winter floral displays, to be presented for consideration at next Services Committee on 3 April;
- (b) That the Gateway Bed by Niche Living be used again to create a 'Dig for Victory' vegetable display managed by Veg out in Barney and YMCA for 2017;

- (c) That the three black round tubs in Woodleigh Grounds be removed and not included in the 2017/18 floral displays;
- (d) That it be delegated to the Clerk, in consultation with Chair of Services Committee, to spend up to £500 on perennial planting of the Market Place toilet bed for 2017/18, including professional advice, out of Floral and Open Spaces Earmarked Reserve;
- (e) That 12 planted hanging baskets be purchased for the hanging basket tree in front of the Post Office in Galgate at a cost of £300 out of 2017/18 floral displays budget; and
- (f) That extra bedding plants be purchased in July for the Gateway beds, Woodleigh beds and Market Place toilet bed, out of 2017/18 floral displays budget.

(viii) Dog Fouling

- (b) That the Dawson Room be offered for hire at no cost for the Dogs Trust community event on 16 May, subject to DCC providing suitable floor covering.

(ix) Big Spring Clean

That the town council participates in the 2017 Big Spring Clean on 11 March 10am to 12noon and that this be promoted.

(x) Play Area Inspections 2017/18

That Park Lane Playgrounds be awarded the play area inspection contract for 2017/18 at a total cost of £700.

(xi) Allotment Tenancy Issue

That, in this particular instance, approval be given for the tenant to retain the allotment garden on Harmire Road Site.

Resolved – (a) That the information be noted; and

- (b) That the draft Wednesday Market Rules & Regulations and Charging Schedule 2017, with amendments, be approved and adopted by this Council.

(3) RESOURCES COMMITTEE

At the Resources Committee Meeting on 6 March, the following items were resolved and agreed for onward referral and notification to this council meeting:

(i) Review of Governance Documents

- (a) That the documents reviewed and amended by the Task & Finish Group to date, namely: Standing Orders and Financial Regulations; Complaints Procedure; Lone Working Policy; Equality policy and Members' Code of Conduct, be recommended to Full Council for approval at its meeting on 20 March 2017 (dealt with under Item 100);
- (b) That further work be undertaken with YMCA, Teesdale School, Barnard Castle School and others, to include members of the town council, to establish an appropriate and sustainable constitution for the Barnard Castle Youth Council; and
- (c) That, in view of the requirement to undertake more work to establish a constitution for the proposed Youth Council, that Council reconsider the allocation of £500 in the 2017/18 budget and repurpose this fund for a specific youth project.

(ii) Medium Term Financial Plan

That the Medium Term Financial plan, as submitted, covering the years 2017-2020, be approved.

(iii) Reserves Review

(b) That the following Earmarked Reserves be retired and any outstanding balance be transferred to the General Reserve: HM Queen's 90th Birthday, Market Place Public Toilets and Wayfinding Units.

(iv) Re-charge for the By-Election Held on 5 May 2016

That payment of £3,629.88 to DCC for the by-election held on 5 May 2016 be approved, funded out of the town council's general reserves.

(v) Woodleigh Working Group

(b) That roller blinds for the ground floor office and replacement vertical blinds for the Dawson Room be purchased at the best value obtainable, out of planned and preventative maintenance budget and Dawson Room hire income respectively; and
(c) That recommendations from the Woodleigh Working Group meeting on 9 March 2017 be made to full Council meeting on 20 March 2017, for resolution (dealt with under Item 101).

(vi) Barnard Castle Masterplan

That a town council response, as discussed, be formulated on the Barnard Castle Masterplan and circulated for Members' final comments prior to presentation at the TAP meeting on 15 March, attended by the Town Mayor.

Resolved – (a) That the information be noted;

(b) That recommendations from the Woodleigh Working Group meeting on 9 March 2017 be considered relating to Asset Transfers, at item 101;

(c) That further work be undertaken with YMCA, Teesdale School, Barnard Castle School and others, to include members of the town council, to establish an appropriate and sustainable constitution for the Barnard Castle Youth Council; and

(d) That Council reconsiders the allocation of £500 in the 2017/18 budget and repurposes this fund for a specific youth project.

99. REPRESENTATION ON OTHER BODIES

(1) Barnard Castle Business Guild

It was reported that there was a proposal to formally close the Barnard Castle Business Guild and support the formation of a new organisation – Teesdale Business Guild.

(2) Teesdale Residents' and Travellers' Forum

A meeting was held on 7 March. Toilets and water bowsers had been ordered for temporary areas of acceptance. There would be another meeting on 25 April to finalise arrangements.

(3) Teesdale Local Councils Forum

There was nothing to report.

(4) Smaller Local Councils Forum

There was a meeting on 16 February focussing on Purdah.

(5) Teesdale Marketing Ltd.

This was not active at present. The intention was to resurrect Love Food promotions. The trailer and kitchen equipment was still available for hire.

(6) South West Durham Heritage Corridor Partnership

This was no longer a Teesdale Action Partnership (TAP) priority and there were no more meetings requiring a town council representative.

(7) Dementia Friendly Communities

A meeting of Dementia Action Alliance was held on 18 January (minutes circulated). There was a meeting scheduled for 29 March to focus on Dementia Alliance Action Plan and Dementia Awareness Week 14 to 20 May.

(8) Walkers are Welcome (WaW)

There was a meeting scheduled for 18 March. A launch event was planned on Saturday 6 May. There would be a family walk and a guided walk. Montalbo School children had designed a leaflet.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

100. REVIEW OF GOVERNANCE DOCUMENTS

Received – a report highlighting changes and suggested revisions following consideration and discussion by the Governance Document Review Task & Finish Group, between November 2016 and March 2017.

The new and revised documents comprising the draft constitution were considered and recommended for approval by the Resources Committee meeting on 16 January and 6 March and were submitted to Council for approval for the municipal year 2017/18.

A proposed additional paragraph, as an amendment to Financial Regulations, was submitted by Councillor Kinch, based on revised advice from NALC, as follows:

“3g. Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 prohibits a local councillor, in council tax arrears for at least two months, from voting on the setting of a precept or *any recommendation, resolution or other decision which might affect the calculation of the precept*. That prohibition applies to those activities described in Financial Regulations 3a-f, above. If a local councillor in such a position fails to notify the council of the fact or votes in a prohibited matter then on prosecution and conviction they can be subject to a fine of up to £1,000.”

Resolved – (a) That the draft Constitution, with amended paragraph 3g to Financial Regulations, be approved for the municipal year 2017/18; and
(b) That the Constitution be distributed electronically, on website and printed if requested.

101. ASSET TRANSFERS – SCAR TOP PLAY AREAS AND MINI GOLF

Woodleigh Working Group reviewed documentation received from the town council's solicitor regarding freehold asset transfer of Scar Top Play Area and Mini Golf from Durham County Council (DCC) at its meeting on 9 March.

The town council previously resolved in September 2015 that approval be given to fund, from reserves, the town council's legal fees plus disbursements up to £2,500 for the freehold transfer (Minute 73 (b)/Sept/15 refers). It was further resolved in November 2015 that approval be given to conclude the freehold transfer through the payment of £1,350 to Durham County Council, out of general reserves. To date, the town council had paid £996.42 on account to its solicitor to progress the purchase.

The town council could be liable for chancel repairs to the parish church, which would be covered by a one off fee of £54.

DCC had still not completed repairs to the wooden fort in the play area (damaged by a falling tree in December 2015) and all surfaces needed a thorough clean to remove moss.

Resolved – That the matter be deferred for consideration under item 103.

102. CLERK'S UPDATE

Submitted – a report providing opportunity to review activities undertaken by the Clerk and staff and summarising the Clerk's forthcoming leave 22 to 24 March and 3 April.

There had been a number of substantive issues moving forward since 23 January, which had not otherwise been reported to the relevant committee; in particular:

Asset and Service Transfer including **Scar Top Play Area/Mini Golf Freehold Asset Transfer** –

A draft contract and commentary on the freehold transfers at Scar Top had been received from the town council's solicitor. These were considered at Item 101.

Notification (addressed to 44b Galgate) had been received from the 'Right to Bid' team at Durham County Council (DCC), on 20 February, informing the Town Council that:

"On the 17th February 2017 the Council of County Durham received notification from the owner of the intention to dispose to dispose of Woodleigh, Flatts Road, Barnard Castle as an Asset of Community Value under the Localism Act 2011." (sic)

The notification failed to mention that the owner was Durham County Council or that it was this council's bid to take on a lease for Woodleigh grounds that was the proposed 'disposal'. A similar notice had been fixed to the fence of Woodleigh by DCC. It had caused some concern with local residents.

Insurance Claim – Further correspondence had been received from the town council's insurers. The situation remained that the inspection report demonstrated that there was 'no obvious defect'. However, in such cases, if litigation was pursued, the insurance company would consider whether an out of court settlement was more cost effective than successfully defending a claim without the award of costs. A confidential note, relating to the potential financial risks, was discussed separately under Item 103.

Elections – The Clerk attended elections training at County Hall on 1 March, primarily advising the process to be followed by the county council's elections staff and a model induction scheme for incoming members, after the elections held on 4 May. Election notices would be published on 23 March. All existing members of the town council would remain in office until the official announcement of the election on 8 May 2017, after which a new council would be constituted.

SLCC Changes – At the first meeting of the Society of Local Council Clerks' board, following its reconstitution, on 25 January 2017, the Clerk was elected to the position of Vice Chairman of the Society for 2017.

Tens Field – As managing agent for the Tens Field, which was held in trust with Fields in Trust (the National Playing Fields Association), the Council had been approached by Ward Hadaway, acting on behalf of Barratt Homes, to request a wayleave agreement for works at the edge of Tens Field to enable a drainage connection. The work, and any costs associated with grant of the wayleave, would be undertaken by Barratt Homes and the site would suffer no detriment. A formal approval by the Council, acting as the trustee of Barnard Castle Playing Fields, was required for Fields in Trust to consider this request.

1940s Weekend – At the meeting of the 1940s Event Task & Finish Group on 28 February, it was suggested that a 1940s group, within the Mid Teesdale Project Partnership (MTPP), could potentially form a partnership working agreement with the town council for the

purposes of SAG documentation and to assist with continuity, given the potential for change of members in the forthcoming elections. This would need to be between the Council and the MTPP and mandated by this meeting.

Demesnes – Following the public meeting to discuss local concerns regarding the management of the Demesnes in October 2016, Durham Constabulary and Durham County Council officers had constituted a 'Time Limited Project' to look at options for the management of vehicles on the Demesnes. Councillors who attended the public meeting and had worked in support of the issue were invited to attend these meetings, which had been hosted in Woodleigh, along with the Clerk. Responsibility for considering these issues fell to the Police and the county council. The town council's position would be managed through the Services Committee or Full Council, as necessary, and it was recommended that the relevant chairs commission reports, as required.

It was reported that the office would close for Easter at 4.00pm on Thursday 13 April and reopen at 10.00am on Tuesday 18 April.

Resolved – (a) That the information be noted;

(b) That the Council, acting as Barnard Castle Playing Fields, approve the submission of a wayleave agreement on behalf of Barratt Homes to Fields in Trust (National Playing Fields Association);

(c) That a formal partnership working agreement be drawn up between the town council and MTPP for activities related to the annual 1940s Weekend Event; and

(d) That the Town Mayor and Chair of Services Committee commission reports, on behalf of Full Council and Services Committee, as required, from the Clerk for any matters arising from the Time Limited Project meetings conducted by Durham Constabulary and Durham County Council.

103. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC (IN RESPECT OF ANY FINANCIAL/ LEGAL MATTER TO BE DISCUSSED IN CONTINUATION OF ITEMS 101 AND 102)

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 any financial/ legal matter referred to in continuation of items 101 and 102, due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

101. CONTINUATION OF ASSET TRANSFERS – SCAR TOP PLAY AREAS AND MINI GOLF

Resolved – (a) That the contract and deed relating to the freehold transfer of Scar Top Play Area and Mini Golf from DCC be signed by two members, in readiness for completion, subject to repairs being carried out to Scar Top Play Area by DCC;

(b) That the net balance of £1,697.92 be funded out of general reserves, being the balance of the town council's legal fees plus disbursements; and

(c) That a one off payment of £54 be paid for Chancel Search Insurance, funded out of general reserves.

102. CONTINUATION OF CLERK'S UPDATE – INSURANCE CLAIM

Resolved – That no agreement be given to settle the play area insurance claim out of court.