

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL  
COUNCIL MEETING**

**13 NOVEMBER 2017**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Mrs Moorhouse (Town Mayor) (in the Chair); Councillors Peat, Blissett, Miss Blissett, Chatterjee, Child, Hallimond, Harrison, Wilkes, Kirkbride (until item 87.), Sutherland and Mrs Thompson.

**Also in attendance:** Sgt. Rogers (Durham Constabulary); four members of the public; one member of the press.

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

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

None

**70. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

In accordance with this Council's adopted Code of Conduct (Minute 12/May/17 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; none were declared at this juncture.

**71. ATTENDANCE OF POLICE REPRESENTATIVE**

Pursuant to Minute 53/Sept/17, Sergeant Simon Rogers of Durham Constabulary gave an update on current issues. It was reported that crime was up by 10%, largely due to re-categorisation of crimes and an increase in historical reporting. There were 22 crimes per 1,000 people in Teesdale, however, compared with other areas, Teesdale was still a safe place to live. Information was given regarding latest scams: premium rate numbers on fake delivery cards and false HMRC phone calls. There was a new beat officer for Teesdale. There was drug use in the town but it was not perceived to be an insurmountable problem.

**Resolved** – (a) That the information be noted; and  
(b) That Sgt Rogers be thanked for his attendance;

**72. A67 ROAD SAFETY MEASURES – DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL CONSULTATION**

Durham County Council was proposing a series of measures to improve road safety on the A67 between Bowes and Barnard Castle, including the town centre. The work was subject to a successful funding bid through the Department of Transport's (DfT) £175m Safer Roads Fund. Two drop in sessions were held in Woodleigh on 18 and 23 October for the public to view plans and members of the town council met with DCC officers on 13 November.

**Resolved** – (a) That the town council supports the efforts of the county council to improve road safety for pedestrians and motorists on the A67 passing through the parish;  
(b) That the town council recognises the potential to improve traffic flows at peak times at the junction of the B6278 (Harmire Road) with the A67 (Galgate/Bede Road), but acknowledges that a mini-roundabout is impractical in that location and that the installation of traffic lights would disproportionately inconvenience residents through the loss of on-street parking;

(c) That consequently, Barnard Castle Town Council does not support the installation of traffic lights at the Harmire Road/A67 junction. The council would urge Durham County

Council to prioritise the needs of pedestrians crossing both roads at this junction, and at points to the east and west along the A67, which can be affected by peak-time congestion.

(d) That the town council supports residents wishing to retain the 30 miles per hour limit from its current starting point on the A67 (Darlington Road). It notes, though, the logic of the county council's case for raising part of this restriction to 40 miles per hour, covering the initial approach from the east. If that were to be implemented, the town council would wish to ensure that the 30 miles per hour restriction is retained from at least 30m prior to the bus-stop adjacent to the end of the Darlington Road to Churchill Road footpath, which is an established crossing point for the A67.

(e) That the town council notes that a draft order, covering the implementation of a 20 miles per hour speed limit in residential streets throughout the town, will be formally consulted upon in due course; and

(f) That with respect to the proposals to build out the footway to either side of the pelican crossing of the A67 (Horsemarket) on its south-western side, the town council would ask Durham County Council to consider the extent to which this area provides space needed to assist the passage of wide vehicles, by providing capacity for through traffic, passing at this point, when the road width is otherwise restricted by parked vehicles within the bays up and downstream of the crossing and also by delivery vehicles parked to the north of the crossing on the lane heading south-east towards the Market Cross.

### **73. COUNCIL MEETING – 18 SEPTEMBER 2017 – MINUTES**

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

### **74. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Town Mayor reported that the 'Winter Drawers On' Civic Event at Raby Castle had raised £1,383.

The Poppy Appeal had been well supported, with good attendance at Armistice Day commemoration and Remembrance Sunday Parade and service. The church service on Remembrance Sunday alone had raised over £900.

It was proposed that a celebration for volunteers be held in the New Year.

An invitation was extended from Friends of Richardson Hospital to Cllrs on Monday 18 December at 2pm for a service on Starling Ward, led by Rev. Alec Harding.

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

(b) That thanks be given to Lord Barnard and all those who helped and supported the 'Winter Drawers On' Event at Raby Castle;

(c) That thanks be given to all Poppy Appeal volunteers and collectors, Barnard Castle Band, Andrew Nicholson for Last Post and Reveille and Rev. Alec Harding for Remembrance Day Service; and

(d) That special thanks be given to Mrs Farren, Services Officer (Civic) for her role in organising and co-ordinating Poppy Appeal and Remembrance Sunday arrangements.

### **75. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

It was noted that a vacancy still existed on Resources Committee. Under Standing Order 4(f)(iv), it was for full Council to review committee memberships. It was proposed that Resources Committee membership be reduced to six.

**Resolved** – (a) That Resources Committee membership be formalised at six under Council's Standing Orders.

## **76. 'EN BLOC' ITEMS**

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

- (1) Partnership Committee Meeting – 2 October 2017 – Draft Minutes**
- (2) Planning Committee Meeting – 16 October 2017 – Minutes**
- (3) Services Committee Meeting – 16 October – Draft Minutes**
- (4) Planning Committee Meeting – 30 October 2017 – Draft Minutes**
- (5) Resources Committee Meeting – 30 October 2017 – Draft Minutes**
- (6) Town Mayor's Activities.**

It was reported that, since the Council meeting on 18 September, the Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor, along with their respective Consorts, had attended the following:

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|--------------|--|
| 21 September | Awareness Evening – (Barnard Castle Dementia Friendly Community Group, Dawson Room, Woodleigh)           |
| 28 September | Ceremony of Admission as Honorary Freeman/Freewoman Event (Town Council, Barnard Castle School, Newgate) |
| 29 September | Mayor's Charity Dinner (Colburn Town Council, Hanson Sports & Social Club, Colburn)                      |
| 01 October   | Visitor Centre Birthday (NEPACS, HMYOI Visitor Centre, Startforth)                                       |
| 13 October   | Raby Castle Event (Town Council, Raby Castle, Staindrop)   |
| 18 October   | Celebration of St Luke's Day (The Bowes Museum, Newgate)   |
| 19 October   | Charity Evening (Shildon Town Council, Civic Hall, Shildon)  |
| 24 October   | HRH Princess Alexandra's Visit (Bowes Museum, Newgate)   |
| 10 November  | Foundation Music Event (Rotary International, Barnard Castle School, Newgate)                            |
| 11 November  | Armistice Day Flag Ceremony, (Town Council, Remembrance Gardens, Galgate)                                |
| 12 November  | Remembrance Service  |

**Resolved** – (a) That the *en bloc* items be received; and  
(b) That the information be noted.

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

### **(1) PLANNING COMMITTEE**

#### **(i) Licensing Application – Il Palazzo, 105 Galgate**

It was resolved that the town council objects to the application. The objection was on the grounds of Prevention of Public Nuisance. In particular, if the premises were allowed to stay open any longer for the sale and consumption of alcohol, this would go on until an unacceptably late time. The proximity of the premises to Beaconsfield Court, which was a residential care home and the adjoining property, was likely to cause a nuisance at a

time, and in a location, at which residents might reasonably expect to be free of noise and other disturbance.

Subsequently, DCC licensing received amendments in relation to the variation of premises licence application following mediation between the applicant and Durham Constabulary. The applicant had agreed to amend the application for the sale of alcohol to 01:00am and opening hours to 01:30am on Fridays and Saturdays only.

A licensing Sub-Committee hearing was arranged for Monday 20 November 2pm at County Hall.

**(ii) DM/16/02643/OUT – Land to the North and East of Startforth Morritt Memorial School – outline application with all matters reserved except access for 40 residential dwellings – Planning Appeal.**

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

(b) That Council advises that the objection to the variation of premises licence application for Il Palazzo, as amended, should remain; and

(c) That representation to the Planning Inspectorate, with regards to the Planning Appeal, be considered at item 80.

**(2) PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE**

**(i) Poppy Appeal**

It was resolved that members confirm their availability to the office to assist with delivery and collection of Poppy Appeal supplies to local businesses and organisations.

**(ii) Fly the Red Ensign for Merchant Navy Day**

It was resolved that thanks be given to Rev. John Moore and Andrew Nicholson; and That Fly the Red Ensign for Merchant Navy Day be an annual event, built into the events programme for 2018/19, with recommended budgetary provision of £150.

**(iii) Honorary Freeman/Freewoman Ceremony**

It was resolved that thanks be given to Barnard Castle School.

**(iv) Armistice Day & Remembrance Sunday**

It was resolved that members confirm their attendance on Remembrance Sunday to the town council office.

**(v) Parish Church Christmas Tree Festival**

It was resolved that the theme for the town council's Christmas tree be 'the natural environment', focussing on services provided by the town council; and That Cllr Sutherland assists with tree decoration.

**(vi) Christmas Tree Lights Switch-on Event 1 December**

It was resolved that a live reindeer display be hired on Friday 1 December, with feed vending machine (income to be retained by the town council), at a total cost of £1,300, to extend the festivities on offer for families and children.

**(vii) 1940s Task & Finish Group**

It was resolved that the terms of reference, as submitted, be approved.

**(viii) Woodleigh Grounds Event Management**

It was resolved that the Event Application Form and Terms & Conditions for booking of Woodleigh Grounds and Performance Area, as submitted, once under town council management, be approved; and

That the charges for commercial hire of Woodleigh Grounds and Performance Area be determined as part of the 2018/19 budget.

**(ix) The Bowes Museum 125th Anniversary**

It was resolved that Members approve, in principle, the idea of a 'Barnard Castle Christmas Festival'; and

That, subject to there being an identified benefit to local residents, up to £2,000 spend towards the Christmas Festival be approved.

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

(b) That an updated report from The Bowes Museum working group, via Cllrs Sutherland and Wilkes, be given at item 88.

**(3) SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**(i) Demesnes Consultation**

It was resolved (a) that the Committee accepts the principle of fencing a corner of the Lower Demesnes as a means of restricting vehicle access and reducing anti-social behaviour;

(b) That specific consultation be undertaken with the owners and occupiers of Mill Cottages about the specification of the proposal and the practicality of its implementation; and

(c) That a recommendation be made to full Council to allocate funding of this project from within the £10,000 awarded as part of the Delivering Differently programme and to devise and implement an affordable solution in line with the preferred scheme.

**(ii) Durham Wildlife Trust**

That the information and the actions undertaken by Durham Wildlife Trust and volunteers working with the town council be noted.

**(iii) The Skill Mill**

That, subject to clarification on costings, the town council commissions small-scale environmental projects for Skill Mill in the town.

**(iv) Dog Fouling**

That a costed proposal for a part-time Market Supervisor and dedicated Dog Warden be submitted as part of the budgetary bid process for 2018/19.

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

(b) That the town council allocates funding to fencing a corner of the Lower Demesnes from within the £10,000 awarded as part of the Delivering Differently programme and to devise and implement an affordable solution in line with the preferred scheme.

**(4) RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**(i) Budget 2018/19 – cost centre report**

It was resolved that detailed recommendations be approved.

**(ii) Training**

It was resolved that all Council members be contacted regarding availability to attend general Data Protection Regulation training on 1 November.

**(iii) Governance Documents Review**

It was resolved that the terms of reference for Governance Documents Task & Finish Group be approved in principle; and

That all members be invited to highlight for review specific areas within the council's Policies, Standing Orders and Financial Regulations to the Clerk by 8 December 2017.

**(iv) Local Government Finance Settlement 2018-2019: Technical Consultation**

It was resolved (a) That Barnard Castle Town Council objects to the possible extension of the referendum principle to parish councils;

(b) That the sector, which is not in receipt of central government funding, requires clear guidance in good time to set budgets, which is usually in advance of (and not dependent upon) the publication of the provisional local government finance settlement;

(c) That if the government is minded to cap precept increases for local councils, that should be set against the global expenditure of the sector, with clear criteria for what might constitute 'a direct result of taking on additional responsibilities' and with consideration for the disproportionate restriction of limiting growth to a percentage in local councils with very small precepts, equivalent to the criterion applied to shire district councils (2% or £5 per Band D equivalent, whichever is greater); and

(d) That supporting revenue expenditure through the use of reserves, where there is no evidence that excessive reserves are held or clear criteria for prudent reserve levels to be held, is inappropriate and represents poor financial management.

**(v) Photocopier Contract - Quotations**

It was resolved that the photocopier contract be awarded to Document Solutions (Samsung X4250LX) for a period of five years 2018 to 2023 at an approximate monthly cost of £97.40.

**(vi) Staffing**

It was resolved that approval be given to increase the hours of the Services Officer (Finance) to 30 hours, from 1 April 2018, at a gross increase in salary cost of £2,997.52 within the cost centre total resolved in the Budget 2018/19 cost centre report; and That a review of all staff job descriptions be brought for approval at the Resources Committee to be held on 5 March 2018.

**(viii) Barnard Castle Christmas Lights (BCCL) SLA 2018-2021**

That it be delegated to the Clerk in conjunction with Chair and Vice Chair of Resources Committee to meet with BCCL to further discuss specific terms of the SLA, to be presented for approval at Council.

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

(b) That specific terms of the SLA with BCCL, be presented for approval at item 87.

**78. REPRESENTATION ON OTHER BODIES**

**(1) Teesdale Residents' and Travellers' Forum (Councillors Blissett (& Harrison))**

There was nothing to report. The next meeting was on 28 November.

**(2) Teesdale Local Councils Forum (Councillors Mrs Moorhouse and Sutherland)**

There was nothing to report.

**(3) Smaller Local Councils Forum (Councillor Sutherland)**

There was nothing to report. The next Forum was on 23 November.

**(4) Dementia Friendly Communities (Councillors Harrison and Blissett)**

It was reported that Barnard Castle Dementia Friendly Community Group held an awareness evening in Woodleigh on 21 September and further meetings on 26 September and 7 November. There was good attendance at the Dementia Awareness Training on 2 November, particularly staff from Edinburgh Woollen Mill. Further work was planned with

Morrisons and the Co-op. Funding was being investigated from Northern Heartlands for work in schools.

**(5) Walkers are Welcome (WaW) (Councillor Mrs Thompson)**

There was an AGM on 8 November. A booklet of children's walks and yard walks were being planned. Funding was being applied for. Paths had been surveyed and links made with other WaW towns. There was a stall planned on Farmers' Market on 7 April 2018.

**(6) Trustees of Dawson Cottages (Councillors Wilkes and Miss Blissett)**

Cllr Miss Blissett attended a meeting as appointed trustee. Miss Carolyn Milburn was continuing to act on behalf of George F White. The Park Terrace properties had been completely refurbished, with four properties currently occupied; a fifth to be occupied imminently; and the final property in the process of receiving applications. All three Brough properties were now tenanted. Unfortunately, the Alms-house Association Patrons Award applied for was unsuccessful.

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

**79. RICHARDSON HOSPITAL**

Pursuant to Minute 62/Sept/17, a drop-in session was held on 7 October, in conjunction with Friends of Richardson Hospital (FoRH), to gather residents' awareness of existing services, experiences and views. Over 80 people attended, with many more completing surveys following the event. In total, to date, 99 surveys had been completed. In summary, the majority of people were unaware of the range of services offered at Richardson Hospital.

Out of 99 respondents, 58 were aware of physiotherapy, 38 podiatry and 33 audiology services, which also transpired to be the most used services. From the responses, 46 people regularly travelled to other hospitals for clinics or tests; the majority of those to Darlington. Seventy people had used Richardson Hospital in the past for a service they now had to access elsewhere. Sixty-five people had been directed by their GP to services at Richardson Hospital and 17 by another hospital. Twenty-nine people had direct experience of being discharged from an acute bed to a community bed at Richardson Hospital, with praise for the excellent care and support received once at Richardson Hospital.

Amongst the respondents, 13 people wanted to see increased publicity for the range of services offered, more GP and consultant referrals, increased and better use of community beds to reduce bed blocking at acute hospitals and use of the hospital to its full capacity. A copy of the fully collated survey results was available from the office.

Cllr Sutherland, as the town council's nominated representative on the reference group for Richardson Hospital, attended a meeting on 11 October. Three key issues were discussed: money, staffing and demand. There would be four further meetings of the reference group before end March 2018 to inform CCG decision making on community hospitals. There was no GP representation on the group and there appeared to be no drive from CCG to use Richardson Hospital to its full potential.

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

## **80. LAND TO THE NORTH AND EAST OF STARTFORTH MORRITT MEMORIAL SCHOOL – PLANNING APPEAL**

Members were informed that in its initial consideration of the application, Planning Committee on 19 September 2016 resolved to object to the application on the grounds of deficiencies in social facilities; lack of local infrastructure; negative impact on views of Barnard Castle Conservation Area, loss of outlook and highways issues (Minute 49(a)/Sept/16 refers).

In March 2017, it was reported that Durham County Council's Area Planning Committee (South and West) determined to refuse the application. An appeal was subsequently lodged with the Planning Inspectorate in October. Those wishing to object to the appeal had until 22 November 2017 to submit a response to the inspector.

The appeal application was available online (<https://publicaccess.durham.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=OBSS00FGDIOI00>).

The appellant's comments mitigating the impacts were, essentially, trivial and subjective. In particular, no additional detail was given about the scale and layout of the development, as these matters were expressly reserved, yet, the scale and layout were asserted to be material in assessing the (lack of) impact of the development on the landscape. The significance of incremental development on the pastoral aspect of the landscape in this location, particularly in the view-shed of the Castle at Scar Top, could not be judged wholly with respect to the substance of the appeal. The application was an enabler for development of a scale and type that was not properly quantified.

In the covering appeal letter, the appellant accepted that the development, "would ultimately have some adverse impact on the local landscape." The council's assertion, in objecting to the original application was that this was significant, particularly in respect of views of and from the listed and scheduled structures within the Barnard Castle conservation area.

**Resolved** – (a) That the town council continues to object to the proposal and to support the local planning authority's grounds for refusal, on the lack of substantive mitigation offered by the appellant; and  
(b) That this objection be submitted to the Planning Inspector.

## **81. DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL 2018/19 BUDGET – CONSULTATION**

It was reported that Durham County Council had embarked on a consultation on its budget options, which was open until 1 December 2017. A leaflet, outlining its proposals was circulated.

The key proposals for 2018/19 included:

- *Continue to realise savings already agreed;*
- *Continue to reduce management and back office posts, accommodation costs, supplies and services and review our working arrangements to achieve efficiencies;*
- *Continue to find new ways of working and generating income including more effective commissioning of services, investing in changes that will reduce our future expenditure and focusing on priority service users;*
- *Use £0.5 million of our reserves to delay making some savings to give us more time to work with service users and the community to develop future proposals.*

The county council had posed four questions as the basis of its consultation.

**Resolved** – (a) That it be delegated to the Clerk to determine an appropriate response to Durham County Council's 2018/19 budget consultation, informed by discussions with councillors; and  
(b) That the response be made by the Clerk using the county council's on-line response form by 1 December 2017.

## **82. DISQUALIFICATION CRITERIA FOR COUNCILLORS AND MAYORS**

Received – a report setting out a consultation on plans from the government to 'strengthen standards for councillors and mayors'. A copy of the consultation was circulated. The proposed new rules could mean anyone given an Anti-Social Behaviour Injunction, Criminal Behaviour Order or added to the sex offenders' register, would no longer be able to hold elected office in their communities. Members considered whether the proposed increased disqualification criteria was proportionate and had appropriate coverage, in particular around fraud and financial crime and the legitimate right to protest. The consultation, framed around six questions, was available until 8 December 2017.

**Resolved** – (a) That it be delegated to the Clerk to frame an appropriate response, focussing on contentious areas for review and consideration, informed by discussions with councillors; and  
(b) That the response be made by the Clerk.

## **83. YOUTH PROJECT**

Cllrs Sutherland and Mrs Moorhouse had met to develop a list of local youth groups and organisations with whom the project might be discussed. It was suggested that these groups were formally invited to attend a working meeting, to be held early in the New Year.

**Resolved** – That a meeting is arranged in January 2018 to which local groups and organisations supporting young people in Barnard Castle are invited.

## **84. CHRISTMAS/ NEW YEAR OFFICE ARRANGEMENTS**

It was confirmed that the Town Council office would close for the public holidays of Monday 25 December, Tuesday 26 December 2017 and Monday 1 January 2018. It was proposed that the office closed at noon on Friday 22 December and remained closed to the public in the interval between Wednesday 27 and Friday 29 December, inclusive. Members noted that CAB would also be shut over this period but that the ATDC would be operating on 27 and 28 December. Staff could use their existing leave allowances to cover these days. It was proposed that the office reopened to the public on Tuesday 2 January 2017 at 10am. Members noted that staff would cover the operation of the Wednesday market on 27 December and that the December payroll would be processed on 20 December.

**Resolved** – That the Town Council's office be closed from noon on Friday 22 December 2017 and reopen at 10:00am on Tuesday 2 January 2017 for the Christmas/New Year holiday period.

## **85. CLERK'S UPDATE**

Submitted – A report outlining recent activities undertaken by the Clerk and staff and summarising the Clerk's forthcoming leave.

There had been a number of substantive issues moving forward since 18 September.

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

The freehold acquisition of Scar Top play area and mini golf course was completed on 11 October. Completed paperwork, including the amended Land Registry document was awaited.

Comments relating to the proposed lease terms for Woodleigh Grounds had been returned to Durham County Council by the town council's solicitor. There had been no revision to the target date set to agree these and set up the lease of 1 October 2017. Durham County Council had confirmed that the £10,000 awarded to the town council under the Delivering Differently programme would be forthcoming on completion of the transfers.

**Tens Field Sewer Drainage Easement** The deed of easement approved by council, as trustee for the Barnard Castle Playing Fields Charity, was agreed with BDW Trading Ltd, for Barratt Housing, and Fields in Trust, as the National Playing Fields Association on 2 November. Barnard Castle Playing Fields would be in receipt of £1,000, as approved, to be held against approved expenditure in support of those playing fields held in trust.

**Woodleigh Windows** Durham County Council had commissioned a building surveyor's report on the condition of the windows at Woodleigh. This was carried out on 27 October. The surveyor had confirmed, though, that whilst there was no immediate health and safety risk in the current condition of the windows, remedial works were likely to be required. A schedule of works to renovate the windows was expected to be submitted and approved at CMPB on 23 November. Subsequently, external painting of the windows by the town council's contractor was in abeyance.

**Bede Kirk** The period for comment on the town council's application to register Bede Kirk as a town green closed on 10 November. It was anticipated that any submissions made to Durham County Council would be forwarded to the town council for a response shortly, with up to three weeks to reply. It might be prudent for council to delegate the task of responding to the Planning Committee to enable a timely response to be made. It also appeared that a prospective buyer had carried out investigative ground works on site.

**Boundary Commission** The Boundary Commission for England's revised parliamentary constituency boundary review proposals were published on 17 October. These reunited Barnard Castle East and Barnard Castle West in the Bishop Auckland constituency. There was no certainty of their adoption by Parliament. Comments on the redrafted proposals could be made until 11 December.

**Teesdale Area Action Partnership** The co-ordinator of TAP, Craig Morgan, had transferred to run the Durham AAP. His replacement was Adam White who had been working with the Great Aycliffe and Middridge AAP.

The Town Clerk would be on leave on 17 November, 19 December, 21 to 22 December and 27 to 29 December inclusive.

**Resolved** – (a) That the information be noted;  
(b) That any required response to the submissions made in association with the application to register Bede Kirk as a town green be made by the Planning Committee; and  
(c) That a positive response be given to The Boundary Commission for England's revised parliamentary constituency boundary review proposals.

## **86. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC (IN RESPECT OF ITEM 87 & 88, 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 matters referred to at items 87 & 88, below, due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

## **87. BARNARD CASTLE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SLA 2018-2021**

Councillor Peat expressed an interest and did not take part in any vote.

Received – a report proposing a form of Service Level Agreement (SLA) between the town council and Barnard Castle Christmas Lights (BCCL) for the provision of Christmas Lights from the 2018/19 season.

Pursuant to Minute 59(1)(ix)/Sept/17 and Resources Minute 40/Oct/17, a meeting was held on 7 November with BCCL to further discuss specific terms of the SLA. The revised SLA and Indemnity Agreement were presented to members for approval.

**Resolved** – (a) That the SLA and Indemnity Agreement for the provision of Christmas Lights from the 2018/19 seasons by Barnard Castle Christmas Lights be approved; and  
(b) That it be delegated to the Clerk, in conjunction with Town Mayor and Chairs of Committees, to approve expenditure in support of SLA from within the minimum £6,500 per annum 2018 to 2021.

## **88. THE BOWES MUSEUM 125<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY – BARNARD CASTLE CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL**

Councillor Mrs Moorhouse expressed an interest and did not take part in any vote.

Received – a report presenting a proposal from The Bowes Museum for the town council to contribute towards a light installation in the town as part of the Barnard Castle Christmas Festival. Members were asked to consider whether, or not, a light installation on Scar Top would benefit residents of the town in celebrating the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Bowes Museum.

**Resolved** –(a) That approval is not given to spend £2,000 on a contemporary light installation on Scar Top;

(b) That the town council works in conjunction with community groups, to promote an event in the town around Easter 2018, to celebrate the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Bowes Museum; and

(c) That, if necessary at year end, an earmarked reserve for The Bowes Museum 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary be created for £2,000.