

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING**

16 JULY 2018

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs Moorhouse (Town Mayor) (in the Chair); Councillors Blissett; Miss Blissett, Chatterjee, Child, Hallimond, Harrison, Kirkbride, Peat, Sutherland, Mrs Thompson and Raw (from item 44).

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

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

41. ACCEPTANCE, OR OTHERWISE, OF APOLOGIES

None.

42. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with this Council's adopted Code of Conduct (Minute 10/May/18 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.

43. EAST WARD VACANCY – CO-OPTION

Received – a report containing an overview of the expressions of interest received in response to the advertisement of a vacancy on the Town Council for co-option and outlining a process by which members might consider those expressions of interest and vote to fill the vacancy.

Three expressions of interest had been received following the deadline on 6 July 2018. It was reported that one candidate had since formally withdrawn.

Each candidate was given two minutes to state his suitability for co-option. Members questioned both candidates. A secret ballot was held. Each member was handed a voting slip to record their vote for the East Ward vacancy. The Clerk counted the ballot papers in front of Members and the Deputy Clerk acted as adjudicator on the counting of the votes.

Resolved – That Mr Tim Raw be co-opted to fill the East Ward vacancy on the Town Council.

(Councillor Raw then signed the Declaration of Acceptance.)

44. DURHAM PLAN – PREFERRED OPTIONS 2018

Submitted – a report seeking approval for a response to the Durham plan – Preferred Options 2018 consultation, to be made before the deadline on 3 August 2018.

Members were reminded that the need for a new County Plan arose when the county wide unitary council was established on 1 April 2009 to replace the former county council and the seven district councils. The draft plan was withdrawn in early 2015, following public inspection. Durham County Council restarted the structural planning process with an assessment of the 'Issues and Options' in the summer of 2016. The town council considered that document and made its response to it in July 2016.

The consultation draft plan was available through the county council website <http://www.durham.gov.uk/cdp>. The plan contained 61 proposed policies, in addition to vision and objectives. Many of these did not have a direct bearing on the parish of Barnard Castle.

Members considered recommended responses to relevant questions, for the approval of full council. Reference was made to the Town Council's resolved position on previous plans (Preferred Options draft plan in November 2012, Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan in December 2013 and Issues and Options draft plan in July 2016).

Resolved – That a proposed consultation response on the Durham Plan – Preferred Options 2018, as amended, be approved and submitted via Durham County Council's on-line portal.

45. JUGGLING CONVENTION – REFERRAL FROM PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

Partnership Committee resolved on 2 July (Minute 22/July/18 refers) that Cllr Mrs Moorhouse liaise with Durham City Jugglers to establish proposed costs for defined performances, linked to the Juggling Convention, to take place on Saturday 20 October.

Cllr Mrs Moorhouse gave a verbal update. It was proposed to hold a workshop for 15 to 20 young people from Turrets Youth Theatre on 10 October in The Witham. Young people would subsequently be able to attend the Juggling Convention at TCR Hub and participate in activities with professionals. The total cost was approximately £200, which could be funded from the Youth Project budget.

A display on the performance area on 20 October by a Newcastle based five ring circus was also proposed. The cost was in the region of £250, which could largely be covered from the unallocated funding within the 2018/19 events budget.

Resolved – (a) That the town council supports a juggling workshop for young people on 10 October at a cost of up to £200, to be funded out of Youth Project budget; and (b) That the town council supports a public display on the performance area on 20 October, at a cost of no more than £250, to be funded out of 2018/19 events budget.

46. BEDE KIRK LICENCE

Pursuant to Council on 16 June 2018, a public meeting was held on 4 July, attended by the Police Crime and Victims' Commissioner (PCVC). It was subsequently confirmed that the PCVC intended to transfer ownership of Bede Kirk green to the town council, subsequent to the lawful disposal of the non-protected and brownfield parts of the old police station. The PCVC had, in the interim, offered licence terms to enable the town council to undertake periodic grass cutting of the green. A fresh licence would be issued for each cut. The initial cut would take place on 24 July at 10am.

Resolved – (a) That that initial licence be accepted and signed on behalf of the town council;
(b) That subsequent, periodic licences be signed for cuts no more frequent than fortnightly during the growing season; and
(c) That the costs of grass cutting be met from the floral and open spaces budget with activity overseen and monitored by the Services Committee.

47. ASSET TRANSFERS

Received – draft copies of leases pertaining to Woodleigh Grounds and Demesnes.

There were several areas for clarification on the Demesnes lease. The terms of the lease needed to be consistent with Woodleigh Grounds lease, including a covenant for the landlord to empty refuse bins and litter pick and permitted use to include events. There was lack of clarity over planning permission for future development of the play area. The existing play equipment and fencing was also in need of repair.

Resolved – (a) That the Woodleigh Grounds lease be accepted and signed on behalf of the town council, subject to the inclusion of an additional covenant for the landlord to empty refuse bins and litter pick; and

(b) That the terms of the Demesnes lease be clarified, to be reported to full Council in September.