

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING**

18 MARCH 2019

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs Moorhouse (Town Mayor)(in the Chair); Councillors Blissett (in the Chair for item 111); Miss Blissett, Chatterjee, Child, Harrison, Kirkbride, Sutherland and Mrs Thompson.

Also in attendance: Three members of the public; one member of the press and Mr B Piercy (for item 111)

Officers: Mr King (Town Clerk) and Miss C Atkinson (Services Officer Finance).

101. ACCEPTANCE, OR OTHERWISE, OF APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Peat.

Resolved – That the apologies be accepted.

102. 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.

103. COUNCIL MEETINGS

(1) Ordinary Council Meeting - 21 January 2019 – Minutes

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

(2) Special Council Meeting - 18 February 2019 – Minutes

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

(3) Special Council Meeting - 4 March 2019 – Minutes

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

104. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor provided an update of the classic bus tour of Teesdale & Barnard Castle to take place on 2 April – 15/16 local authorities. The Town Mayor expressed her thanks to Cllr Chatterjee for agreeing to showcase The Old Well. The tour was intended to support Making Barney Brighter Together to promote the town. The Town Mayor that the tour had generated a lot of interest.

Resolved – That the information be noted;

105. '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 eight items considered at the meeting were as follows:

- (1) **Planning Committee – 4 February 2019 – Draft Minutes**
- (2) **Partnership Committee – 4 February 2019 – Draft Minutes**
- (3) **Services Committee – 18 February 2019 – Draft Minutes**
- (4) **Resources Committee – 4 March 2019 – Draft Minutes**
- (5) **Town Mayor's Activities.**

Resolved – That the *en bloc* items be received.

106. UPDATES AND REFERRALS FROM COMMITTEES

(1) Special Council

The town council considered the referred item (100/Mar/19 - Planning Application DM/19/00260/OUT), noting additional information from the planning portal and a submission from the applicant's consultant.

Resolved – That the application be supported with reservations relating to access for drivers, pedestrians and public transport, in terms of footway and road layouts, crossing points and access to and from the A688, which are inadequate and do not provide safe pedestrian access to the site. The town council has further reservations over the potential for out-of-hours nuisance from, and on, the site, particularly to neighbouring properties, and would support mitigation including curfew arrangements for servicing, and lorry movements, noise, artificial lighting and physical restrictions to access to the car park by the public, outside business hours.

(2) Resources Committee

Further to the resolution of Resources at its meeting on 4 March (82(a)-(c)/Mar/19) it was:

Resolved – That this resolution be confirmed.

Further to the resolution of Resources at its meeting on 4 March (91(a)/Mar/19) it was:

Resolved – That the position be advertised as 'Markets and Maintenance Supervisor'.

It was noted that a confidential staffing update would be provided after item 112.

107. REPRESENTATION ON OTHER BODIES

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

A Meeting was held on 5 February 2019. The next meeting was scheduled for 2 April. The 2019 Appleby Horse Fair would be held on 6 June, meaning that the active period for transit would be 24 May – 21 June. Temporary stop overs and restrictions would be in place over this period. It was noted that the end of the transit period coincided with the first day of the 1940s Weekend, with Aviation Day taking place on 21 June.

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

Councillors Mrs Moorhouse and Sutherland reported that there had been no meeting. They undertook to contact Cllr Kinch (Forum Chair) to confirm if there was going to be another meeting. If not, then this item should be taken-off the agenda.

(3) Smaller Local Councils Forum (Councillor Sutherland)

The SLCF met on 21 February in Murton and discussed the County Durham Plan. There was a presentation on risk assessment training and an update on The Committee on Standards in Public Life's recommendations to strengthen the standards regime for local councillors

(4) Dementia Friendly Communities (Councillors Kirkbride and Harrison)

The Group hosted an open meeting on Tuesday 12 March to review past achievements and receive proposals/suggestions for future initiatives. A decision on a grant from The Sir James Knott Trust to finance the 'Grandma' playlet in schools was expected on or soon after 26 March. A Dementia Friends event was to be held at the Bowes Museum early in April.

(5) Walkers are Welcome (Councillor Mrs Thompson)

Cllr Mrs Thompson reported that the group has disbanded. The item will be removed from future agendas.

(6) Barnard Castle HGV Action Group (Cllr Sutherland)

The HGV Action group was aware that a new traffic survey was carried out 5 February and met with DCC Highways on 18 March to review the results. There were 113 HGV's between 07:30 – 17:30 on 5 February. At Abbey Bridge, there was 1 HGV every 3.5 mins. County Cllrs Bell & Rowland were present at the meeting.

The "temporary" blue plastic barriers, placed at the end of Newgate after the railings were damaged were noted. The Group was told that this would be in place for a number of years until routine maintenance is scheduled. Additional damage to Abbey Bridge was noted.

Resolved – (a) That the information be noted;

(b) That lapsed 'Other Bodies' be removed from future agendas; and

(c) That the Town Council contact DCC Highways to request proper replacement of damaged barriers at Amen Corner and to crack on road approaching Abbey Bridge

108. ASSET AND SERVICE TRANSFERS

Submitted: A report outlining that discussions with Durham County Council had previously stalled over the most appropriate way to recognise the relevant responsibilities of the town council as tenant and the county council, as landlord, in relation to routine and one-off litter picking and bin-emptying on the Demesnes and Woodleigh Grounds.

Following an approach to the Chief Executive of the county council to seek resolution on this point, the Clerk and the Town Mayor had met with Durham County Council's Head of Legal Services and colleagues on 26 February and agreed

wording in relation to litter picking. Draft leases incorporating these revisions were presented for approval.

Resolved – (a) That the Woodleigh Grounds lease be accepted and signed on behalf of the town council;
(b) That the Demesnes lease be accepted and signed on behalf of the town council; and
(c) That the town council registers its support to the county council's request for Section 106 funding and earmarks £4,000 of the 'Delivering Differently' grant as a contribution to the refurbishment of the Demesnes play area.

Resolved –

109. EAST WARD VACANCY

Submitted: A report containing an overview of the actions taken following the declaration of a casual vacancy in the town council's East Ward and the next steps to be taken by the town council.

Resolved – (a) That Members advertise the vacancy for co-option using the specification attached at Appendix A, with those wishing to express an interest in the submitting a supporting statement, by noon on 18 April 2019;
(c) That co-option be determined using the mechanism outlined at a Special Council to be convened at 6pm on Monday 29 April.

110. CLERK'S UPDATE

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

Resolved – (a) That the information be noted;
(b) That basic administrative purchases are made to enable an appropriate response to 'Operation London Bridge'; and
(c) That in the period 19-30 March, inclusive:
(i) In respect Standing Orders 15a and 16a(iii) the Services Officer (Civic) will act as PO and the Services Officer (Finance) will act as RFO.
(ii) The Services Officer (Finance) and Services Officer (Civic) will ensure the separation of authorisation and entry of any invoices received against existing purchase orders, in line with Section 6 of the town council's Financial Regulations.
(iii) The Vice Chair of Resources will act in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 19 and as locum in respect the line management reporting of all staff;
(iv) Cllr Child act as an additional key holder for Woodleigh.

111. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC (IN RESPECT OF ITEMS 112 AND 113 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 items 112 and 113 below, due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

112. WOODLEIGH RENTAL AGREEMENT – ASSOCIATION TEESDALE DAY CLUBS

Resolved – (a) That £186.48 be netted off the 2019/20-Q1 ATDC invoice for rent; and
(b) That this be carried forward in future years against a submitted Rates Bill.

113. CONTINUATION OF ITEM 106(2) STAFFING

The Town Mayor and Town Clerk withdrew for discussion of this item.

The meeting was attended by the investigator, who made a recommendation in accordance with the council's disciplinary policy and procedure.

Resolved – (a) That the matter could be dealt with informally;
(b) That a Staffing Sub Committee be established to conduct this, comprising Cllrs Chatterjee, Mrs Thompson and Child (Chair);
(c) That suspension of the member of staff concerned remain in place pending the informal process.