

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING**

29 APRIL 2019

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

Also in attendance: Three members of the public (candidates for co-option) and one member of the press.

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

122. ACCEPTANCE, OR OTHERWISE OF APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Peat.

Resolved – That Cllr Peat be asked to restate the reason for his apologies.

123. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

124. 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.

Four expressions of interest had been received following the deadline on 6 July 2019. It was reported that one candidate had not responded to the invitation to attend the meeting.

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

Resolved – That Mrs Louise Finlay be co-opted to fill the East Ward vacancy on the Town Council.

(Councillor Finlay then signed the Declaration of Acceptance.)