

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING**

23 SEPTEMBER 2019

PRESENT: Councillors Blissett (Town Mayor) (in the Chair), Chatterjee, Child, Drew, Harrison, Mrs Moorhouse, Thompson and Kirkbride (from item 49).

Also in attendance: One member of the public and one member of the press.

Officers: Mr King (Town Clerk).

44. ACCEPTANCE, OR OTHERWISE, OF APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Miss Blissett, Finlay and Sutherland.

Resolved – That the apologies be accepted.

45. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with this Council's adopted Code of Conduct (Minute 10/May/19 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. No declarations were made.

46. COUNCIL MEETINGS MINUTES

(1) Full Council – 24 June 2019

(2) Special Council - 15 July 2019

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

47. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor reported that there had been a consultation meeting advertised by Durham County Council on Wednesday 18 September, which had not taken place as indicated, on proposals for the Demesnes play area. A site consultation meeting was scheduled to take place on 10 October.

The Town Mayor also requested that members inform the office regarding future absences.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

48. '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 ten items considered at the meeting were as follows:

(1) Planning Committee – 24 June 2019 – Minutes

(2) Planning Committee – 8 July 2019 – Minutes

(3) Planning Committee – 15 July 2019 – Minutes

(4) Partnership Committee – 15 July 2019 – Draft Minutes

(5) Services Committee – 15 July 2019 – Draft Minutes

(6) Planning Committee – 29 July 2019 – Minutes

(7) Planning Committee – 12 August 2019 – Minutes

(8) Planning Committee – 27 August 2019 – Minutes

(9) Planning Committee – 9 September 2019 – Draft Minutes

(10) Resources Committee – 9 September 2019 – Draft Minutes

(11) Town Mayor's Activities

Since the Council meeting on 24 June 2019, the Town Mayor accompanied by the Town Mayoress and or Deputy Town Mayor had attended twenty-seven events.

Resolved – (a) That the minutes and draft minutes be received; and
(b) That the information be noted.

49. UPDATES AND REFERRALS FROM COMMITTEES

From the meetings outlined above, in Item 48, the following update was noted:

Services Committee – 15 July 2019, Item 17

Durham County Council carried out a public consultation on the proposed development of the Demesnes play area on Wednesday 18 September.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

50. REPRESENTATION ON OTHER BODIES

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

Nothing to report the next meeting was to take place on 5 November.

(2) Smaller Local Councils Forum (Councillor Sutherland)

The SLCF met on 25 July in Spennymoor. The meeting received a presentation from Gordon Elliot of DCC on the revised County Durham Vision and discussed a number of topics including: how to encourage members of the public to attend Annual Parish Meetings and potential items for the CDALC AGM agenda.

The next meeting would be held on 21 November in Horden.

(3) Dementia Friendly Communities (Councillor Kirkbride)

It was reported that The group continued to meet regularly every two months. The group was seeking to widen the membership by inviting members of connected/interested groups to attend. The group had been nominated for a Pride of Teesdale. award, for the second year running.

Following training provided by The Alzheimer's Society, a group of 16 'Friends' from Barnard Castle had become Dementia Champions. They, in turn, were able to lead sessions to create more Dementia Friends in the locality.

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

It was reported that The group continued to liaise with local hauliers and with DCC.

(5) Society of Local Council Clerks (Clerk)

The SLCC had been focussing on key areas of work in cooperation with the NALC, including: Improving behaviours in the sector, Climate change: and Working from home.

(6) Barnard Castle Mechanics Institute & Witham Hall Community Association (Cllr Hallimond)

There was no update. Members noted that the charity was to hold a meeting on 24 September. It was suggested

Resolved – (a) That the information be noted; and
(b) That discussion be held with Cllr Hallimond regarding continued representation on the BCMI&WHCA.

51. NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING CLIMATE CHANGE – CLLR DREW

Councillor Drew has attended meetings of the new climate group (TACT – Teesdale Action for Climate Transition). The group has concluded a statement, covering: The evidence for climate change; Teesdale Action for Climate Transition (TACT); and the mission statement of TACT.

Resolved - (a) That the statement is received;
(b) That the council acknowledges the public concern, both locally and nationally, about climate change and its consequences; and
(c) The Clerk enquires of partners, including Teesdale Action on Climate Transition (TACT), in consultation with Chairs of Committees and any other interested members to develop proposals to progress this issue within the Town Council's work.

52. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN (AGAR) 2018/19

It was noted that, pursuant to Minute 28/June/19 and the Council's approval of Section 1 (Annual Governance Statement) and Section 2 (Accounting Statements), the Annual Return, together with all additional supporting documentation, was duly submitted to the Council's External Auditor, Mazars LLP, Durham, by the agreed date.

The External Auditor had submitted a Notice of Conclusion of Audit for 2018/19 on 29 August. It was noted that there were no material matters affecting the opinion.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

53. RED TELEPHONE BOX, THE BANK

The town council had been approached by the owner of 24 The Bank, Barnard Castle. He has enquired about the possibility of adopting the red telephone box outside the shop under a scheme promoted by BT. It was noted that the 'Adopt' scheme was only available to local councils and registered charities. It was also noted that the phone box was still operational, putting outside the criteria for adoption, as published.

Resolved – That the Town Council works with the owner of 24 The Bank and BT to explore adoption of the red telephone box located there to enable its refurbishment as a community asset as a suitable tourist draw.

54. CDALC AGM – 12 OCTOBER 2019

The 2019 County Durham Association of Local Councils (CDALC) Annual General Meeting is to be held on Saturday 12 October in the Council Chamber at County Hall starting at 10am. Every member council is entitled to send two representatives to the meeting although each council will only have one vote.

Members have been forwarded a copy of the agenda by email. This includes the procedural motions on which a vote will be taken.

Resolved – That the position be noted.

55. CLERK'S UPDATE

Submitted – A report outlining recent activities undertaken by the Clerk and staff and summarising the Clerk's forthcoming leave. A request had been received from a café owner to utilise a very small area of the Galgate Gardens of Remembrance with a few tables and chairs.

Resolved – (a) That the information be noted; and
(b) That the Clerk obtain more information about the request from the café owner to bring to a future meeting of the Service Committee.