

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING**

18 NOVEMBER 2019

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

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

Officers: Mr King (Town Clerk).

56. ACCEPTANCE, OR OTHERWISE, OF APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Chatterjee.

Resolved – That the apologies be accepted.

57. 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.

58. COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

(1) Full Council – 23 September 2019

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

59. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor expressed the council's thanks to all those who had been involved in the arrangements for the Poppy Appeal and for Remembrance Sunday 2019. Cllr Kirkbride was congratulated on his receipt of a community service award at the Pride of Teesdale Awards. On behalf of the residents of the town, the Town Mayor accepted the gift of the registration of a star named 'Beautiful Barnard Castle' in the constellation of Corona Borealis, which was made by Cllr Mrs Moorhouse on behalf of Making Barney Brighter Together.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

60. '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 – 23 September 2019 – Minutes**
- (2) Planning Committee – 7 October 2019 – Minutes**
- (3) Partnership Committee – 7 October 2019 – Draft Minutes**
- (4) Planning Committee – 21 October 2019 – Minutes**
- (5) Services Committee – 21 October – Draft Minutes**
- (6) Planning Committee – 4 November 2019 – Draft Minutes**
- (7) Resources Committee – 4 November 2019 – Draft Minutes**
- (8) Town Mayor's Activities**

Since the Council meeting on 23 September 2019, the Town Mayor accompanied by the Town Mayoress and or Deputy Town Mayor had attended ten events.

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

61. UPDATES AND REFERRALS FROM COMMITTEES

From the meetings outlined above, in Item 60, the recommendations of the Resources Committee, meeting on 4 November were accepted.

Resolved – (a) That the Youth Project be advanced in the light of the RSA event held at Barnard Castle School also attended by pupils from Teesdale School and that, through both schools, young people be invited to the meeting of Resources on 13 January 2020; and
(b) That a bench be placed on Bede Kirk at the conclusion of the transfer, dedicated to Ron Hogg, in recognition of the gift of the green to the town of Barnard Castle.

62. REPRESENTATION ON OTHER BODIES

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

Updates relating to the meeting held on 5 November were reported by Cllr Blissett.

(2) Smaller Local Councils Forum (Councillor Sutherland)

Cllr Sutherland reported that the next meeting would be held on 21 November in Horden.

(3) Dementia Friendly Communities (Councillor Kirkbride)

Cllr Kirkbride reported on recent activity by the Group. It was noted that the group had received a Pride of Teesdale award for Community Project of the Year.

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

Cllr Sutherland reported that the group continued to liaise with local hauliers and with the county council.

(5) Society of Local Council Clerks (Clerk)

The Clerk reported that the SLCC had held its Annual Conference in October.

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

There was no update.

(7) Trustees of Dawson Cottages (Cllr Miss Blissett)

Cllr Miss Blissett reported recent activity by the trustees and noted the board's concern at the non-response of one of the council's appointees.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

63. CLERK'S UPDATE

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

Resolved – (a) That the information be noted;
(b) That Cllr Harrison be put forward to CDALC to be entered into the 2020 Royal Garden Party draw; and
(c) That the Town Council's office be closed from 4pm on Monday 23 December 2019 and re-open at 10:00am on Tuesday 2 January 2020 for the Christmas/New Year holiday period.

64. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC (IN RESPECT OF ITEM 65, 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 item 65, below, due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

65. STAFFING (CONFIDENTIAL)

Submitted – a confidential update from the Clerk on correspondence received and activity with respect to staffing.

Resolved - (a) Council delegates to the Clerk all responsibility in responding to any formal notification of a tribunal claim from a former employee and to instruct the council's solicitor (DAS Legal Services) in this regard, in consultation with the Town Mayor and Chair of Resources.

(b) Council delegates to the Clerk all responsibility in responding to the mediation and representing the council's case in relation to the Small Claims action brought by a contractor, in consultation with the Town Mayor and Chair of Resources.

(c) That the reimbursement of £545.32 from SLCC, in relation to the Clerk's time as Member Director of SAAA Ltd, be equally divided between the nominated employees as part of December payroll, in recognition of the cover provided; and

(d) That a meeting of the Staffing Subcommittee, to which all members and office-based employees be invited, be held to review current arrangements following the most recent recruitment exercise.