

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL  
COUNCIL MEETING**

**3 FEBRUARY 2020**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Blissett (Town Mayor) (in the Chair), Miss Blissett, Chatterjee, Drew, Finlay, Harrison, Mrs Moorhouse and Thompson.

**Also in attendance:** None.

**Officers:** Mr King (Town Clerk), Mr Clark (Town Clerk-designate), Mrs Farren (Services Officer).

**78. ACCEPTANCE, OR OTHERWISE, OF APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor Child.

**Resolved** – That the apology be accepted.

**79. 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.

**80. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC (IN RESPECT OF ITEM 81, 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 81, below, due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

**81. STAFFING (CONFIDENTIAL)**

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

**Resolved** - (a) That Cllr Mrs Moorhouse and Cllr Blissett be authorised to defend on the council's behalf, those issues relating to the Small Claims Court and Employment Tribunal proceedings outstanding at 30 March 2020, under the provisions of s223 of the LGA 1972; (b) That the Council enters into a contract with Peninsula covering its 'Essentials Plus' service package comprising HR and employment law, advisory service, health & safety and related insurance for a term of 60 months at £217.20 per month, to be funded from 102 – Central Support Services; (c) That the Council instigates a 'Civic Champion' award, comprising certificate and shield, in recognition of service to the 'cultural activity' of the parish, under the provisions of s145 of the LGA 1972 to be funded from 107 – Civic Fund; and (d) That further enquires be made by the Clerk of the scope and costs of the proposed twinning of Barnard Castle with the Bihadi rural municipality in Nepal.