

BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL COUNCIL MEETING

21 SEPTEMBER 2020

PRESENT: Councillors Blissett (Town Mayor), Mrs Moorhouse, Child, Kirkbride, Chatterjee, Harrison, Thackray & Thompson.

Also in attendance: Mr Phil Crichton, Chair, Barnard Castle Christmas Lights (BCCL) one member of the press.

Officers: Mr Clark (Town Clerk), Miss Atkinson (RFO)

18. ACCEPTANCE, OR OTHERWISE, OF APOLOGIES

Apologies were submitted by Councillors Drew and Miss Blissett.

Resolved – That the apologies be accepted.

19. 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 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.

20. ATTENDANCE OF POLICE REPRESENTATIVE

As the Police representative was unable to attend the Clerk referred to their report. The main points were:

- Recorded crime for Barnard Castle Town has seen a 21% reduction year on year.
- Teesdale remains one of the safest areas to live and work in Durham and Darlington. The chance of being a victim of crime for the force is 31.5 per 1000 with Barnard Castle being 17.7 per 1000 population.

An update on local policing initiatives was given which included PACT meetings going virtual, the restart of the Young Hero's Scheme and scoping exercises underway for a mobile speedwatch van/mobile police station:

Resolved – That the Police report was noted.

21. MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor extended his good wishes to Cllr Drew who had recently given birth and offered his thanks to all those who attended the Red Ensign Day flag raising ceremony.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

22. COUNCIL MEETINGS MINUTES

- (i) Full Council 27 July 2020**
- (ii) Extraordinary Council 03 August 2020**

Resolved – That the minutes be approved as a correct record.

23. 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 three items considered at the meeting were as follows: -

- (1) Resources Committee – 07 September 2020 – Draft Minutes**
- (2) Community Fund Working Group – 19 August 2020 – Notes**
- (3) Town Mayor's Activities**

Due to the COVID 19 situation the Town Mayor has not attended any official functions.

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

24. UPDATES AND REFERRALS FROM COMMITTEES

From the meetings outlined above in item 23.

(1) Resources Committee

- (i) Financial activity first quarter;
- (ii) Amendment to the schemes of delegation for the Resources and Staff Sub Committees; and
- (iii) Decisions taken by the Staffing Sub Committee

(2) Barnard Castle Community Fund – 20 August 2020

Terms of reference.

(3) Services Committee

The Clerk gave a verbal update from the meeting held on 16 September 2020.

No items are referred to council for a decision.

Resolved – That the updates from committees be noted.

25. REPRESENTATION ON OTHER BODIES

Due to the current COVID 19 restrictions it was noted groups may not have met.

- (1) Teesdale Residents' and Travellers' Forum** – No meetings.
- (2) Larger Local Councils Forum** – No meetings attended.
- (3) Dementia Friendly Communities** – It was reported that Morrison's had allowed a bucket collection to be carried out and a virtual lunch was being planned for the 23 September.
- (4) Barnard Castle Mechanics Institute & Witham Hall Community Association – (Councillor Hallimond)** – No report of any meetings attended.

Resolved - That the information be noted.

26. ITEM OF CORRESPONDENCE

Submitted - a letter from the Chair of BCCL following the council's decision on the use of The Upper Demesnes for the annual bonfire event (Minute 9.1/July/20 refers).

Resolved – The council offered an apology to BCCL for any misunderstanding and confirmed its continued partnership and working arrangements for the future.

27. HIGHWAYS & SAFETY

Matters were raised on issues of road safety in the vicinity of Bede Road and Galgate affecting pedestrians crossing at these points.

Resolved – That the concerns brought to the council's attention are raised with Durham County Council Highways Department.

28. SMALL CLAIMS COURT – CONCLUSION OF CASE F7QZ5X32

The Clerk gave a verbal summary, including details of the 'order' and costs following the conclusion of the Small Claims case relating to Mr Barry Piercy and Barnard Castle Town Council.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

29. RECORDING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS POLICY

Submitted - a policy on the council's recording of meetings for the purpose of the accuracy of the minutes.

Resolved – That the policy on the recording of council meetings is approved and adopted.

30. CLERKS REPORT

Submitted – A report outlining that:

No payments had been made under 7(2)(a) or 7(2)(b) of the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014, issued under s43(2) of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

The office remains closed to the public due to the current pandemic. The RFO continues to work from home.

It is unclear when CAB will be looking to return to Woodleigh. Teesdale Day Clubs have been attending their office on a rota basis.

The office has been experiencing IT and software difficulties recently resulting in the need to call out experts to help resolve the issues.

During the closure of Woodleigh, we have taken the opportunity to repaint the foyer area and outside doors. We have also deep cleaned the main areas in preparation for a future return to normal working.

The office continues to deal with phone calls from the public on a variety of issues.

Resolved – That the Clerks Report be noted.

31. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC (IN RESPECT OF ITEM 32, 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 item 32 below, due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

32. IT SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE

Submitted – a report on a proposal for future council IT support and maintenance.

Resolved – That the council approve the proposal submitted by Comtek System Solutions Ltd to provide ongoing IT and software support at a cost for the next 12 months of £660.00. The support to be reviewed annually.