

PENISTONE TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Ordinary Town Council Meeting held on Monday
September 17th 2012 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Penistone.**

Present: The Town Mayor Cllr. Barron, in the Chair, Cllrs. Chapman, Green, Hand-Davis, R. Hinchliff, B. Hinchliff, Marsh, Mrs. Rusby, Starling, Webber, Mrs. Webber and Unsworth.

Also present the **Town Clerk Keith Coulton, public, press.**

Before opening the meeting the **Town Mayor** allowed ten minutes public participation.

1. Apologies for absence – Cllrs. Cutts, Millner and Pilkington, RESOLVED the apologies are recorded.

2. Declarations of Personal or Prejudicial Interest
The **Town Mayor** invited declarations of which there were **NONE**

3. Approval of Minutes.
The Minutes of the following meetings were **approved** a true record and signed by the **Town Mayor** accordingly,

- a) The Town Council Meeting held on July 16th 2012
- b) The Planning Committee held on July 16th and 30th 2012
- c) The Town Services Meeting held on July 23rd 2012
- d) The Leisure and Amenities Committee held on September 10th 2012

4. Reports from Elected Members of Barnsley M.B.C.
Cllr. Hand – Davis alluded to a question raised by a member or the public and agreed at the lack of street lighting on the Trans - pennine trail; however budget restraints may not permit the funding of additional lighting.

A new chief executive to Barnsley M.B.C. Diane Terris, was introduced to members recently.

Following a recent site visit of the wind turbines in the area by the relevant scrutiny committee who appeared both amazed, and showed concern over the amount of turbines in the area, the ward members were now pressing for a policy on this issue, particularly following a statement from the Environment Minister recently on alternative energy.

The square about in the town centre is still in its infancy, nevertheless appears to be working, unfortunately there is no one to enforce parking restrictions.

A new potholing machine has been introduced but appears to be ineffective and he would investigate the problem with the highways division.

Cllr. Mrs. Rusby agreed to investigate the problems with the carriageway surface and street lighting problems on behalf of the resident on the Trans pennine trail. She had also attended the wind farm visit with other members of the committee and stated some appeared appalled at the effect they had on the vista and visual amenity. Unfortunately the applications that had already been granted will be erected though she was pleased that legislation may now be introduced to curtail the amount of applications.

Signed.....Mayor 15/10/12

Ward Members reports continued

Cllr. Starling also stated that the planning division appeared to be more conscious of the effect of wind farm in the area resulting in more applications refused than granted.

Cllr. Starling also alluded to the “Big Conversation” and Neighbourhood Plan and the effects on budgets already stretched.

Cllr. Marsh stated that the ward members needed to pressure officers on a wind farm policy and master plan as many of these wind farms are unsustainable and what has happened to the section 106 monies that was ring fenced for Penistone some five years ago could this money be allocated for improvements to the Trans pennine trail?

Cllr. Green agreed that the ward members should enquire into the funding for the Trans pennine trail.

Cllr. Unsworth reported that he had attended the “Big Conversation” meeting which was directed at the town Council and suggested inviting an officer to a future meeting
AGREED

The ward members were thanked for their reports.

5. Correspondence.

The following items of correspondence were **NOTED** as members had been circulated with the information for their perusal prior to the meeting.

- a) Voluntary Action Barnsley – on how it can provide services to community groups
- b) Audit Commission - Confirming that B.D.O. Stoy Hayward have been appointed as external auditors to audit the annual return of Penistone Town Council for five years from 2012/13
- c) Barnsley M.B.C. - Notification of the introduction of a new computer system which will enable the authority to accurately plot the locations of properties within the borough, especially where there have been certain addresses placed in the wrong parish by the previous software.
- e) Penistone Grammar School – in response to a letter from the Town Council asking for consideration to be given to re-site the war memorial plaque in memory of former pupils killed in both world wars, currently in St. John the Baptist church to a site within the school. The request was acceded to and a rededication ceremony is planned for November.

6. Leisure and Amenities Report.

In the absence of **Cllr. Cutts** the **Town Clerk** asked members to refer to the minutes of the Leisure and Amenities Committee held on the 10th September and confirmed that there was nothing further to add.

Members asked for their thanks to be conveyed to the cinema manager and staff for their effort in making the Paramount a success. **NOTED**

7. Accounts and Finance

The following accounts had been previously circulated to Members and it was **RESOLVED** to approve the following:

- a) **The General Account to the sum of £26,662.94**
- b) **The Paramount Account to the sum of £34,205.15**
- c) **The following requests for financial assistance were considered and it was RESOLVED to grant the following:**

Penistone Players £250.00 providing they obtain the remainder of the funding

Penistone Crime and Safety Group £250.00

Millhouse Green Village Community Association £250.00

The donations to be taken from the Section 137 budget.

Signed.....Mayor 15/10/12

8. Resource Centre.

The **Town Clerk** informed members that the user group had asked the Town Councils permission to refurbish the kitchen in the centre at their expense which had been agreed, and that there had been further problems with the drainage system. On this occasion it could not be attributed to the centre, and the drainage company had been called out and repaired the problem as a matter of urgency. The drainage system is now functioning satisfactorily.

9. Community Centre.

The **Town Clerk** reported that the community centre was operating efficiently despite the economic climate. The community centre staff was in the process of completing the new letting room.

The **Town Clerk** also alluded to a car which had caught fire in the car park recently resulting in the Fire Brigade being called into action.

The **Town Clerk** also expressed his thanks to Yorkshire Water for supplying a temporary service to the community centre whilst carrying out their major works in the area. This enabled the centre to function without disruption.

10. Town Hall.

The **Town Clerk** confirmed that Barnsley MBC is still carrying out a comprehensive review of community buildings and would await the deliberations of their investigations.

11. Community Led Plan

Cllr. Webber in the absence of **Cllr. Millner** reported to members there had been a 24% return which was similar and in accordance with most town and parish councils that had carried out a parish plan.

The recent meeting of the Development and Regeneration Committee attended by Amanda Kent from Rural Action Yorkshire highlighted the explicit interest shown by resident’s responses and strength of feeling to certain matters.

Ms. Kent agreed to complete the full analysis by the next meeting on November 12th

NOTED

12. Public Toilets.

Cllr. Marsh alluded to previous meetings on how the estimates had exceeded the budget allocated and suggested as the building was the maintenance responsibility of Barnsley M.B.C. leaving them to run the building.

A brief discussion ensued on the most economical way to spend the money depending on the outcome of the spending review being undertaken by Barnsley M.B.C.

Cllr. Starling commented that it may be more beneficial to spend the money on maintaining the building as it is and keep it open than spending money for it to be closed. However, as the Town Council had been allocated the money to spend on the building members were of the opinion that it was now time to progress and complete the project.

Cllr. Marsh and the **Town Clerk** agreed to obtain new estimates from local tradesmen and present them at the meeting in October. **RESOLVED**

Signed.....Mayor 15/10/12

13. National School.

The **Town Clerk** informed members that he had been in dialogue with the officer from Norfolk Property Services and although he was awaiting written confirmation the officer did not have a problem with the proposed license for access and egress to the car park.

14. Allotments.

The **Town Clerk** confirmed that the application for the change of use of open space into allotments on land off Berrywell Avenue had been granted subject to the following conditions:

The development shall be begun before the expiry of 3 years from the date of the permission (29/08/12) to comply with the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 Section 91

The development shall be carried out in accordance with the plans and specification as approved in the interests of the visual amenities of the locality and in accordance with LDF Core Strategy Policy CSP 29

The parking and maneuvering facilities indicated on the submitted plan shall be surfaced in a solid bound material to ensure that satisfactory off street parking area are provided in the interests of highway safety and the free flow of traffic.

It was **RESOLVED** that for the next meeting the **Town Clerk** and **Cllr. Marsh** would obtain estimates from local tradesmen for fencing etc. to progress the site.

15. The following updated documents in compliance with recommendations from external audit and the Localism Act 2011 were approved without amendment.

Standing Orders.

Financial Regulations.

Code of Conduct.

16. External audit report 2011/12

The **Town Clerk** presented to the council now that the audit opinion had been given to show that the audit had been approved and accepted by the council and a minute to record the fact was required.

The issues arising in the report were:

The council incorrectly stated No to trust funds disclosure in section 2 instead of Not Applicable.

To follow the internal auditors recommendations before the end of the financial year

Town Clerks note the recommendations have been implemented for some considerable time to the satisfaction of the internal auditor.

17. Neighbourhood Plan

RESOLVED to await the finalisation of the Community Led Plan prior to considering developing a Neighbourhood Plan, as uncertainty surrounds the funding and the Community Led Plan may deliver many of the requirements of a Neighbourhood Plan.

Dates and Time of the next meeting.

Town Council October 15th at 7.0pm in the Town Hall.

Signed.....Mayor 15/10/12