



**Berwick-upon-Tweed
Town Council**

Minutes of the Town Council Communities and Local Services
Committee Meeting held on Monday, 04 March 2024 at 6.00pm in The
Meeting Room, Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council Office, Unit 1, 82 –
88 Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed

PRESENT:

Councillors: G Brown (in the Chair)
J Bowden
G Smith
T Stewart
L Stephenson
J Turton

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Gareth Davies, Town Clerk
Stephen Cozens, Assistant to the Clerk
Representative of the Jimmy Strength project.
2 members of the public

MINUTE NO.	TITLE AND DESCRIPTION OF ITEM	Mover	Seconded	Decision
	<p>As neither the Chair or Vice-Chair were present, the Town Clerk opened the meeting and updated Councillors of the procedure that they choose a Member from amongst their number to Chair the meeting.</p> <p>After which, on the motion of Cllr J Turton, seconded by Cllr L Stephenson, the Committee RESOLVED that Cllr G Brown Chair the meeting.</p>			
CLS067/23	OPEN SESSION			
	<p>Members of the public may make representations, ask questions and give evidence at a meeting which they are entitled to attend in respect of the business on the agenda.</p> <p>This is for a period of 15 minutes overall and is limited to 3 minutes per person.</p>	N/A	N/A	<p>Cllr G Smith reported issues with bus shelters at Golden Square and near Homebase.</p> <p>A member of the public raised an idea of a community garden on land at Cemetery Loaning.</p> <p>Cllr T Stewart raised concerns regarding the reduction in train services / timetable changes.</p> <p>Responses were provided that Officers would investigate the bus shelters, that the Town Clerk would investigate land ownership regarding the community garden and liaise with the owners and that a draft letter regarding train services would be circulated amongst members by the Town Clerk for approval.</p>

CLS068/23	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE			
	To receive apologies for absence.	N/A	N/A	Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs M Greener and J Robertson.
CLS069/23	MINUTES			
	To sign as a correct record the minutes of the Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council Communities and Local Services Committee meeting held on Monday, 08 January 2024.	JT	LS	The minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 08 January 2024 were agreed and signed as a correct record.
CLS070/23	DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS			
	<p>(i) Unless already entered in the Council's Register of Members' interests, members are required to disclose any personal interest, (which includes any disclosable pecuniary interest), they may have in any of the items included on the agenda for the meeting in accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the Council on 9 July 2012, and are reminded that if they have any personal interests of a prejudicial nature they must not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must leave the room.</p> <p>(ii) To receive and consider requests from members who have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any items on the agenda an application for dispensation under section 33 of the Localism Act 2011 to enable members to participate in discussions and voting.</p>	N/A	N/A	<p>i. Cllr L Stephenson declared a personal interest in Item 11 (Music & Performance on Marygate).</p> <p>ii. There were no requests for dispensation.</p>

CLS071/23	PUBLIC ART			
	To receive an update on the proposal for a statue of Jimmy Strength.	JT	LS	<p>Standing Orders were suspended to allow a representative of the project to provide an update on the handout distributed at the meeting, including that the actual location would be opposite West Street.</p> <p>Members then asked a number of questions including on the location of a plaque, is the work based on the original statue, location of the statue and if there has been a consultation.</p> <p>After which, the Committee RESOLVED that a poll be conducted to gauge the level of support from the public and their preferred location with the result to be reported to April's meeting of Council so that a decision can be made.</p>
CLS072/23	ENVIRONMENTAL VOLUNTEERS			
	Verbal update from Officers and elected Members.	Nem con		<p>Cllr L Stephenson provide an update on litter picking groups and equipment provided to them by the Town Council, including that Five Arches have requested help regarding dog fouling.</p>

				<p>Cllr T Stewart provide an update that he has been in contact with Cty Cllr G Hill regarding Five Arches.</p> <p>The Town Clerk provided an update on a scheme concerning dog fouling ran by Northumberland County Council (NCC) which included posters and the use of stickers on litter bins.</p> <p>After which, it was RESOLVED to note the update including that the Town Clerk will liaise with NCC officers in respect of the scheme for dog fouling.</p>
CLS073/23	LOCAL SERVICES			
	Additional equipment for the local services team.	Nem con		<p>The Town Clerk provided Members with an update on the need for extra equipment to be used by the Local Services staff.</p> <p>After which, the Committee RESOLVED that the additional equipment be purchased with the spending to come from the Public Space Improvement Reserve.</p>
CLS074/23	LITTER BINS			
	To consider purchasing additional litter bins and the making of a virement from reserves as necessary.	Nem con		<p>The Assistant to the Clerk provided a verbal update to the previously distributed background paper.</p>

				After which, the Committee RESOLVED that 5 litter bins be purchased with the spending to come from Operational Reserves.
CLS075/23	GRANT APPLICATION			
	To consider a grant application from Berwick Bridge 400.	GS	LS	Members asked a number of questions including on location, planting and watering of the plants. After which, the Committee RESOLVED to make a grant of £2,500 to Berwick Bridge 400.
CLS076/23	BERWICK CAMERA CLUB			
	To consider the report.	JT	GS	Members raised a number of points and questions including ownership of the picture frames and refreshment of the display. After which, the Committee RESOLVED to make a grant of £594 to Berwick & District Camera Club.
CLS077/23	MUSIC & PERFORMANCE ON MARYGATE			
	To consider whether to recommend that Council supports the proposed events.	Nem con		An additional background paper was distributed to Members. After which, the Committee RESOLVED to support the event through use of the office as per the poster.

CLS078/23	NEWFIELDS PLAY AREA			
	To receive a verbal update.	Nem con		The Town Clerk updated Members that contractors planned to be on site w/c 18 March 2024 regarding the disabled access and fencing. After which, the Committee RESOLVED to note the update.
CLS079/23	ACTION PLAN			
	To receive an update.	Nem con		The Town Clerk provided an update to Members including on the Christmas Lights Working Group, bollard regeneration, accessible kerbs and the market which will require a decision of full Council. After which, the Committee RESOLVED to note the update.
CLS080/23	EXPENDITURE VS BUDGET YEAR TO DATE			
	To note the report.	Nem con		The Town Clerk introduced the report with an explanation that the percentage of spending against budget is now shown. Updates were then provided including on Public Space Management, Local Services, allotments, the Splash Park, festive lighting and spending against pensions codes.

				Members made enquiries as to the allotments at Blakewell Gardens and Five Arches. After which, the Committee RESOLVED to note the report.
CLS081/23	DATE OF NEXT MEETING			
	To be confirmed.	Nem con		It was noted that an extraordinary meeting of this Committee may be required to discuss the market.
The Committee may be recommended to pass a resolution under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to exclude the media and public from the discussion of the following business on the basis that public discussion may prejudice the Council's position and/or staffing issues may be discussed.				
CLS082/23	POLYTUNNELS			
	To approve the installation costs of 2 x polytunnels.	Nem con		The Committee RESOLVED to approve the quote from Poly Grow as their preferred option.