

## BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Town Council Local Services Committee Meeting held on Monday, 01 March 2021 at 6.00pm via video conferencing.**

### **PRESENT:**

Councillors: H Bettison (Chair)  
C Bruce  
A Gibson  
B Parkin  
C Raybould  
L Stephenson

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Gareth Davies, Town Clerk

Steve Cozens, Assistant to the Clerk

The meeting was available live via YouTube.

At this point, Cllr A Gibson apologised for comments he made at the last meeting of the Local Services Committee.

### **LS181/19 1. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions received from members of the public.

### **LS182/19 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs A Bowlas and G Smith.

### **LS183/19 3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

On the motion of Cllr H Bettison, seconded by the Cllr L Stephenson, it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 01 February 2021 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

### **LS184/19 4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

There were no disclosures of interests.

### **LS185/19 5. REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION**

There were no requests for dispensation.

**LS186/19**

## **6. ISSUES REPORTED SINCE LAST MEETING**

On the motion of the Cllr C Raybould, seconded by Cllr B Parkin, the Committee **RESOLVED** to proceed with the repairs outlined in the report.

**LS187/19**

## **7. ENVIRONMENTAL VOLUNTEERS**

Cllr L Stephenson updated the meeting on various environmental issues, such as, beach cleaning is happening regularly in all three areas. A large amount of debris are brought in by the tide.

Northumberland County Council (NCC) have confirmed that the butterfly board which has been replaced is safe and that the other boards will be replaced within the next few weeks along Spittal Promenade.

There has been an increase in users of the beach and Promenade at Spittal, which is a concern regarding Covid-19, especially if visitor numbers increase. Driftwood has appeared at Spittal Beach and sand is still covering the walkways, also there is a tree blocking the stairway towards the end of the Promenade.

A right of way, accessed from Ord Road has a stile which is collapsing. Also, there is lots of rubbish on the side of the road between Tesco's and Allan Brothers

Cllr C Bruce raised a concern regarding users of kite buggies visiting a beach and enquired if there was a law relating to these or if a permit was required as in other areas. After which the Town Clerk updated the meeting that laws and permits regarding kite buggies are local to the various beaches.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to instruct the Town Clerk to liaise with NCC regarding both the broken stile at Ord Road, and for any legal requirement regarding kite buggies.

At this point the Chair wished that the Town Council's thanks be passed to the environmental volunteers.

**LS188/19**

## **8. NTC & BTC PARTNERSHIP MEETINGS IN LOCKDOWN**

The Town Clerk updated the meeting that when the Service Level Agreement was agreed, regular in-person meetings between partners were also initiated. These meetings have not been taking place since the start of the pandemic.

On the motion of Cllr A Gibson, seconded by Cllr B Parkin, the committee **RESOLVED** to authorize the Town Clerk to convene regular virtual partnership

meetings, open to all Councillors, and further **RESOLVED** that 6 monthly face-to-face partnership meetings be convened.

**LS189/19**

## **9. PLAY PARKS**

- (1) The Town Clerk updated the meeting that the Council took the decision not to close the play parks during the second lockdown, and that Officers are seeking advice on how social distancing rules etc are enforced. On the motion of Cllr H Bettison, seconded by Cllr C Raybould, the Committee **RESOLVED** that signage is made use of to provide guidance to users of the play parks.
- (2) On the motion of Cllr H Bettison, seconded by Cllr B Parkin, the Committee **RESOLVED** that publicity regarding the flagship play parks be added to the Town Council website before publicity is expanded upon later in the year including for the remaining play parks.
- (3) It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to defer the item regarding a play parks users survey to a future meeting of this Committee.

**LS190/19**

## **10. LOCAL SERVICES SURVEY**

The Committee unanimously **RESOLVED** that the proposed survey be made available to the public for consultation.

**LS191/19**

## **11. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

The Town Clerk updated the Committee on the following aspects:

- (1) Officers have been in communications with NCC regarding the fixings for the Christmas Lights, and both the contractor and NCC with regards to the cost of replacing the fixings.
- (2) An inspection is underway of the general condition of the displays. Officers would welcome feedback from members as to displays that were deemed unacceptable.
- (3) Requests have been received to use the gobo device for different occasions throughout the year. On the motion of Cllr H Bettison, seconded by Cllr L Stephenson, the Committee **RESOLVED** to instruct Officers to work on a list of occasions when the gobo can be used.
- (4) The display at the front of the Town Hall was last revised a few years ago. As it is a focal point at that end of the Town Centre it could be revised for Christmas 2021. Cllr H Bettison updated the meeting on previous quotes provided for the Town Hall. Alternative quotes may be

more viable.

- (5) Officers are investigating the commissioning of an engineering firm to carry out Pull Testing on brackets fixed to walls for Christmas Lights and CCTV. Quotes would be provided to a future meeting of Council.

After which, the Committee unanimously **RESOLVED** to note the update and further **RESOLVED** that updates and quotes be provided to a future meeting of either this Committee or Council.

**LS192/19**      **12. GOODIE PATCHY, TWEEDMOUTH**

Members of the public have approached the Town Council due to a significant litter problem at the Goodie Patchy. The Committee unanimously **RESOLVED** to instruct Officer to liaise with NCC regarding potential solutions and to report back to a future meeting of this Committee.

**LS193/19**      **13. SENTRY BOX, THE PARADE**

On the motion of Cllr H Bettison, seconded by Cllr B Parkin, the Committee **RESOLVED** to instruct Officers to write to NCC, asking them to confirm responsibility, whilst highlighting their areas of concern that require attention.

**LS194/19**      **14. FORWARD PLAN**

It was **RESOLVED** to note the Forward Plan.

**LS195/19**      **15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting will be Monday, 19 April 2021 at 6.00 pm or upon the rising of the Budget and Administration Committee, whichever is the latter.