

## **BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL**

**Minutes of a meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 27 September 2021 at 6.00 pm in the Northern View, Highcliffe, Spittal, Berwick-upon-Tweed**

### **PRESENT:**

Councillors:	A Bowlas (Chair)	M Greener
	J Bowden	P Jackson
	G Brown	H Lindsay
	C Bruce	G Smith
	R Driver	L Stephenson
	A Gibson	A Williams

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mr Gareth Davies, Town Clerk  
Steve Cozens, Assistant to the Clerk  
Joyce Benton, Sergeant-at-Mace  
The Reverend Canon Alan Hughes MBE TD, Sheriff  
Philip Mawer, Vision for Berwick Barracks  
Andrea Selley, Vision for Berwick Barracks  
Karen Lounton, Vision for Berwick Barracks  
4 members of the public

**C109/21**

#### **1. VISION FOR BERWICK BARRACKS**

Representative gave a presentation on the Vision for Berwick Barracks project and answered questions from councillors and members of the public.

**C110/21**

#### **2. OPEN SESSION**

A member of the public raised concerns regarding noisy vehicles and enquired if Berwick-upon-Tweed could host a trade fair, to which the Town Clerk responded after comments from councillors.

**C111/21**

#### **3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs R Bruce, A Forbes and C Raybould.

**C112/21**

**4. MINUTES**

On the motion of Cllr H Lindsay, seconded by Cllr G Smith, the minutes of the meeting of Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council held on 23 August 2021 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

**C113/21**

**5. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

There were no disclosures of interest.

**C114/21**

**6. REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION**

There were no requests for dispensation.

**C115/21**

**7. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor provided details of events they had attended and been involved in, including the visit of cruise ships to Berwick-upon-Tweed.

**C116/21**

**8. CORRESPONDENCE**

- i. Members **RESOLVED** to note the Correspondence Log.
- ii. The Town Clerk provided an update on proposed rail services of TransPennine Express, after which it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to note the update.

**C117/21**

**9. ROTARY CHRISTMAS LIGHTS AND MARKET**

On the motion of Cllr H Lindsay, seconded by Cllr C Bruce, Council **RESOLVED** to confirm the previous decision of Council, reference Minute Number C500/19: On the motion of Cllr A Bowlas, seconded by Cllr T Forrester, Council **RESOLVED** to underwrite Berwick Rotary Club's costs for the Christmas Lights and of any shortfall of the Christmas Market subject to approval at a future meeting of Council. After which Council further **RESOLVED** that a virement be made from General Reserves.

**C118/21**

**10. RISK ASSESSMENT**

The Town Clerk introduced the item, after which, it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to note the revised risk management system.

**C119/21**

**11. MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL PLAN**

On the motion of Cllr C Bruce, seconded by Cllr H Lindsay, Council **RESOLVED** that Scenario B of the report be developed with the condition that council provide for growth by increasing its precept to reduce the gap between its Band D precept and Morpeth's by 33% rather than 50%.

**C120/21**

**12. FOCUS OF ENVIRONMENTAL WORK 2022-2025**

After Councillors provided initial feedback and Standing Orders had been suspended to allow a member of the public to speak, on the motion of Cllr H Lindsay, seconded by Cllr G Smith, Council **RESOLVED** to refer the item to the Local Service Committee and further **RESOLVED** to bring the item to a future meeting of Council.

**C121/21**

**13. BOXING DAY DIP**

During discussions, Standing Orders were suspended to allow the Mayoress, Sergeant-at-Mace and a member of the public to speak. After which, on the motion of Cllr G Brown, seconded by Cllr P Jackson, Council **RESOLVED** that the Town Council withdraws from active involvement in the Boxing Day Dip. It was further noted that a press release would be issued with respect to the decision. Council **RESOLVED** to suspend standing orders sufficiently to allow the meeting to continue beyond the 8pm deadline.

**C122/21**

**14. GRIT BINS**

The Assistant to the Clerk updated the meeting that Cty Cllr I Hunter had obtained agreement that Northumberland County Council (NCC) would cover the costs of the purchase of 2 grit bins and initial refills for the Robert's Lodge area. After which, on the motion of Cllr G Brown, seconded by Cllr C Bruce, Council **RESOLVED** that maintenance costs in future financial years be met from reserves.

**C123/21**

**15. SIGNATORY**

On the motion of Cllr H Lindsay, seconded by Cllr A Gibson, Council **RESOLVED** that Cllr H Lindsay and Cllr A Gibson be appointed as signatories.

**C124/21**

**16. CO-OPTION OF A MEMBER**

The candidates had previously supplied a statement explaining their Vision for Berwick.

Having achieved an absolute majority of votes cast on the first ballot Mr J Robertson was duly co-opted to be a member of the Council for Grove Ward.

**C125/21**

**17. FORWARD PLAN**

The Town Clerk updated the meeting on the Forward Plan including that a review of festivals, separate to the Autumn Festivals, would be considered in November, and a review of the committee structure would be considered in March 2022.

After which, it was **RESOLVED** to note the Forward Plan.

**C126/21**

**18. BUDGET AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

- i. It was **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cllr H Lindsay, seconded by Cllr A Williams to adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Budget and Administration Committee held on 10 August 2021 (noted at the meeting of 23 August 2021).
- ii. It was **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cllr A Gibson, seconded by Cllr M Greener to note the draft minutes of the meeting of the Budget and Administration Committee held on 07 September 2021.
- iii. It was **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cllr H Lindsay, seconded by Cllr A Williams to note the list of payments and receipts received by the Budget and Administration Committee at its meeting of 07 September 2021.

**C127/21**

**19. PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE**

- i. It was **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cllr C Bruce, seconded by Cllr M Greener to adopt the minutes of the meeting of the People and Communities Committee held on 04 August 2021 (noted at the meeting of 23 August 2021).
- ii. It was **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cllr C Bruce, seconded by Cllr M Greener to note the draft minutes of the meeting of the People and Communities Committee held on 14 September 2021.

**C128/21**

**20. PLANNING COMMITTEE**

- i. It was **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cllr R Driver, seconded by Cllr M Greener to adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 09 August 2021 (noted at the meeting of 23 August 2021).
- ii. It was **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cllr G Smith, seconded by Cllr R Driver to note the draft minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 13 September 2021.

**C129/21**

**21. STAFFING AND CORPORATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

- i. It was **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cllr H Lindsay, seconded by Cllr M Greener to adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Staffing and Corporate Resources Committee held on 19 July 2021 (noted at the meeting of 26 July 2021).

- ii. It was **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cllr H Lindsay, seconded by Cllr M Greener to note the minutes of the meeting of the Staffing and Corporate Resources Committee held on 07 September 2021.

**C130/21**

## **22. LOCAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

- i. It was **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cllr A Gibson, seconded by Cllr M Greener to adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Local Services Committee held on 03 August 2021 (noted at the meeting of 23 August 2021).

- ii. It was **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cllr A Gibson, seconded by Cllr C Bruce to note the draft minutes of the meeting of the Local Services Committee held on 06 September 2021.

- iii. Council **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cllr A Gibson, seconded by Cllr A Bowlas, to approve the following recommendation detailed in minute **LS062/21**:

**LS062/21**: The Committee **RESOLVED** to recommend to Council the removal of the items mentioned in the correspondence.

Council **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cllr A Bowlas, seconded by Cllr A Gibson, to approve the following recommendation detailed in minute **LS064/21**:

**LS064/21**: The former West End Residents Association was responsible for 6 benches and 3 tables with fixed seating at Queen's Gardens, the Riverside Walk and locations around the West End.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to recommend to council that Berwick Town Council adopts all street furniture that was the responsibility of West End Residents Association.

**C131/21**

## **23. LITTER BINS**

Councillors provided feedback on locations they felt required litter bins. After which, it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to instruct Officers to liaise with the Chamber of Trade on a potential partnership project, with feedback provided to the Local Services Committee, and further **RESOLVED** to purchase the required litter bins.

**C132/21**

**24. SPITTAL SPLASH PARK**

On the motion of Cllr A Bowlas, seconded by Cllr J Bowden, Council **REOLVED** to:

1. Approve the quote for electrical works as a matter of urgency,
2. Waive Financial Regulations regarding a tendering exercise, and
3. Approve the quote for a replacement kiosk.

**C133/21**

**25. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Monday, 25 October 2021 at 6 pm.

**Council RESOLVED that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 it was appropriate to exclude the media and public from the discussion of the following items of business on the basis that public discussion might prejudice the Council's position and staffing or personal issues might be discussed.**

**C134/21**

**26. ACCESSIBILITY**

The Town Clerk updated the meeting on an item of ongoing correspondence. After which Council unanimously **RESOLVED** to note the update.