

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 23 August 2022 at 6.00 pm in The Front Meeting Room, The William Elder Building, 56 – 58 Castlegate, Berwick-upon-Tweed

PRESENT:

Councillors:	M Greener (Chair)	P Jackson
	J Bowden	H Lindsay
	G Brown	C Raybould
	C Bruce	J Robertson
	R Bruce	L Stephenson
	R Driver	A Williamson

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Gareth Davies, Town Clerk

Stephen Cozens, Assistant to the Clerk

Joyce Benton, Sergeant-at-Mace

Cty Cllr C Seymour

0 members of the public

C045/22 **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs A Forbes, G Smith and T Stewart.

C046/22 **2. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

- i. There were no disclosures of interest.
- ii. There were no requests for dispensation.

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.

3. ACTION PLAN

Council unanimously **RESOLVED**:

- i. To reduce the number of steps in decision making (e.g. remove committee stage),
- ii. To delegate decision making to either officers, or officers in consultation with named councillors,
- iii. There be a new scheme of delegation with officers given responsibility for individual budget codes,
- iv. To delete practice of making £1 payments – changes risk profile of using electronic banking,
- v. To refer a revised scheme of delegation (allowing a greater officer autonomy (would need consultation with internal auditor)) to the Budget and Administration Committee,
- vi. To reduce the correspondence log item from the Council agenda,
- vii. To review the number of committee meetings in March or April 2023,
- viii. To review the volume of minutes and other documents on the Council agenda in March or April 2023,

Councillor J Robertson left the meeting.

- ix. To use the time saved to produce regular officer reports based on Strategic Plan priorities,
- x. That Council relinquish use of the Warren Report and adopt new Financial Regulations, a Medium-Term Financial Plan and a scheme of delegation.
- xi. To adopt the NALC model Standing Orders,
- xii. To contact Northumberland County Council regarding the boundary review initiated by Ord Parish Council,
- xiii. To progress the Neighbourhood Plan after the conclusion of Item XII, and
- xiv. That Council adopt a Communications Strategy.

Council further unanimously **RESOLVED** that the use of electronic decision making / feedback on proposals be deferred until a solution can be found for Councillors with limited electronic access.

A request had been made for a recorded vote for the above items. All items were voted through unanimously.

C048/22

4. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Monday, 19 September 2022 at 6 pm in the Meeting Room of the Town Council offices.