

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Local Services Committee Meeting held on Monday, 05 September 2022 at 6.00pm in The Meeting Room, Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council Office, Unit 1, 82 – 88 Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed

PRESENT:

Councillors:	R Bruce (Chair)	J Robertson
	J Bowden	G Smith
	G Brown	L Stephenson
	M Greener	

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Gareth Davies, Town Clerk
Steve Cozens, Assistant to the Clerk
Cty Cllr I Hunter
1 member of the public

LS039/22 1. OPEN SESSION

There were no contributions by members of the public present.

LS040/22 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

LS041/22 3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

On the motion of Cllr G Smith, seconded by Cllr J Robertson, the minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 04 July 2022 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

LS042/22 4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

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

LS043/22 5. ENVIRONMENTAL VOLUNTEERS

Cllr L Stephenson provided updates including that the Spittal Group is moving along satisfactorily, 5 Arches has improved both with litter and anti-social behaviour, hoops and litter pickers are required, there is a big clear up at

Greenses Haven scheduled for 11 September, the U3A are still litter-picking near to Morrisons and there is a Cross-Border clear-up along the coast on the weekend of 30 September.

LS044/22

6. ISSUES REPORTED SINCE LAST MEETING

A site meeting has been arranged at Spittal Play Area to discuss issues at the site, the condition of benches and swan table at Queen's Gardens were discussed and it was agreed that Officers would make a site visit to appraise a way forward and a plot of land at the Ramparts is being explored as use for a Town Council Depot.

LS045/22

7. LITTER BINS

On the motion of Cllr J Robertson, seconded by Cllr M Greener, the Committee **RESOLVED** that:

1. 3 litter bins be purchased with authority delegated to the Town Clerk to explore the option of seagull proof versions with 1 unit to go at the bus shelter near the Tweedbank Retail Park and 2 units for spare stock, and
2. English Heritage be contacted to gain permission for the change of type of litter bins at 3 locations.

LS046/22

8. WEED KILLER IN PUBLIC PLACES

On the motion of Cllr J Robertson, seconded by Cllr G Brown, the Committee **RESOLVED** to recommend that Council write to Northumberland County Council to notify them of the steps that can be undertaken to become insecticide and pesticide free.

LS047/22

9. BUS SHELTERS

- i. The Committee **RESOLVED** to instruct Officers to explore advertising / sponsorship for outside furniture and bus stops and to prepare proposals for the budget setting process. The Committee also agreed that a map with advertising / sponsorship locations should be included as part of the process.
- ii. The Committee **RESOLVED** to instruct Officers to explore bringing in-house as much as possible, the repairing and cleaning of bus shelters.
- iii. The Committee unanimously **RESOLVED** to agree to the sowing of grass on bus shelter roofs.

LS048/22

10. PLANTERS AND TREES

The Town Clerk provided an update as to the planters which have arrived and been installed in the locations and soil and trees which are arriving in the coming weeks. The next stage is the labelling of the planters and removal / relocation of the old stock.

LS049/22

11. PLAY PARKS

The Town Clerk provided an update on play parks including Spittal Play Area involving issues with the turf, the need for 'no dog' signage and concerns regarding anti-social behaviour and that the neighbourhood team of Northumbria Police have been informally contacted.

Osborne Play Park also has issues with the matting beginning to lift.

Following on from this the equipment is now in place for the Town Wardens to begin the grass cutting.

LS050/22

12. ALLOTMENTS

There is an issue of abandoned plots at Five Arches, following on from this the Town Wardens would like to grow plants at the site and there could be the potential for use by a community group.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to instruct Officers to contact those on the waiting list to evaluate the demand for plots.

LS051/22

13. FORWARD PLAN

An update was provided which included that the Town Clerk has had discussions with Council HR & Governance Support regarding a strategic plan, there is work to be done regarding Christmas Lights and a pre-budget discussion is needed concerning hanging baskets. A local business operator raised the idea of a gateway for the junction of West Street and Marygate, updates will be made available via the newsletter. Local businesses have also raised concerns regarding vendor's on Marygate.

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

LS052/22

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting will be Monday, 03 October 2022 at 6.00 pm.