

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Local Services Committee Meeting held on Monday, 04 July 2022 at 6.00pm in the Northern View, Highcliffe, Spittal, Berwick-upon-Tweed

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Steve Cozens, Assistant to the Clerk
Julian Smith, Projects Officer
Cllr R Driver
Cllr P Jackson
Bob Hodgson, Northumberland County Council
Cty Cllr G Hill
Cty Cllr I Hunter
Cty Cllr C Seymour
2 member of the public

LS025/22

1. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Councillors raised a number of concerns with Bob Hodgson who attended the meeting on behalf of Northumberland County Council (NCC). These included the toilets at Castlegate which were yet to be renovated, the state of the toilets at Magdalene Fields and the tardis toilets. The 'Changing Places' scheme was also raised as was the 'You're Welcome Scheme'. During the discussion Standing Orders were suspended sufficiently to allow Cty Cllr G Hill to speak, and also to allow Cllr R Driver to raise the issue of crossing points on roads

having dropped kerbs on one pavement but not the other. Bob Hodgson provided answers to the point raised including that the Castlegate toilets were provisionally due for refurbishment in quarter 3 / quarter 4 of the current financial year. The Committee also requested that the relevant officer from NCC be invited to a meeting to discuss Public Conveniences.

LS026/22

2. OPEN SESSION

The 'You're Welcome Scheme' was discussed, with a proposal put forward that the information be included on the Town Council website. Also discussed was the opening hours of the Post Office, scheduled to move to W H Smith, and the ticket office at the railway station.

LS027/22

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr G Brown.

LS028/22

4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

On the motion of Cllr J Robertson, seconded by Cllr M Greener, the minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 06 June 2022 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

LS029/22

5. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

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

LS030/22

6. ENVIRONMENTAL VOLUNTEERS

Cllr L Stephenson who has been in contact with all the litter picking groups provided updates including at Five Arches where recent problems had quietened down.

The U3A group are still picking up regularly near Morrisons, there still concerns from property damaged during recent storms.

Groups including Greenses Haven and Pier Road are meeting again regularly. Youngsters are also being included in the litter picks.

LS031/22

7. ISSUES REPORTED SINCE LAST MEETING

The Assistant to the Clerk provided an update and correspondence regarding the benches at the Tweedmouth end of the Royal Tweed Bridge, during which Standing Orders were suspended sufficiently to allow Cllr G Hill to speak. After which the Committee **RESOLVED** that two benches should be placed at the location discussed. The Committee instructed the Assistant to the Clerk to

write to the residents group and also to invite a representative of Northumbria Police to a future meeting of this committee. Concerns regarding the picnic tables and benches at Queen's Gardens in Tweedmouth were also raised.

LS032/22

8. LOCAL SERVICES

An update was provided on Local Services which included that play area training for those who had not been through the process was scheduled for the end of August. After which, inspections would be scheduled on a weekly basis.

LS033/22

9. LITTER BINS

The Assistant to the Clerk provided an update on request for litter bins and concerns raised on current stock by a member of the public. Concerns were also raised regarding the use of litter bins at the pavilion and the Committee instructed Officer to write to NCC. After which, the Committee unanimously **RESOLVED** that 5 litter bins be purchased to fulfil the requests.

LS034/22

10. LITTER PICKING

The Committee unanimously **RESOLVED** that litter pickers and hoops may be purchased as per the quote for individually priced items provided in the background paper.

LS035/22

11. PLANTERS

An update was provided regarding the summer planting program which due to timescales would not be possible for this year. After which, the Committee **RESOLVED** planting be programmed in for spring of 2023.

LS036/22

12. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The Projects Officer provided an update on issues with Christmas Lights including those at the Town Hall and Prior Park. Also, some of the items would need to be disposed of and removed from the asset register and a report would be brought to a future meeting of either the Budget and Administration Committee or full Council.

LS037/22

13. FORWARD PLAN

The Committee **RESOLVED** that Christmas Lights and hanging baskets be added to the Forward Plan, whilst the Tourist Telescope be removed.

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

LS038/22

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting will be Monday, 05 September 2022 at 6.00 pm.