

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 19 December 2022 at 6.00 pm in The Meeting Room, Town Council Office, Unit 1, 82 – 88 Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed

PRESENT:

Councillors:	M Greener (Chair)	J Robertson
	J Bowden	W Robertson
	G Brown	G Smith
	R Bruce	L Stephenson
	R Driver	T Stewart
	P Jackson	J Turton
	H Lindsay	A Williams
	R Mackenzie	

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Gareth Davies, Town Clerk
Stephen Cozens, Assistant to the Clerk
James Boulton, Tweed Valley Railway Campaign
Gus Russell, Tweed Valley Railway Campaign
0 members of the public

C111/22

1. TWEED VALLEY RAILWAY CAMPAIGN (TVRC)

Representatives of the TVRC gave a verbal presentation including on documents previously circulated and answered a number of questions from Councillors.

After which Council passed on their enthusiasm for the campaign to those representatives present and noted that going forward there would be continued contact between TVRC and the Town Council.

C112/22

2. OPEN SESSION

There were no members of the public present.

C113/22

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr A Forbes.

C114/22

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 28 November 2022, were agreed and signed as a correct record.

C115/22

5. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

- i. Cllr R Bruce declared an interest in Item 7(ii).
- ii. There were no requests for dispensation.

C116/22

6. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor provided hard copies outlining details of events they had attended and been involved in.

C117/22

7. RISK APPRAISAL

The Town Clerk introduced the item and provided an update on the format of the Risk Appraisal whereby a matrix was used to complete items in the assessment.

- i. On the motion of Cllr J Robertson, seconded by Cllr P Jackson, Council **RESOLVED** to endorse the proposal to create a reserve to cover the cost of consultancy and planning work associated with future service transfers.
- ii. Council unanimously **RESOLVED** that a strategy be devised that allows council to reduce its dependence on the Schedule III income by increasing the precept to cover the fixed costs of its services.
- iii. Members provided guidance to the Town Clerk as to whether the risk regarding transport links is tangible, after which on the motion of Cllr H Lindsay, seconded by Cllr P Jackson, Council **RESOLVED** to instruct the Town Clerk to investigate solutions.

C118/22

8. BUDGET

On the motion of Cllr P Jackson, seconded by Cllr A Williams, Council **RESOLVED**:

1. To instruct the Town Clerk to circulate draft budgets in order to enable a consensus to be sought before the council meeting on 23/01/2023, and

2. That the Town Clerk shall use any means of discerning consensus possible in order to arrive at the budget to be tabled on 23/01/2023 including electronic voting / polling.

C119/22

9. BOUNDARY CHANGES

On the motion of Cllr T Stewart, seconded by Cllr H Lindsay, Council unanimously **RESOLVED** that a submission to the Boundaries Commission for England (BCE) be prepared with the proviso that the issues of the boundary with Ord Parish Council are addressed and that the support of the BCE is sought to redraw the boundary.

C120/22

10. DIRECT DEBIT

Council unanimously **RESOLVED** to authorise that the electricity provider for the local services unit be paid by Direct Debit.

C121/22

11. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

On the motion of Cllr R Bruce, seconded by Cllr H Lindsay, Council **RESOLVED** that Cllr T Stewart join the Staffing and Corporate Resources Committee.

C122/22

12. BUDGET AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

- i. It was **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cllr P Jackson, seconded by Cllr H Lindsay to adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Budget and Administration Committee held on 15 November 2022 (noted at the meeting of 28 November 2022).
- ii. It was **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cllr A Williams, seconded by Cllr M Greener to note the draft minutes of the meeting of the Budget and Administration Committee held on 06 December 2022.

C123/22

13. STAFFING AND CORPORATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

- i. It was **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cllr A Williams, seconded by Cllr H Lindsay to note the draft minutes of the meeting of the Staffing and Corporate Resources Committee held on 31 October 2022.
- ii. On the motion of Cllr H Lindsay, seconded by Cllr A Williams, Council **RESOLVED** to approve a virement of £2.5k to the training budget to cover the costs of SLCC and First Aid refresher courses.

C124/22

14. PLANNING COMMITTEE

- i. It was **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cllr R Bruce, seconded by Cllr R Driver to adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 14 November 2022 (noted at the meeting of 28 November 2022).
- ii. It was **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cllr R Driver, seconded by Cllr G Smith to note the draft minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 12 December 2022.

C125/22

15. LOCAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

- i. It was **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cllr R Bruce, seconded by Cllr G Smith to adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Local Services Committee held on 07 November 2022 (noted at the meeting of 28 November 2022).
- ii. It was **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cllr R Bruce, seconded by Cllr J Bowden to note the draft minutes of the meeting of the Local Services Committee held on 05 December 2022.

C126/22

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Monday, 23 January 2023 at 6 pm.