



Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council

Minutes of the Town Council Communities and Local Services
Committee Meeting held on Monday, 04 September 2023 at 6.00pm in
The Meeting Room, Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council Office, Unit 1,
82 – 88 Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed

PRESENT:

Councillors: J Robertson (Chair)
J Bowden
G Brown
M Greener
G Smith
J Turton

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Gareth Davies, Town Clerk
Stephen Cozens, Assistant to the Clerk
Cllr R Driver
Cllr L Hawken
3 members of the public

MINUTE NO.	TITLE AND DESCRIPTION OF ITEM	Mover	Second	Decision
CLS021/23	OPEN SESSION			
	Members of the public may make representations, ask questions and give evidence at a meeting which they are entitled to attend in respect of the business on the agenda. This is for a period of 15 minutes overall and is limited to 3 minutes per person.	N/A	N/A	Members of the Berwick Literary Festival provided an update to Members regarding their grant application being considered.
CLS022/23	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE			
	To receive apologies for absence.	N/A	N/A	There were no apologies for absence.
CLS023/23	MINUTES			
	To sign as a correct record the minutes of the Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council Communities and Local Services Committee meeting held on Monday, 05 June 2023.	GS	MG	The minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 05 June 2023 were agreed and signed as a correct record.
CLS024/23	DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS			
	(i) Unless already entered in the Council's Register of Members' interests, members are required to disclose any personal interest, (which includes any disclosable pecuniary interest), they may have in any of the items included on the agenda for the meeting in accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted	N/A	N/A	Cllr G Brown declared an interest in Item 9(i). Cllr M Greener declared an interest in Item 9(i).

	<p>by the Council on 9 July 2012, and are reminded that if they have any personal interests of a prejudicial nature they must not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must leave the room.</p> <p>(ii) To receive and consider requests from members who have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any items on the agenda an application for dispensation under section 33 of the Localism Act 2011 to enable members to participate in discussions and voting.</p>			There were no requests for dispensation.
CLS025/23	ELECTION OF A VICE-CHAIR			
	To elect a vice-chair for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2023-2024.	Nem con		This item was deferred to the next meeting of Council when there would be an opportunity for the vacancy on the Committee to be filled.
CLS026/23	ENVIRONMENTAL VOLUNTEERS			
	Verbal update from Officers and elected Members.	Nem con		Cllr L Stephenson reported that she had been in contact with all the local groups and that Spittal now have individual litter pickers rather than a group. The littler beach and pier groups are out every week. Anti-social behaviour at 5 Arches has improved whilst the group are hoping to get permission to plant community fruit trees.

				<p>Cllr G Brown reported that there aren't any volunteers looking after the small park at the Greens, after which, the Committee unanimously RESOLVED that the Town Clerk reach out to Northumberland County Council to request that they bestow the licence to look after the park to the Town Council whilst volunteers are sought.</p> <p>Cllr J Bowden reported that notices were put up on Spittal Promenade over the bank holiday weekend requesting people not to swim due to the poor water quality.</p> <p>Cllr J Turton updated Members on a meeting with Berwick Community Trust, the current planting scheme and trees for the town centre, priced at £35 each, and a suggestion of a potential replacement for real Christmas Trees, priced at £98 each.</p>
CLS027/23	FLAGSTAFF PARK PLAY AREA			
	To consider the quote circulated as a background paper.	Nem con		The Committee RESOLVED to approve the quote circulated as a background paper.
CLS028/23	TWEED SALMON CENTRE INITIATIVE GRANT SUPPORT			
	To consider a request for support.	Nem con		The Town Clerk introduced the report and, during the discussion, Standing Orders

				were suspended sufficiently to allow Cllr L Hawken and Cllr R Driver to speak. After which, it was RESOLVED to defer the item to the next meeting of Council subject to further information being provided.
CLS029/23	GRANT APPLICATIONS			
	i. To consider a grant application from Berwick Literary Festival.	Nem con		During the discussion, Standing Orders were suspended sufficiently to allow representatives of the Berwick Literary Festival to speak. After which, it was RESOLVED to make a grant of £2,000 to the Berwick Literary Festival.
	ii. To consider a grant application from Freemasons Hall.	Nem con		It was RESOLVED to refuse the request from the Freemasons Hall.
	iii. To consider a grant application from Northern View.	Nem con		During the discussion, Standing Orders were suspended sufficiently to allow Cllr L Hawken and Cllr R Driver to speak. After which, it was RESOLVED to make a grant of £2,500 to Northern View.
	iv. To consider the report.	Nem con		During the discussion, Standing Orders were suspended sufficiently to allow Cllr R Driver to speak. After which, it was RESOLVED to agree in principle to support the project up to the sum of £2,500 based

				on a fully costed proposal being brought before the next meeting of this committee.
CLS030/23	EXPENDITURE VS BUDGET YEAR TO DATE			
	To note the report.	Nem con		The Town Clerk introduced the report, after which, updates were provided regarding the Seaside Festival, the Visitor Services Support, to which Members requested feedback and bus services and CCTV which would be part of the growth and savings discussions before the budget is set. During the discussion, Standing Orders were suspended sufficiently to allow Cllr L Hawken to speak. The Committee then RESOLVED to note the report.
CLS031/23	TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF GROVE GARDENS SOUTH PLAY AREA			
	To receive a verbal update from the Town Clerk.	Nem con		The Committee RESOLVED to recommend to Council that Grove Gardens South Play Area be closed permanently.
CLS032/23	DATE OF NEXT MEETING			
	The date of the next meeting will be Monday 06 November 2023 at 6.00 pm.	N/A	N/A	Noted.