

## BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

### Minutes of a Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 2 December 2013 at 6.30 pm at The Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed

#### PRESENT:

Councillors:	I Hunter (Town Mayor)	G Jones
	J Beresford	J Lang
	H Bettison	J Robertson
	I Dixon	G Roughead
	P Elliott	C Seymour
	T Forrester	F Simpson
	G Hill	J Stephenson

#### IN ATTENDANCE:

S Finch (Town Clerk)

W F Grant, (Mayor's Consort)

Five members of the public

#### **CO84/13 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been accepted from: Councillors A Gibson (unwell).

Absent: Councillor A Turnbull

#### **CO85/13 2. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

There were no disclosures of interest.

#### **CO86/13 3. REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION**

There were no requests for dispensation.

#### **CO87/13 4. STATEMENTS BY THE PUBLIC**

Councillor G Hill read out a statement expressing her views about transparency in relation to the Town Council.

#### **CO88/13 5. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

Following consideration by four members at the foregoing Strategy and Policy Group meeting, and further discussion by those present, it was agreed that the Council should respond to the Core Strategy Consultation (Preferred Options on Housing, Employment and Green Belt) making the following points:

1. (Reference Question 11, comments on preferred strategic approach to

growing and diversifying the economy). Concern to be expressed at the lack of tertiary education accessible to young people in the Berwick-upon-Tweed area.

2. (Reference Question 15, comments on the delivery of affordable housing). Request to be made that measures should be put in place to ensure any cash contribution in lieu of a developer providing an affordable housing element should remain within the Berwick community for five years.
3. (Reference Question 38, comments on the approach to housing in the settlement of Berwick). Support to be expressed for the two proposed sites North West of Berwick and South of East Ord, but a request to be made that sites at Springhill and Roberts Lodge, as well as brownfield sites, should be included in preferred options.

The Clerk would draft a response and circulate it to members for agreement before responding to Northumberland County Council.

CO89/13

## **6. RESOLUTION**

### **RESOLVED:**

**The Town Council officers and/or Committee Chairs will not enter into further correspondence relating to requests for reviews, enquiries, investigations or similar (except in relation to requests under the Freedom of Information Act). Any further correspondence from councillors requesting reviews, enquiries, investigations or similar must be directed by members and officers to the Staffing Sub-Committee for consideration.**

**The Staffing Sub-Committee may, by majority decision, reject any correspondence from a member which they consider to be spurious or vexatious; the Staffing Sub-Committee may also reject correspondence if there has been more than one request in a 30-day period, on a single subject matter, from that member. The Staffing Sub-Committee's decision will be final.**

[NOTE: Councillor G Hill joined the members of the public during consideration of this item].

Standing Orders were suspended to allow Councillor G Hill to intervene in the

discussion of this item. Standing Orders were reinstated.

**CO90/13**

**7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Council would be held on Monday 20 January 2014 at 6 pm in the Town Hall.