

## BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on Tuesday 7 April 2015 at 6 pm at The Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed**

### **PRESENT:**

Councillors:	I Hunter, Town Mayor	J Lang
	J Beresford	G McLean
	H Bettison	G Roughead
	I Dixon	C Seymour
	A Gibson	F Simpson
	G Hill	G Smith

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Wendy Pattison, Acting Clerk

Steve Cozens, Assistant to the Clerk

Joyce Benton, Sergeant at Mace

Michael Brodie, Director of NEREO

Peter Cameron, NEREO Associate

8 Members of the Public

### **CO110/14 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were accepted on behalf of: Councillors G Jones (NCC commitment) and T Forrester (work commitments).

### **CO111/14 2. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

Councillor H Bettison declared a personal interest in Item 8 (Spittal Play Area);  
Councillor I Dixon declared a personal interest in Item 8 (Spittal Play Area);  
Councillor I Hunter declared a personal interest in Item 6 (Authorisation Of Payments And Orders).

### **CO112/14 3. REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION**

There were no requests for dispensation.

### **CO113/14 OPEN SESSION**

Cllr Hill thanked the public for their forbearance during recent troubled times and proposed that the public be allowed to speak. This was proposed by Cllr Hill and seconded by Cllr Seymour and agreed by Councillors with 3 abstentions.

Mr Spencer Barclay advised that he had been told there were difficulties in contacting relevant Officers at NCC, however, he had found that when personally doing so he had had no problem and had found the correct person without any problem. Mr Spencer Barclay also advised he would be very happy to take over the documentation and work required in order to see the proposed bike rack installed on the cycle route at Megs Mount. This work would be done free of charge and he was fully aware and conversant of Risk Assessment and all appropriate regulations pertaining to this project.

Mr Brian Darling wanted to re-iterate his concerns regarding the previous Clerk and the Dunn Report recommendations allegedly being ignored.

Councillors then agreed to exclude the press and public from the next 2 items which were issues of a personal and confidential nature.

**RESOLVED: To exclude the press and public during discussion of the following items, which include issues of a personal and confidential nature.**

**CO114/14**

**4. RECOMMENDATION FROM NEREO (NORTH EAST REGIONAL EMPLOYERS' ORGANISATION)**

[NOTE: Assistant to the Clerk Steve Cozens, left the meeting during consideration of this item].

This minute is private and confidential.

[NOTE: Assistant to the Clerk Steve Cozens returned to the meeting].

**CO115/14**

**5. TEMPORARY TOWN CLERK**

[NOTE: Acting Clerk Wendy Pattison, left the meeting during consideration of this item].

This minute is private and confidential.

[NOTE: Councillor I Dixon left the meeting after discussion of this item and took no further part in the meeting.]

**RESOLVED: To re-open the meeting to the press and public for the remainder of the meeting.**

[NOTE: Acting Clerk Wendy Pattison returned to the meeting].

**CO116/14**

**6. AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS AND ORDERS**

Cllr Hill advised her concerns regarding Councillors receiving appendices at short notice and distributed at Council meetings without Councillors being able to consider any of the content before meetings take place and having to make instant decisions on important items. Concern regarding **payments not being itemised** and large retrospective payments made without approval was also discussed and it was agreed to defer approval of retrospective payments and orders until the meeting of the 27<sup>th</sup> April. This was then proposed and agreed by 8 Councillors with 3 abstentions.

**RESOLVED: To defer approval of retrospective payments and orders appended to these minutes until the Finance Meeting of 27<sup>th</sup> April.**

**CO117/14**

**7. APPROVAL OF PLANNED EXPENDITURE**

Cllr Hill advised that in the recently adopted financial regulations a clause had been inserted to allow for the approval of routine office expenditures and said that this process needed to be fully established

**CO118/14**

**8. SPITTAL PLAY AREA**

Councillors discussed at length and it was decided that BTC would NOT take on the Play Area from 1<sup>st</sup> April, until further and useful discussions have taken place with representatives/maintenance officers from NCC. Accurate financial costings also need to be provided before a decision can be taken and this will be put onto the agenda for the Council Meeting in May 2015 for further discussion.

**CO119/14**

**9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Council would be held on Monday, 11 May 2015 at 6 pm in the Town Hall.

**Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council**  
**PAYMENTS LIST**

<b>Voucher</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Cheque No</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Supplier</b>		<b>Net</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>Total</b>
377	Hoppa Bus	31/03/2015	101060	Laminates	Fantasy Prints	S	7.50	1.50	9.00
378	Other Marketing	31/03/2015	101061	Leaflet Distribution - Events	Border Events	S	25.00	5.00	30.00
379	Legal & Professional Fees	31/03/2015	101062	Employment advice	North East Regional Employers Organisation	S	14,181.31	2,836.26	17,017.57
380	Other Marketing	31/03/2015	101063	Leaflet Distribution - Events	North Northumberland Tourism Association	Z	135.00	0.00	135.00
381	Public Realm Works	31/03/2015	101064	Notice Board keys	Glasdon	S	13.08	2.61	15.69
382	IT Support	31/03/2015	101065	IT support	Northern Lab	S	90.00	18.00	108.00
1	NAS Subscription	07/04/2015	101066	Subscription	National Society of Allotment & Leisure Gardeners Ltd.	S	55.00	11.00	66.00
2	Travel/subsistence: officers	07/04/2015	101067	Expenses	R Leetham	E	24.65	0.00	24.65
3	Councillor Travel & Subsistence	07/04/2015	101068	Expenses	I Hunter	E	63.70	0.00	63.70
4	Other Events Grants	07/04/2015	101069	Events Grant	Spittal Improvement Trust	E	700.00	0.00	700.00
5-13	Salaries	07/04/2015	101070	Salaries	Northumberland County Council	E	6,105.82	0.40	6,106.22