

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 7 November 2016 at 6.00 pm at The Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed

Councillors:	I Dixon (Town Mayor)	P Hodgson
	H Bettison	J Lang
	A Forbes	G McLean
	T Forrester	B Parkin
	A Gibson	G Roughead
	E Goodyer	C Seymour
	K Graham	G Smith
	G Hill	

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Gareth Davies, Interim Town Clerk

Steve Cozens, Assistant to the Clerk

Joyce Benton, Sergeant-at-Mace

Brian Douglas, Sheriff

15 members of the public approximately

OPEN SESSION

Before Council commenced Councillors were reminded by the Mayor of the rules of debate enshrined within the council's standing orders, and of intention to invite any councillors exercising a right of reply to speak after all other councillors had spoken during the substantive debate.

C168/16 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received on behalf of Cllrs D Blackburn.

C169/16 2. MINUTES

The minutes of the Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council meeting held on 24 October 2016 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

C170/16 3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Cllrs Gibson and Mclean disclosed personal interests in Item 10.

C171/16 4. REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION

There were no requests for dispensation.

C172/16

5. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reminded members of the arrangements for Remembrance Sunday, and invited members to attend the service.

C173/16

6. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

The reports were noted.

Standing orders were suspended sufficiently to allow a member of the public to contribute to a discussion about Active Northumberland during which it was **RESOLVED** to invite the Chief Executive of Active Northumberland and the Northumberland County Council Portfolio holder to attend a future meeting.

Standing orders were resumed.

C174/16

7. NOTIFICATION OF PAYMENTS MADE BY BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

It was **RESOLVED** to note the schedule of payments.

C175/16

8. FINANCIAL PROCEDURES

It was **RESOLVED** to note the new Financial Procedures, and the need to revise Standing Orders and Financial Regulations as a consequence to implement version control.

C176/16

9. FORWARD PLAN

It was **RESOLVED** to note the Forward Plan, and to invite the Town Clerk to bring forward a revised format that would allow for items to be colour coded on the Red Amber Green model to enable members to track whether decisions would be made in a timely fashion.

C177/16

10. PLAY PARKS

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the recommendations of the report and to appoint Supplier 2 to both contracts.

For: Cllrs H Bettison, A Forbes, T Forrester, A Gibson, E Goodyer, K Graham, P Hodgson, J Lang, G McLean, B Parkin and G Smith.

Against: Cllrs G Hill and C Seymour.

In response to an intervention from an elected member, the Interim Clerk advised members that abstentions were not recorded during a recorded vote. (LGA 1972 Sch. 12 (13) (2) applies).

C178/16

11. SPITTAL PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

It was **RESOLVED** to agree to fund the opening of Spittal Public Conveniences during the winter season from reserves, subject to the Interim Clerk seeking to negotiate a reduced cost from the initial estimate as a result of the employment of a winter Local Services Officer.

C179/16

12. MARCHES IN BERWICK-UPON-TWEED

It was **RESOLVED** to write to the Northumbria Chief of Police requesting that they use their powers to ban all future similar marches as they constitute a breach of the peace, and to request Northumberland County Council to consider implementing a Public Spaces Protection Order.

For: Cllrs H Bettison, A Forbes, T Forrester, A Gibson, E Goodyer, K Graham, P Hodgson, J Lang, G McLean, B Parkin and G Roughead.

Against: Cllrs G Hill and C Seymour.

C180/16

13. TRAFFIC ORDER

It was **RESOLVED** to support the proposed order.

C181/16

14. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP

RESOLVED: To adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group held on 23 September 2016.

C182/16

15. PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: To adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 20 September 2016.

C183/16

16. REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

It was **RESOLVED** to nominate Cllrs J Lang, H Bettison, C Seymour, G Roughead and I Dixon to represent the council as Trustees of the Berwick Freemen.

C184/16

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Monday 28 November 2016 at 6 pm.

Council RESOLVED that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 it was appropriate to exclude the media and public from the discussion of the following business on the basis that public discussion might prejudice the Council's position and staffing issues might be discussed.

At this point the Public withdrew.

C185/16

18. WESTFIELD PLAY PARK

It was **RESOLVED** to note the update.

C186/16

19. FUTURE EVENTS IN BERWICK

It was **RESOLVED** to receive a further presentation.

C187/16

20. PENSIONS UPDATE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive a future report concerning the council's duty to provide a pensions scheme for its eligible staff.