

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 9 March 2009 at 6 pm at The William Elder Building, Castlegate, Berwick-upon-Tweed

PRESENT:

Councillors:	P Herdman (Chairman)	M McNeely
	J Beresford	J Robertson
	H Bettison	C Routledge
	B Douglas	F Simpson
	G Hill	J Waterhouse
	I Hunter	

IN ATTENDANCE:

S Finch, Town Clerk

Martin Baylis, Northumbria Police

2 members of the public

C082/08 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Bowlas, Pauline and Stewart.

C083/08 2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council held on 12 January 2008 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

C084/08 3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Councillor Herdman declared a personal in Items 11 (Mayoral and Civic Events Working Group), 15 (Berwick-upon-Tweed Corporation (Freemen) Trustees and 16 (Planning Applications).

Councillors Bettison and Robertson declared a personal interest in Item 15 ((Berwick-upon-Tweed Corporation (Freemen) Trustees), and Councillor Bettison also declared a personal interest in Item 11 (Mayoral and Civic Events

Working Group).

C085/08

4. STATEMENTS BY THE PUBLIC

There were no statements by those members of the public present.

C086/08

5. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman advised Councillors that:

1. The Chief Executive of the County Council was attending a meeting of Town Councillors on Monday 6 April at 10.30 am. As a matter of courtesy it was proposed to let him have a list of questions in advance; some suggestions had been tabled. Members were requested to forward any further questions to the Clerk by the end of Tuesday 31 March.
2. There would be a meeting of the Berwick-upon-Tweed Area Committee on 13 March at 10:30 am in Bell View, Belford. All members were welcome to attend. The Local Transport Plan proposed Capital Programme 2009/10 was on the agenda.
3. The Borough Council had undertaken a major programme of chewing-gum removal in the town centre, which was very welcome and appreciated.
4. Seats had been repaired and replaced on the Town Walls and on Spittal Promenade.
5. There was a welcome new turning space at Berwick Cemetery.
6. The public roadshow for the new Northumberland Council would be in Somerfield Car Park on Wednesday 25 March between 10 am and 2 pm.
7. Information about twinning, which it had been intended should be on the agenda, had been tabled for members; anyone with any proposals for taking twinning forward could put their ideas forward to the Clerk.

C087/08

6. COMMUNITY SAFETY AND POLICING

Inspector Baylis updated members on a range of policing issues within the town.

These included a successful collaboration with Berwick Borough Housing (BBH) over ensuring an injunction following a breach of an Anti Social Behaviour Order (ASBO).

A walkabout with local agencies, initiated by BBH, had been successful; one output was expected to be more foot patrols.

[NOTE: BBH had assured the Town Council that the relevant ward member would be notified of future walkabouts].

There had been a welcome reduction in crime in the Berwick area, and the detection rate was among the highest in the force.

A number of local operations had been successful: Operation Barlow at half-term, targeted at anti-social behaviour; and Operation Cobalt, a partnership of the police and Environment Agency, which had focused on the activities of a skip hire company.

Complaints about boy racers had decreased following a change in officer shift patterns. The Community Safety Officer had committed funds for two exhaust meters, and laser speed devices were being used.

It was noted that with the change to a unitary authority, the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership was coming to an end, and would be replaced by Local Multi-Agency Problem Solving Groups (LMAPS).

Councillors were advised that the membership of LMAPS was still to be agreed, but it was expected that there would be a local council membership.

Councillor McNeely referred to positive work with the Police Community

Support Officer (PCSO).

The Chairman thanked Inspector Baylis for attending and informing Councillors on current policing issues.

C088/08

7. ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: To adopt the minutes of the Environment and Regeneration Committee meetings held on 18 February 2009.

Councillor Douglas expressed his concern that the opportunity to apply for grants for environment schemes had not be sufficiently widely publicised. The Clerk said information had been carried by the Berwick Advertiser, and would be included in the poster being located in the town, but she would welcome all assistance from Councillors in raising awareness of the scheme.

C089/08

8. DOG WASTE BINS

RESOLVED:

- (i) To agree the proposal to meet the cost of the purchase of up to ten dog bins (subject to a maximum outlay of £2000) at locations which have been identified by residents as being where they are most urgently needed.**

- (ii) To work in partnership with the successor authority to the Borough Council, and local amenity organisations, to identify additional ways in which the problem of dog waste within Berwick Spittal and Tweedmouth can be addressed.**

C090/08

9. EVENTS COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: To adopt the minutes of the Events Committee meeting held on 23 February 2009, it having been noted that the grant agreed for the Berwick Male Voice Choir was £125.

Councillor Waterhouse, Chairman of the Events Committee, asked that a third representative of the Events Committee be represented on the Mayoral and Civic Events Working Group, to balance representation of the Events and

Finance and Resources Committee. This was agreed, and Councillor Bettison nominated as the third representative.

C091/08

10. FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: To adopt the minutes of the Finance and Resources Committee meeting held on 23 February 2009, it having been noted that the grant agreed for the Berwick Male Voice Choir was £200, the Committee having agreed to increase the Events Committee proposal.

C092/08

11. MAYORAL AND CIVIC EVENTS WORKING GROUP

RESOLVED:

- (i) The working group (Councillors Bowlas, Herdman, Hunter, Robertson and Smith) be tasked to complete their review of the relevant information, make recommendations and, subject to the agreement of the Chairman, present them to an extraordinary meeting of Council before 31 March.**

- (ii) To agree that the working group seek professional advice if necessary.**

[NOTE: Following the agreement under minute C090/08, Councillor Bettison would also be a member of the working group].

CO93/08

12. PARISH PLAN

Members considered the proposal to initiate discussions about developing a Parish (or Town) Plan for Berwick-upon-Tweed. There were reservations about producing a plan in addition to those which had already been produced. It was emphasised that the Parish Plan, which was intended to be a 'bottom-up' approach to expressing the real aspirations of residents for their community, was recognised in the preparation of the Local Development Framework. It was also, if prepared in an appropriate format, a key step in meeting the requirements of the Community Forum and the statement of community involvement.

RESOLVED:

- (i) To agree to join a working group convened by Berwick Community Trust to discuss how to produce an action plan which reflects the priorities of Berwick's resident and business communities.
- (ii) To nominate Councillor Beresford to represent Spittal, Councillor McNeely to represent Tweedmouth and Councillor Robertson to represent Berwick.
- (iii) To identify a guest speaker to attend the Annual Town Meeting and speak about Parish Plans.

CO94/08

13. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION MODEL PUBLICATION SCHEME

RESOLVED: To adopt the proposed model publication scheme which had been circulated to members.

CO95/08

14. APPLICATIONS FOR DONATIONS

Members discussed how the Council should respond to requests for charitable donations which fell outside either of the grants schemes and which were requests to assist with general funds.

RESOLVED: For the time being, the Finance and Resources Committee to consider all applications received during the year, at one meeting annually.

Members also considered a request from Community Action Northumberland for a suggested donation of £15 in recognition of the free support and advice provided on request to local councils.

RESOLVED: To contribute £15 to Community Action Northumberland.

CO96/08

15. BERWICK-UPON-TWEED CORPORATION (FREEMEN) TRUSTEES

RESOLVED:

- (i) To agree the proposal that responsibility for the nomination of 5 non-Freemen Trustees be delegated to Berwick-upon-Tweed Town

Council.

- (ii) **To note that detailed arrangements for Freedom Admissions, and for any future association with the Charter Market, in which the Town Council has expressed an interest, remain to be discussed.**

CO97/08

16. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

RESOLVED: To adopt the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 13 January 2009 and 17 February 2009.

CO98/08

17. ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Members noted the requirement to hold an Annual Town Meeting for all electors.

[NOTE: The date of the Annual Town Meeting would be Monday 18 May at 6 pm].